

# LONDON COLNEY NEWS



WINTER 2010

## Parish Council Report

'Dreda Gordon  
Chair of Parish Council



'Dreda  
Gordon

Welcome to this edition of London Colney News, looking seriously festive thanks to the creative efforts of our local children. Sky (aged 10) from Bowmansgreen School has

designed the lovely border for the front cover and turning the pages of our magazine, you will find poems and thoughts from the children on the theme 'What Christmas means to me'.

### All lit up

By the time this London Colney News lands on your doormat our village High Street will be lit up with a mix of stars and snowflakes and the traditional fir tree standing twinkling on Chester Gibbons Green, reminders that the Christmas season has well and truly arrived in London Colney.

This is a time of spiritual significance for many of us in our community but also a time when we can all enjoy the extra days holidays in the company of family and friends.

### Colney Carollers

Christmas is a time for sharing and thinking of others. For that reason I have chosen a photo of the Colney

Carollers for our front cover. We sing outside Sainsbury's/Marks & Spencer to raise money for local groups. This year we will be adding our bit of seasonal cheer to the shoppers' trolleys on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. If you can hold a note why not come and join us?

We will be collecting for our Elderly Day Centre and the London Colney Over 60's Club. Further details from Project Manager Linda Gibling on 821314

>> 2

## CONTENTS

- 1 Parish Council Report
- 3 Parish Plan 2011
- 3 Parish Council Events
- 4 Next Issue
- 5 Poetry Page
- 6 A Tree for Robin Cooper
- 6 Talented 10 Year Old
- 7 Gardening
- 8 Community Messaging
- 8 For Someone Who Has Everything
- 10 Herts Primary Chess
- 10 Miracle Energy Source Dries Up
- 12 Thanks from Macmillan
- 12 Voles
- 14 St Peter's News
- 15 Cover Competition
- 16 School Places for 2011
- 17 Salsa Dates
- 19 Community Centre Report
- 20 Youth Rugby
- 22 The Base
- 24 Poppy Appeal



Colney Carollers in good voice at Sainsbury's, Colney Fields



## Traditional Feasting

Of course festivals at this time of year pre-date Christian times and the Romans celebrated Saturnalia (named after the Roman god of the harvest, Saturn) in style. Their celebrations took place between 17 and 28 December. Everyone was granted a holiday, people exchanged presents and huge feasts were prepared. Even the slaves were allowed to join in the fun and were encouraged to tell their masters what they really thought of them without risking punishment. One wonders how this particular tradition would have translated into modern times – perhaps not a recipe for job security!

## Parish Events

This is a busy time of year for Parish Councillors and staff. We are engaged in a whole range of events right up until the end of the year. On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October we played host to a Quiz night at the Caledon Centre in aid of the MacMillan Cancer charity. The quiz was very professionally organised by supporters of the charity who raised over £1000 for this worthy cause. It was a really enjoyable evening. We had a fish and chip supper during the interval – they do say eating fish is good for the brain but I didn't notice any significant improvement in my own subsequent performance.

## Halloween

The Parish Council organised and funded a children's Halloween party in the Caledon Centre. The party was attended by about 60 local children who had a fabulous time with a children's entertainer, lots of food, fun and games - and all for free. Firework Night on the 7<sup>th</sup> November is a local spectacular but lots of hard work takes place behind the scenes in preparation for the evening's fun. Thank you to all the Parish staff, our local Police and the many volunteers who ensure this annual event goes off with a bang!

## Remembrance Day

Remembrance Sunday falls on November 14<sup>th</sup> this year. As Chairperson I will have the honour of placing a wreath on the London Colney War Memorial on behalf of the Parish Council. I am always heartened to see so many of our young people turning out to remember and pay tribute to those in our community who paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy today. My late father, a Private in the Middlesex Regiment won the Military Medal for bravery on the field at Monte Cassino. He was very fortunate to survive the horrors of war but so

many did not. We remember their sacrifice and the continuing struggles our troops are still engaged in today.

## Biscuits

Over the next few weeks leading up to Christmas, Parish Councillors will again be knocking on doors of elderly residents with a box of biscuits as a seasonal gift. This year we will be delivering around 200 boxes. If you are a resident of London Colney and are aged 75 or over make sure the Parish Council Office has your details so you are included in our rounds.

## Salsa Party

The TV programme Strictly Come

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Newly Opened



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**OPENING HOURS**

Sunday - Thursday : 5.30pm - 11.00pm

Friday & Saturday : 5.30pm - 11.30pm

Dancing has proved extremely popular amongst all ages and for those of you who enjoy the whole dance experience we will be holding a salsa party night at the Caledon Centre on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> December. There will be a salsa class for beginners and improvers followed by refreshments and a salsa exhibition by instructors Elliott and Kelly. Further details on this and the full programme of festive events can be obtained from Community Officer Simon Niemiec on 821314.

## Health and Happiness

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped and supported me in my role as Chairperson of London Colney Parish Council throughout 2010. On behalf of myself and my fellow Councillors, I wish you all the very best of health and happiness in 2011.

## Parish Plan 2011

Maria Aguado  
London Colney Parish Councillor

Every parish needs a plan. Our last plan, laid down in 2005, has run its course with many of the objectives met.

