

PARISH E-NEWS



News and updates from
organisations in the Colney Heath
Parish community including

Colney Heath village, Highfield,
Hill End, Oaklands, Roestock,
Smallford, Sleepshyde, and
Tyttenhanger

To join the circulation list – its free – email jackclemow@gmail.com



ISSUE 5 : Spring 2020

Daffodils. Acrylics painting by Joanna Dowler

In our "Parish E-News" you will see news from, and information about, a number of sources received for inclusion in this issue.

Clicking this link <https://www.colneyheathvillagehall.com/parish-e-news.html> will take you to the website page including this newsletter and previous issues.

Please feel free to share this newsletter and to print pages for folk who don't have e-mail.

Please e-mail jackclemow@gmail.com (Editor, Trustee of CH Village Hall) :

- if you have a story, would like to promote an organisation, an event or a cause, or to advertise a local service or business – there is no charge for inclusion in this digital format
- if you spot any errors or have comments

The Summer edition is planned for July.

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EDITORIAL

How our world changed in almost an instant. Few, if any, could have imagined the way we are living now. For some this has brought great hardship and distress, for others much but tolerable inconvenience, and for some fortunate people - like me - not a lot of change in routine.

For all, this is a time of anxiety. The quiet streets, no traffic on A414, queues outside Sainsbury's, all compound to make this feel like a very strange place.

There are many uncertainties. We have questions for which there are no clear answers. The television offers little comfort, turning dark and, you may have noticed, emotional.

On 26th April David Goodhart wrote in the Sunday Times

"the news bulletins at 6pm and 10pm run along these tramlines : here's something about Covid-19, here's a sobbing relative or frontline hero telling you to stay at home, save lives, and protect the NHS. Yes, it's a bleak and emotional time...but I feel an aching lack of authority, explanation and context, and a general infantilisation of the public discourse. Too much communication has become performative rather than informative."

I have attempted to address this on pages 10-12 with what I hope will be read as providing some unemotional balance, perspective on the position in Europe, and what can be learned from the Far East. Skip that section if you have "coronadose" (an overdose of bad news from consuming too much media).

In this, our Spring edition, are some of the problems our community is facing but also are the inspiring efforts and creativity of many to keep carrying on in anticipation of the better days.

Our community has risen to the stay-at-home challenge, coming together on Thursdays at 8pm to clap for carers and essential workers.

We will get through this with our courage and sense of humour – much evident in social media, and in the example of "working from home" (right) shared by our twinning friends in Boissy sous St Yon. Best wishes and keep well and safe.

What I had always pictured myself wearing during the Apocalypse...



What actually Happened !!!



The year is 4043 and archeologists uncover an ancient carving depicting The Battle of ASDA 2020



THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

HM The Queen's message, broadcast on Sunday 6th April 2020

I am speaking to you at what I know is an increasingly challenging time.

A time of disruption in the life of our country: a disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all.

I want to thank everyone on the NHS frontline, as well as care workers and those carrying out essential roles, who selflessly continue their day-to-day duties outside the home in support of us all.

I am sure the nation will join me in assuring you that what you do is appreciated and every hour of your hard work brings us closer to a return to more normal times.

I also want to thank those of you who are staying at home, thereby helping to protect the vulnerable and sparing many families the pain already felt by those who have lost loved ones.

Together we are tackling this disease, and I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it.

I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge. And those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any.

That the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet good-humoured resolve and of fellow-feeling still characterise this country. The pride in who we are is not a part of our past, it defines our present and our future.

The moments when the United Kingdom has come together to applaud its care and essential workers will be remembered as an expression of our national spirit; and its symbol will be the rainbows drawn by children.

Across the Commonwealth and around the world, we have seen heart-warming stories of people coming together to help others, be it through delivering food parcels and medicines, checking on neighbours, or converting businesses to help the relief effort.



And though self-isolating may at times be hard, many people of all faiths, and of none, are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause and reflect, in prayer or meditation.

It reminds me of the very first broadcast I made, in 1940, helped by my sister. We, as children, spoke from here at Windsor to children who had been evacuated from their homes and sent away for their own safety. Today, once again, many will feel a painful sense of separation from their loved ones. But now, as then, we know, deep down, that it is the right thing to do.

While we have faced challenges before, this one is different. This time we join with all nations across the globe in a common endeavour, using the great advances of science and our instinctive compassion to heal.

We will succeed - and that success will belong to every one of us. We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again.

But for now, I send my thanks and warmest good wishes to you all.

ST MARK'S CHURCH

Contact Church Office 01727 825175 office@stmarkscolneyheath.co.uk.



During these difficult times, it is a joy to see how the community has come together in support of one another. The Colney Heath Community Support Group is a brilliant example of a united initiative to support people in practical ways. By uniting in caring for each other, communities across the world have been brought closer together. This is something to celebrate and give thanks for.