### Since 2005...

- We now have improved communication with the public via the website and this magazine and the Council offices are accessible in the Caledon Road Community Centre and open to the public at advertised times every day.
- The council has taken over the allotments behind Richardson Close and set up a lunch club for elderly people at the Community Centre from which we also run Meals on Wheels for the village.
- The Parish Project Manager continues to support and plan village activities which make the village a friendly and pleasant place to live.
- Our play areas and playing fields are well maintained by the Council

## Parish Council Events to June 2011

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

### Christmas Ball – Friday 17 December 7.00pm

A magical night in the great hall at the Pastoral Centre, Shenley Lane. Music and dancing till midnight, a five course meal and charity raffle. Tickets are sold out though it is always worth contacting Linda Gibling on 01727 821314 to see if there are any available because of last minute cancellations.. Cost is £34 to include a five course meal, vegetarian menu available.

### Carol Singing – 16 & 21 December 6.30pm

Every one is welcome to join us when we perform in the front hall at Sainsbury's, London Colney. We have a bucket collection for London Colney Day Centre and the Over 60's Club. Last year we collected £358.58. There will be a rehearsal night on Monday 6 December, at the Caledon Community Centre, Caledon Road, London Colney, starting at 7pm.

### Village Panto 2011 – Sunday 16 January, 12.30pm

A family event at the Caledon Community Centre. It will be the fourth year Chaplin's Pantomime Company has performed for us. This year's Panto is Cinderella. The tickets are £5 each or £15 for a family ticket (4 people). Tickets available from the parish office at the Community Centre or from Barkers Estate Agents, 188 High Street, London Colney.

### Larks in the Parks 2011 - Sunday 26 June 12.00 – 5.00pm.

The big Summer Village Event. Bring your family and friends to Morris Playing Field, Whitehorse Lane. Have a picnic. We will supply the entertainment. If you would like to join in and have a stall, perform on the stage or in the arena, email: [projectmanager@londoncolney.com](mailto:projectmanager@londoncolney.com)

grounds staff and we do our best to improve access to our precious countryside by maintaining and, where possible, extending the footpath network and public green space areas.

- Chester Gibbons Green is a credit to the village. There, the Millennium Clock keeps good time and strikes musically, maintained by Wally Vernon on our behalf.

### Future Challenges

Meanwhile, the village has changed around us. The Parish Council is now responsible for the sports and social facilities at Napsbury Park. The Parish has grown thanks to the development of the old hospital site and substantial 'infill' development. Two traffic calming schemes, at the St Albans end of the village and, very recently, in Barnet Road, have

changed the feel of the High Street from the 'old A5' to something more like a suburban road. Traffic has increased enormously so that residents sometimes have difficulty entering and leaving the village during the ever extending rush hour. The M25 widening project will bring more noise and air pollution. We are threatened with a waste incinerator in Harper Lane. If this scheme gets the go ahead there will be a constant stream of heavy lorries along the already busy Harper Lane bringing further traffic congestion and air pollution. All this without consideration of the environmental damage caused by burning waste. The composting plant on Redwell Wood Farm is, by comparison, a benign if stinky example of waste treatment on our doorstep.

>> 4

London Colney's position on the border of two boroughs, surrounded by trunk roads and established brownfield sites makes us particularly vulnerable to these sort of developments.

### Fight For Change

The Parish Council is invited to comment on most planning decisions but, in truth, has very little influence unless backed by robust local campaigns. The campaign against the Rail Freight Terminal is a good example of how a community can unite successfully against a development. I would like to see the London Colney community unite for something - development of the village in a way which will make our lives healthier, more sustainable and more enjoyable.

### Consultation

A good plan for the future should arise from wide consultation. What should we consult about? Your Parish

Council cannot change the world but nor should it narrow its vision to purely parochial matters.

### Steering Team Needed

This is an invitation to join the Parish Plan Steering Team (PPST - it won't be a secret for long). Bring your ideas for change and improvement to the Community Centre on Wednesday 22nd December at 12 noon. Please let me know if you are coming. p: 01727 823528 e: maria.aguado@dsl.pipex.com Refreshments will be provided.

### From the November Parish Council Meeting...

Herts Highways plan to remove the mock entrance gates from the North ends of the High Street and Shenley Lane. The one from the South end of Shenley Lane has already gone and been replaced by a plain sign. The

others will probably not be removed until road works take place in the area.

### Salt Bins

The Parish Council requested a number of new salt bins for the village. 300 new bins were asked for in Hertfordshire, the County Council took the view that, of these, 60 were really necessary but that only 30 came within the budget for this winter. We do not yet know whether any of our requests qualified as both necessary and affordable.

### 30mph Warning

Complaints were received about the 30mph warning sign on the southbound side of the road near the river. It was said that the sign was nearly always on since the roadworks were completed and must be malfunctioning. Herts Highways have tested the sign and report that it is working correctly. Maybe that lovely smooth surface deceives us into driving too fast.

 <p><b>Ditch the Workout Join the Party!</b> Dance your way to a fitter you with the Latin dance fitness class that is taking the world by storm.</p>
<p><b>DROP IN CLASS</b> <b>Wednesday 7.15 pm and Friday 10.30 am</b> Caledon Community Centre, Caledon Road, London Colney, AL2 1PU</p>
<p>£5 per class. Classes also available in St Albans, Hemel &amp; Harpenden. See website for details <a href="http://www.worldrhythms.co.uk">www.worldrhythms.co.uk</a></p>

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

**Dr. John Hibbs(01727) 826183**  
[johnhibbs@btconnect.com](mailto:johnhibbs@btconnect.com)

**NEXT ISSUE**  
SPRING 2011  
Distribution date - 1st week March 2011  
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Articles should be sent to the editors c/o: Maria Aguado, 369 High Street, London Colney, AL2 1EA Tel: 823528 (phone manned evenings and weekends only) or e-mail: [editor@londoncolney.com](mailto:editor@londoncolney.com)  
The editors of this magazine rely on contributors for the accuracy of their articles. We regret that we cannot check all the facts, but we are happy to consider printing corrections if errors are brought to our attention. Whilst the editors endeavour to include all items submitted by the deadline given, pressure on space may sometimes mean that items will be held over for consideration in future issues and may not therefore appear in the current issue. Articles may be edited for length or clarity.

### When Midnight Comes

When midnight comes,  
Two black boots stomp on your roof.  
With ringing bells and a red suit,  
A puff of smoke in your chimney.  
Out pops Santa with snow on his suit.  
In a fluffy hat with a ball on the end,  
He creeps to the Christmas tree,  
With fluffy beard and white moustache,  
'Ho Ho Ho!' he cheers.  
How happy he is on Christmas night!  
When he's done he takes the treats,  
Climbs the chimney,  
Eats his food,  
Feeds his reindeer,  
Off they set for the next house.  
'Goodbye Santa! Goodbye reindeer!

Jack Crick  
Year 6  
Bowmansgreen School

### I Feel Like This At Christmas

We make snowmen together and  
throw snowballs.  
We make snow angels and walk to my  
Nan's and have tea and a bit of cake.  
At night my Mum cooks a lovely  
dinner.  
My Nan and my Aunty come round  
and we have a lovely time.  
We all give each other presents.  
When I go to bed I feel cosy and  
warm and excited.

Caitlin  
Age 7  
Bowmansgreen School

### Let's Rejoice!

Bells ringing, children playing,  
Chestnuts roasting, log fires burning,  
Baubles on the Christmas tree,  
Lights burning brightly for all to see.  
Roast turkey, potatoes and veg,  
Plum pudding, mince pies and custard  
too.  
Presents to be opened and presents  
to be given.  
Games to be played, TV to watch.  
Christmas day has come and gone.  
Let's rejoice and pray for everyone.

Serena Pledger  
Age 7  
Bowmansgreen School

Olivia Syson  
Age 11  
Bowmansgreen School



Lara Pledger  
Age 11  
Bowmansgreen School

Christmas Spirit ★

## Poetry Page CHRISTMAS!!!

Christmas is a heavenly time,  
Listen to the sleigh bells chime.  
The chirp of a robin in the frosty air,  
The joy of children, without a care.  
Shimmering ice glints in my eyes,  
But in the distance, a faint cry.  
A small boy without a mate,  
I take his hand, then we skate!  
Snowflakes melting on my tongue  
As the young choir's holy song  
Builds excitement in my mind.  
The angel's voice is sweet and kind,  
They sing as they fly and I sing too,  
Bringing joy to me and you.



Izzy Alice Duce  
Bowmansgreen  
Age 11

Christmas is here,  
Best time of the year.  
Santa on his sleigh,  
Visit family and soul,  
It's Christmas day.  
Jesus is born,  
Play with friends and family.  
Always remember Jesus,  
Put up decorations,  
Have lots of inspirations.  
Get your gifts  
Have a great time,  
Come round to mine!!!

Yassin Abdelkafi

# A Tree for Robin Cooper

'Dreda Gordon

On a glorious, sunny October day, one year since Robin passed away, we gathered together to commemorate his life and pay tribute in a special way to his years of service to London Colney and its people. Robin's family, friends and members of the Parish Council staff met on Chester Gibbons Green to plant a maple tree donated by Robin's friends in the Labour Party. The tree will grow and thrive in the heart of our community, just as Robin would have wanted.



# Celebrations All Round for Talented 10 Year Old

Leena Thoree



Jada Thoree (10 years old, recently celebrated her birthday on 27th October) received and passed her 1st Degree Black Belt Grading assessment on 31st October 2010. The exam took place at UKGT head quarters in Leicester. The grading consisted of a 45 minute written exam paper, followed by 4 hours of practical assessment which included self defence module, sparring and destruction.

Jada has practised Taekwondo for 4 years at the Thoree TKD club based in the Village Parish Church - St.Peter's on Monday night. Jada is a pupil at Bowmansgreen Primary. Her instructor said, "Jada has worked really hard to achieve her goal in Tae Kwon Do, she has put a considerable amount of effort into training

Photo Left to right:  
Master Sahota- VII Dan,  
Jada Thoree- I Dan,  
Mr Sahota - V Dan

and learning theory." During the Instructor's 23 years experience of Tae Kwon Do - this particular Black Belt Grading was one of the hardest gradings he has seen. He added, "She thoroughly deserves her black belt". [Instructor - Khem Thoree III Degree Black Belt].

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## Gardening

Anne Kitchener

After the very dry start to the summer, August was exceptionally wet. This gave the garden a chance to recover from the dry spell, the lawn soon turned to green again and I have been able to lift and divide my bearded irises. With winter approaching I spent some time cutting back the less attractive perennials, but left some with attractive seed heads as they look beautiful when covered with frost on a winter morning and also provide homes for over wintering insects. Autumn is a time to reflect on the successes or failures of summer and how, perhaps, to do things differently next year.

### Sound the Retreat

However much I enjoy being in my garden, as the weather turns colder I am not so keen and retreat inside. My gardening time is then devoted to making plans for the following year from the comfort of indoors. Some winters, plans made for the following year are quite modest and simple to carry out, other years they are much grander. A simple plan which I make every autumn is that of choosing which bulbs to plant in bowls and hyacinth glasses for an indoor show to brighten up the bleakest winter months of January and February. I do this in late September and put them in the garage in the dark, bringing them out just after Christmas.

### Grand Plan

Last winter's grand plan seemed simple at first but in the end turned out to be quite complex. At the bottom of the garden, one half of the boundary is made up of the garage wall which was planted up with ivy and virginia creeper before we moved in. Over the years this has grown into a very deep and dense thicket which completely covers the wall. Every so often we cut it back in winter but



this has become harder and harder to do. The wall is west facing, and would be just right to support a fan trained fruit tree. After reading up on planting and growing fruit trees we made our plans. With winter, between November and March, being the best time for planting we waited until the bright colours of the virginia creeper were past their best and started out upon cutting down and removing the tangled mess. It was quite a job involving many car loads to the dump, but eventually all top growth was removed and any roots which were impossible to dig up were poisoned.

### Kill! Kill!

I don't usually like to use poisons but these were exceptional circumstances, so I chose a glyphosate based poison which is deactivated when it contacts the soil and thus would not affect the new tree. Next strong supporting wires were needed to train the proposed fan against the wall. The

wires required hefty bolts to attach them to the wall and we ended up having to hire a drill to be able to cut holes large enough. All is now in place and the ground treated with our best compost, all we need now is the tree.

### Even Grander Plan

Plans for next year are already under way. Our very small lawn takes a lot of effort to keep it looking acceptable and the mower is on its last legs. When it was suffering badly during the dry weather I began to think of what to have instead, and how the garden would look without a lawn. Ideas are forming involving gravel with brick edging and a flower bed using sleepers. The irrigation system could be extended and the gravel area used for pots. I think this will be harder work to realise than the fruit tree. If I do carry out these plans, perhaps I will then leave things as they are for a year or so, but what to spend my time doing during the winter months.

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Annabel Maghie  
Public Relations Manager  
Hertfordshire Constabulary

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### Local police news

Community Messaging uses the award-winning Online Watch Link (OWL) to send regular news to anyone with a Hertfordshire home, or work, postal address.

### Direct to you

It is a fast, straight forward and accurate way to give you direct information about how we are policing the county and about policing in your own neighbourhood.



### Safe but still interested?

Living or working in such a safe county, you may not feel the need for more information about policing but you may be interested to hear about a local issue that's been dealt with, such as reducing dangerous driving near a local school, or about offensive graffiti that's been cleared up or even to hear about opportunities in your area to meet and chat to one of your Neighbourhood officers.

## Sign up for police and County Council news

After signing up, you will receive one or two messages a fortnight. Simply input your name, address and contact details on line at 'Community Messaging – Hear it Direct from Us' on [www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk) If you are also interested in receiving information from your county council, delivered direct to your inbox, please visit [www.hertsdirect.org/emailalerts](http://www.hertsdirect.org/emailalerts) for more information or to subscribe.

## For Someone Who Has Everything

Peter Laws  
London Colney Baptist Church



I heard a story once about a rich guy who had everything. Multiple properties around the world, various businesses and investments. He also had one of the finest art collections in the world, except he wasn't happy. His private gallery was missing one piece of art which he longed to have. He instructed his staff to track the piece down, telling them that they had to get it, no matter what the cost.

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Tel: 01727 825 060



## It was here all along...

Six months later and his staff came back. "Good news" they said, 'We've found the piece you were looking for.' Apparently the rich man shrieked with delight, and started to vigorously shake their hands. 'So how much did it cost me? How many millions?' This is where his staff began to smile, 'It cost you nothing, sir. We found it in a warehouse, in Berlin. A warehouse which you already own.' What the man had been searching for had been under his nose all this time. And it was free.

## What are you searching for?

I don't know what you are searching for in life. In the short term it might be to get some great presents for Christmas. Or to have a decent new year and happy 2011. Yet, when you think of the big picture, you probably want things such as a sense of purpose for your life, a feeling of peace in your heart, support in the hard times, and a sense of hope for the future.

## Look no further...

Well, call off the search. All of these things can be found in a relationship with Jesus. I know it sounds a bit corny and weird. Believe me, when I first met Christians, it was at this point I started to back slowly away. Yet, I discovered that there really is something to this. This Christmas time and especially in 2011, I encourage you to think a little deeper about your life. Where did you come from? Is there a meaning to it all, and if so what's your place in the world? What will happen when you die? All these questions find hopeful (and I believe intellectually credible) answers in the Christian faith. In the year ahead, don't be content with going through the motions of life, when you have an eternal gift, literally on your doorstep.

## Join us!

If you want to find out more about the Christian hope, then join us this Christmas.

## Christmas Services

**Friday 10th Dec 9:30-11:30: Children's Christmas Party plus 'Crib Service'**

Our Parents and Toddlers group have party food, craft activities, a free toy and a visit from Mother Christmas! Yep, that's Mother Christmas... She helps her husband when things are busy. During the morning there will be an optional Crib Service where the children go into the church to sing songs and hear the Christmas story. All welcome, £1 voluntary donation.

**Sunday 12th Dec 10:30-11:30am: Toy and Gift Service.**

A church service where we donate toys and gifts to needy children.

**Sunday 19th Dec 6pm: Carols by Candlelight**

Join us for traditional carols by candlelight, as we sing and tell the story of Jesus birth.

**Our normal services take place every Sunday morning from 10:30 till 11:30am. We hope to see you there,**

Rev Peter Laws and London Colney Baptist Church  
Why not visit our website at [www.londoncolneybaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.londoncolneybaptistchurch.co.uk)  
Contact: 01727 825450,  
[jpilaws@ntlworld.com](mailto:jpilaws@ntlworld.com),  
30 Kings Road, London Colney, AL2 1EN. [Candle picture courtesy of Freephoto.com]



## Christmas Lunch at the Community Centre

**Don't forget to book your Christmas Lunch at the Community Centre on**

**Thursday 16th December.**

**If there are more bookings than places, there will be another lunch on Wednesday 15th December so nobody will be disappointed.**

*Phone the Parish Clerk (821314) or book when you come to lunch earlier in the month.*



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# Home Of Herts Primary Chess

Jackie Potter

We are constantly looking to extend our after school activities and so were delighted when, two years ago, one of the teachers started a chess club, bringing a different slant to the regular physical activities on offer. We really did not know how popular it was to become!

## Growing steadily

The club started with about ten

children, from year 4 upwards, and has rapidly grown to having almost 30 regular players from beginners to those who are really mastering the game. Chess in primary schools encourages the children to develop their pattern recognition and thinking skills at an early age and all achieved in a pleasurable, friendly environment.

## Celebrate challenge

We are proud of all the children who enjoy the challenge and fun of playing against others in our school and are pleased to celebrate the successes of several players who have qualified for County and National competitions. It is great to see the boys and girls using

the tactics and strategies they have been taught, to win, in a respectful, but competitive way.

## Primary School Centre for Herts

Bowmansgreen is now the recognised centre for chess at primary school level in Hertfordshire supported by the Hertfordshire Schools Chess Association. There is nothing better than to see a whole hall full of children from different schools, quietly and studiously enjoying several rounds of a chess competition, at whatever level they enjoy playing.



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Andy Aitchison/Ashden Awards

As more and more energy is required to extract oil, less will be available to feed economic growth. The low price oil we've enjoyed for decades appears to be history.

The Transition Town Network is working to build local resilience and it is not alone. Interest in allotment plots,

car sharing and renewable energy is growing. Sustrans is encouraging us to walk, cycle and use public transport. People are getting their homes better insulated - a sensible first step faced with the prospect of rising heating costs.

100% grant funded loft and cavity

wall insulation is currently available to residents aged 70 years and above. This offer is made irrespective of your income and savings and whether or not you are in receipt of benefits. Phone Cocoon on 0800 8048 777 For further information visit [www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/saving](http://www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/saving)

## Thanks From Macmillan

Avril Foster

I would like to give a BIG thank you to all in London Colney who supported our recent fundraising events. I have much pleasure in giving you the results.

## Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning, Friday 24 September, Greenwood Park Community Centre, Chiswell Green. A total of £764 14p was raised with no overheads whatsoever due to the kindness of the local businesses and local residents donating so much in the way of home-made cakes and biscuits, raffle prizes etc.

## Tesco Collections

Tesco Collections, Friday and Saturday 15 and 16 October. We were very pleased to be able to collect outside the Tesco store in the High Street, London Colney, and over the 2 days we raised £352 99p. The overall collection which included the Tesco stores in St Peter's Street, Beech Road, and Jersey Farm, raised £1 189 18. Such a wonderful sum to help, support and comfort the many who are living with cancer.

## Quiz Night

Quiz Night, Saturday 23 October, held at the London Colney Community Centre by kind permission of London Colney Parish Council. Our charity was so very grateful to the Council for granting our event free of charge status, and this very much assisted our grand total of £874 14p.

Thank you so much everyone!

## Voles

Maria Aguado

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust have just completed a water vole survey of Hertfordshire waterways. They looked in the Colne and Ver but sadly found no voles. Their interesting and beautifully produced booklet, Water Vole Habitat Management, explains exactly why.

### Too steep, too shady

Water voles eat plants - a vole's diet can consist of 200 different, low growing plant species. They thrive where the river banks are gently sloping and not shaded by trees and there are many plant varieties. The last water voles seen locally were in the river bank opposite the Green Dragon. The water level should also be fairly stable. Water voles can drown if the water level rises quickly as they nest in burrows in the banks. Reinforced banks as are found in places on the Colne prevent water voles from bur-

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The beautiful photo is reproduced with the permission of Terry Whittaker. Have a look at his gallery of water vole pictures at [www.terrywhittaker.com](http://www.terrywhittaker.com)

rowing. Their burrows have entrances above and below water so that they can evade land and water predators.

### Mink and rats

Mink kill water voles and have been seen, though not recently, near the river in London Colney. Mink look a bit like polecat ferrets and have dense glossy deep brown to black coats. If you see one, tell the Wildlife Trust, they are based at Grebe House on the edge of Verulamium Park. Rats also kill young water voles and probably carry diseases that can affect voles too. For whatever reasons, an increase in rats in an area brings with it a decrease in water voles.

### Have you seen one?

Water voles are also often mistaken for rats. Both are found by rivers, they

are a similar size and colour but look carefully. Rats have long scaly tails, a pointed muzzle and large ears. Water voles have rounded, blunt faces, their ears are small and hidden in their fur and their tails are shorter and hairy. However, you can be sure that if you see a brief glimpse of a brown furry

body followed by a loud plop as it dives into the water; that was a water vole. Rats are more likely to waddle off, fairly unconcerned unless you have a dog with you and won't take to the water unless cornered.

## OPENING SEPTEMBER 2010



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# St Peter's News

Lynne Fawns

It has been quite a year for St. Peter's and I can't express how blessed we feel to have our new beautiful church. I hope you enjoy the photograph taken by John Webb of our new church. It is simply stunning! Each person who has come through our doors over these last weeks seems to have a favourite feature. Yet, for me it isn't an actual feature I particularly like...but the new light we enjoy. We have the lovely glazed main door, the glass screen, and the large glazed side doors, which all allow the light to stream into the church which then bounces off the white walls to transform the space. Even in the evening with our mood lighting and up-lighters the space is transformed, which seems odd in a way because in many circumstances the light highlights the scarring on the ceiling – scarring that has probably been there since it was built.

But somehow bathed in this new light it is transformed into something new, something beautiful and something sacred.

Of course all this has great poignancy as we move into the season of Christmas. For as we see the fairy lights appearing on Christmas trees and in shop and house windows we are reminded that we are entering the season of light. We should remember that light isn't a random feature of this season to just banish the darkness or even to provide us with some pretty decorations. Christians use light at Christmas to reflect the fact that Christmas is the season when the Light of the World came amongst us in the form of a vulnerable baby - Jesus. So, having this new transforming light in our church seems to reflect perfectly the transforming light of Jesus Christ, which we are about to celebrate.

Just as the new light in the church has the ability to transform everything and make things look fresh and new – so

does the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. When like our new church building we personally open up those closed areas of ourselves to that light of Christ, when we allow that light to stream into our lives and shine afresh upon us, great things can happen. Our lives, and even all the scars we carry, will be transformed by that Light of Christ. So come and join us this Christmas. Come and enjoy the new light in St. Peter's and indeed celebrate the transforming Light of the World - Jesus.

May your Christmas be filled with joy, hope and peace.

Lynne and the Family of St Peters

## Christmas Services

Sunday 19th Dec 10am

### Holy Communion and Nativity Play

Sunday 19th Dec 5pm

### Carol Service

Christmas Eve

### Christingle Service 4pm

Christmas Eve

### Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day Family Service 10am





These covers arrived too late to be considered for the front page.

With its bold legible title, and neatly coloured repeating border, this entry would have made a good cover. Well done!

Cameron Salvatierra, Age 10  
StBernadette School



Thanks to all the children from StBernadette and Bowmansgreen Schools who entered our cover competition.

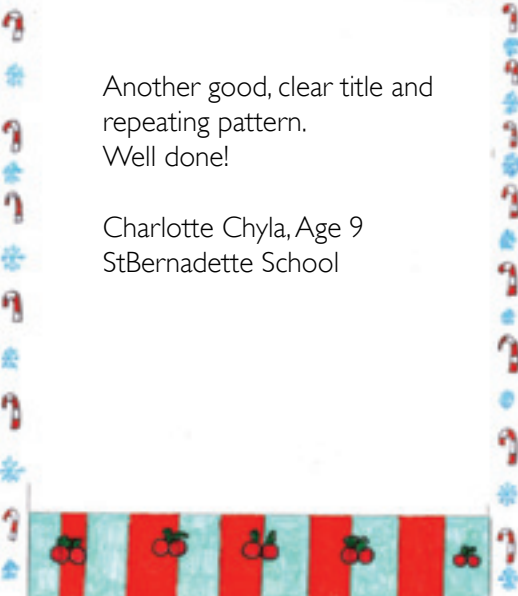
I chose the winner for her clear, clean design in Christmassy colours. The title was bold and legible with good repeating patterns on the border. Well done Sky from Bowmansgreen School.

Two more good titles from StBernadette School (bottom left). Well done Tobi Ewuosho and Demetrius Johnson.



Another good, clear title and repeating pattern. Well done!

Charlotte Chyla, Age 9  
StBernadette School



Another good, clear title and repeating pattern. Lively drawings at the bottom of the page Well done!

George Lopez, Age 9  
StBernadette School



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# School Places for 2011

Nuala Milbourn, HertsCC

Due to start in reception, junior or middle school next year? Apply now!  
If your child is due to start their school career in 2011, or to move on

to junior or middle school next September, the application process has opened and Hertfordshire County Council's admissions teams are looking forward to hearing from you.



## Leaflet coming soon...

A leaflet, 'Applying for a school place' is being distributed to families across the county explaining the application process, and highlighting the importance of meeting the national deadline, which is Saturday January 15, 2011.

## Important changes

In an important change to last year's application process, parents applying for a school place outside Hertfordshire must apply for that place, as well as any school within the county on Hertfordshire County Council's application form. Hertfordshire will then co-ordinate with the relevant admitting authority on the parents' behalf.

## Apply online?

Last year 92% of applicants applied online and we recommend that you use this method of application because it is quick, easy and secure. Remember, you can check or change your application at any time up until the deadline. Parents applying online can also accept their school place online this year.

## Apply on time

Richard Thake, Executive Member for Education, said: "It is vitally important that parents and carers get their applications in on time. Late applications are much less likely to secure one of the parents' or carers' preferred schools, which can lead to disappointment. Lots of advice and a secure online application form is available at [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions)."

## Need help? Ring customer services!

Parents who are unable to access the application process online can ring our customer service centre on 0300 123 4043.



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  - FEB 25**
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what's on

# Caledon Community Centre

## New Years Eve



£10 members  
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**£12 per head**

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## Community Centre Report

Simon Niemic  
Community Officer

It's been a hectic past few months in the village as everyone has tried to cope with the road improvements to the lower end of the High Street. Local businesses have had the most difficulty with reported lost profits as customers have not been able to reach them. Friends of mine were stuck in traffic jams outside Sainsbury's for 3 hours and in the end abandoned their cars and suffered the long walk home laden with shopping bags and screaming children! Even the Green Dragon made the local press when they couldn't get beer delivered. Hopefully now the works are completed everyone can get back to normal and benefit from the changes.

## Kings Head Development

How fast the new housing developments are going up on the old Kings Head Pub site. My Dad was over from Australia recently and commented on the changes the village has undergone since his last visit. Napsbury was one thing that came to mind. Being a mere 35 years old the changes I have witnessed growing up have been immense let alone those who have lived in the village for a lot longer. I guess this is what they call 'progress'.

## Harvest Donation

Thank you to Judy Barker and everyone associated with St Peters Church who donated large trays of fresh fruit and vegetables from the recent Harvest Festival. The Meals on Wheels service in the village benefitted from these kind donations

as did the Lunch Club at the community centre.

## Volunteers Needed

As I mention Meals on Wheels we are currently looking for some more volunteers who could give up 1 hour a month to be part of our group of dedicated delivery drivers. If you have a clean license and an ability to help others then please give me a call on 01727 821314 or come down to the Parish Council offices for a chat.

## Events

At the community centre we have had hosted some more successful events. In September we had a Robbie Williams tribute night which went down well with the ladies who all got up on the stage at the end and sang along to a rendition of 'Angels'. London Colney Parish Council provided a free children's Halloween party in October. 60 children attended with their parents and looked fantastic in their Halloween costumes.

## Carved with pride

I would like to say a big thank you to Willows Farm who kindly donated 12 pumpkins for the party. After 3 hours of cutting and slicing I can now say I am an expert pumpkin carver!

## Very Fancy Dress

This was followed in the evening with another Halloween party and disco for the older crowd - another great night. Well done everyone who wore fancy dress for the night. It's not often you get Virgil from the Thunderbirds in the same room as Wonder Woman, Dracula, a ladybird and several witches and zombies!

## Push on for New Year

We have The Push booked for New Years Eve and only a limited number of the 150 tickets are left. Prices are £10 for club members and £15 for non-members. Tickets can be bought at the Parish Council offices from Monday to Friday. We expect this to be a sell out so if you wish to come that night then pop in and see a member of staff.



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The Caledon Community Centre,  
Caledon Road,  
London Colney

Sunday 16 January, 2011  
12.30pm (doors open 12.15pm)

Tickets £5 each or £15 Family Ticket (x4) available from the Parish Office,  
The Caledon Community Centre  
or Barkers Estate Agents, 188 High Street, London Colney



## Youth Rugby

Rob Lines  
Old Verulamians Youth Chairman

The OV Chariots recently kicked off their 6th season of Mini/Junior rugby with a registration day in September. Active St Albans have given the club a further boost this year with funding for coaching, equipment and promotions. The aim is to encourage young people to get more involved in sport. Rugby is a fun, energetic game that is fantastic at developing hand eye co-ordination and social skills in an environment of sportsmanship and enjoyment.

### Chariots Launched

The Verulamian Rugby Club, having launched its' Mini/Junior section known as the "Chariots" in September 2005, has grown each year to date and now offers competitive rugby in a friendly club atmosphere to children aged between 6 and 16.

Players of all shapes, sizes, experience and abilities are welcome and can benefit from fully qualified RFU Coaches from 10.00am to midday on every Sunday during the season which runs from September through to Easter.

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## Where Are We?

Situated on the A414 opposite Aylett Nurseries & Partners Pet Supermarket, the club offers a friendly, family-orientated club and prides itself on being in touch with the community. There is a 'Credit Crunch' Joining Fee of just £25 per child for a whole season. To encourage new players the club allows three 'trial' sessions before asking for any commitment, so you have nothing to lose by giving it a try. The Under 14's in particular are seeking new players to give a further boost to playing numbers and build on the early success of the season.

## Highlights

Highlights of the 2009/10 season included seeing our Under 15's enter and compete well in the County league system, along with several strong performances in the end of year County competitions. A further milestone was achieved as the first players 'graduated' to adult rugby in the second half of the season.

## Seniors Welcome

The senior section of the club also welcomes new players of all levels to join its' three teams.

## Contact Us

For more information go to [www.vrugby.com](http://www.vrugby.com) or call Youth chairman Rob Lines on 01727 759613.



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

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

Day	Time	Activity / group
Monday	9.15am - 11.15am	Parent & Toddler drop in group For 0 - 4 years Lots of toys and lots of fun
Monday	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Bumps & babies Expecting a baby or have a new arrival Come along and meet other parents Baby rhyme time from 1.30pm
Tuesday	9.10am - 10.15am	Well child clinic Baby weighing and Health Visitor advice
Tuesday	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Family learning Starts 2 November These sessions must be booked
Wednesday	10.00am - 11.30am	Getting through the day Starts 3 November These sessions must be booked
Wednesday	12.30pm - 2.30pm	Friendship group A group for our Bengali parents
Thursday	9.15am - 11.15am	Baby massage Starts 25 November for 5 weeks These sessions must be booked
Thursday	1.30pm - 3.30pm	Well child clinic Baby weighing and Health Visitor advice
Friday	9.15am - 11.15am	Under 2's playtime A stay and play group for the under 2's

### Coming soon.....

- © Toy library available from after half term. Please ask during any of the sessions above.
- © Saturday Play & Stay, 6 November - 10am - 11.30am. 'Construction Creation'. This group is specifically for Dads and their children aged 0-4 years. Look out for further dates
- © October half term holiday Stay and Play sessions will be running Monday and Friday mornings 9.15am - 11.15am and Wednesday afternoons 1.00pm - 3.00pm.

For further information or to request the outreach service please phone or text Julie 07825933809 or Helen 07825933810  
We look forward to seeing you.

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visit please call 01727 822196

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

**Youth Project  
Sessions at  
TheBase**

Robert Brown  
Youth Work Team Leader  
St Albans



The Base, at 184 High Street, London Colney, runs youth project sessions in partnership with Youth Connexions.

We are open on...  
Tuesday evenings for 11- 14 year olds from 6.30pm to 9.00pm and Wednesday evenings for 14 – 17 year olds from 7.00pm to 9.30pm. We have Internet linked computers, a chill out area, Nintendo Wii, kitchen area and a staff team to help organise the trips and activities young people wish to be involved in.

There are also opportunities for great value trips through the St Albans "Out and About" programme. We have recently been to Thorpe Park, white water rafting and Wembley Stadium.

For further details on all Youth Connexions activities, visit:  
[www.channelmogo.org](http://www.channelmogo.org)  
or [www.mogozout.org](http://www.mogozout.org)



Halloween Celebrations at



## Forthcoming Events Are...

- 8 January 2011  
Science Museum
- 28 January 2011  
Midnight Skating event at Alexandra Palace, London.
- 8 February 2011  
Outdoor Quasar
- 12 March 2011  
Swimming at Windsor Aqua Park

We also run activities and workshops where young people can achieve certificates: Forthcoming events are:

- 22 Jan 2011 First Aid
- 26 Feb 2011 Food Hygiene
- 26 Mar 2011 Self Protection

For more information on the youth project please contact: Phil Francis on 01442 454060





# TREASURE TOTS PRE-SCHOOL

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 <p><b>Holistic Massage</b> <i>A kind way to give your body a helping hand to keep you healthy</i></p>	 <p><b>Reiki</b> <i>Gives a feeling of peace and tranquillity</i></p>
 <p><b>Indian Head Massage</b> <i>A wonderfully relaxing therapy to lift you out of daily stress</i></p>	 <p><b>Hopi Ear Candle Treatment</b> <i>Calms the mind and soothes the head and ears</i></p>
 <p><b>Reflexology</b> <i>Ideal way to keep your body systems in balance</i></p>	 <p><b>EFT</b> (Emotional Freedom Techniques) <i>Non-invasive therapy which often helps when nothing else will</i></p>

To book a treatment please call **01727 826110 / 07990748346**

For more information on the above therapies please visit [www.natural-alternatives.biz](http://www.natural-alternatives.biz)

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Judith Maag**  
LCICI. DIP. ITEC Dip. IET Dip. EFT adv AAMET  
Member Independent Professional Therapists International

London Colney, St Albans



# POPPY APPEAL

Patron : Her Majesty The Queen



The Poppy Appeal Team of London Colney would like to thank everyone who has given so generously of their time and donations to the Poppy Appeal.

Special thanks go to London Colney Parish Council for all the help they gave us with the Remembrance Parade and Service, the Police for keep-

ing the Memorial a traffic free zone, The Flower Shop for the wonderful window display, Barkers Estate Agents for being so kind in storing the many boxes of poppies and collecting tins that go with organising this event and to Sainsburys and M&S for allowing us to use their premises to make public collections.

We had raised £13,814.81 in London Colney for the 2009 – 2010 Appeal before the end of August and still had till the end of September to add to this year's total.

Our Service men and women rely on you all so we hope that you will be able to help us once again and make 2010 – 2011 a record year.



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