Some may be wondering what is happening with the church during this time. I am delighted to share that though the church building is closed, church life and worship continues, but in a new way. St Mark's releases online services every Sunday morning at 9am. These include music, encouragement and prayer with elements of fun and creativity. ***Do join us.*** You can find each new service and an archive of earlier ones on St Mark's church website: www.stmarkscolneyheath.co.uk

The church continues to support its people with regular encouraging communication. We are supporting families, elderly and all ages by offering appropriate care as necessary and instilling hope that this season won't last forever. Bereavement care and supporting those who have lost loved ones is a high priority for us and we still continue to minister with professionalism, dignity and compassion at this time where people need it the most.

Prayer has offered many the freedom to connect with God and people have found comfort in knowing that God is not restricted by lockdown and is with us whether on a walk, in our homes or as we reflect.

We look forward in hope.



Rev. Caroline Keightley
office@stmarkscolneyheath.co.uk.

COLNEY HEATH COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

<https://communitysupportgroup.weebly.com>

As the spread of the epidemic in the UK became apparent the Colney Heath Community Support Group (a Communities 1st project) was formed with a committee of volunteers from St Mark's Church, the Smallford Residents Association, the Village Hall, the WI and the Twinning Association. The Clerk of the Parish Council is a consultee of the committee.

We have partnered with Communities 1st, a registered charity promoted by the St Albans City and District and Hertsmere Councils.

A number of people have volunteered to provide support to the community through the Group. Some had approached the Parish Council Clerk who referred them to the committee.

Based on the variety of sources referring people to us it seems our Group has been well publicized.

Fortunately we have not yet been overloaded by requests for help. It seems most people in our community have a strong support network through family, friends, neighbours and community organisations.

What we have understood is that requests for help usually arise when someone's support network is not available, and we need to respond quickly. We have a WhatsApp group which we use to note any requests for help coming in, to get a volunteer to help, and to note the outcome.

We hope that few "calls for help" continues to indicate that people are coping admirably with the lockdown. However if you hear if anyone who needs then please call and we'll "match people in NEED with someone who can HELP".

If you need help now, or know someone who has no one to turn to

John Clemow 07803 313 525

jackclemow@gmail.com

Lesley Lewis 07710 599 725

lewislesley@hotmail.co.uk

If you want to volunteer (even from home, you could keep isolated people in touch by phone).

John Rowland 07887 931 805

johnrowland2010@gmail.com

AROUND AND ABOUT

The village shop and post office

In normal times a number of people rely on the shop and post office for their daily needs and treats. Since the lockdown the demand increased hugely. Manish was delivering goods to people after shop hours and this was appreciated by those self-isolating.

Manish and Jayshee had worked very hard to keep the supplies going but quotas on the amount they could get set by their suppliers meant they could not get enough of what was needed. The closing of the village shop and post office in mid April was thus sorely felt by many people in the village.

The good news is that after two weeks the shop and post office reopened on 23rd April. The shop hours are now 9am to 2pm and the post office hours are 9am to 1pm. Lets hope that the constraints on supplies have eased, as they appear to have at the supermarkets, and they can keep this important facility open for our community.

OWL (Online Watch Link)

OWL is used by Hertfordshire Constabulary and local coordinators to communicate with thousands of Watch members across the county. Hertfordshire has the largest Neighbourhood Watch network in the UK with 1 in 3 homes registered on OWL. All households that have not registered with OWL are urged to do so.

Recent updates from OWL have included :

- How to report a phishing attempt
- Threatening e-mails claiming to have recorded the recipient accessing adult or pornographic websites
- Reporting stalking
- People posing as staff from Hertfordshire Age UK
- Fraud and cybercrime
- Scam awareness
- Keeping young people safe online
- False foodbank scam alert
- Covid-19 fears scams
- Free school meal scams

From OWL and Which? reports criminals have changed their tactics to take advantage of the lockdown with online scams increasing.

Colney Heath Village Facebook

With 725 members this “private group” reaches a good proportion of Colney Heath residents. It provides a valuable source of local information and views. The group admin keeps an eye on members’ posts being in line with the rules.

A ten day snap shot of posts and comments show the concerns, the debate and support in our community. Most are not new topics, but the emphasis may have changed with people with more time at home having a tidy up and clear out.

Staying at home posts :

- requests for materials for a garden furniture project, a gym mat, paving slabs, shoes,
- request for help with shopping for pet food, a dentist, setting up a computer, a broken mobile phone,
- free items to collect : a trellis, clothes, shoes and handbags, DVDs, runner beans, glass jars, cushions, dog nappies, a suitcase.
- for sale : vegan food and fruit and veg boxes for delivery, a “mud kitchen” for the garden, cooked food, a Ring chime,

Concerns :

A lot of police attending to a report of firearm (turned out to be an air rifle), a mugging, a suspicious attempt to access an elderly person’s house, a stolen motor scooter, concern re bonfires,

Lockdown related :

- Clapping for Carers NHS,
- St Marks digital church services,
- Zumba dance classes on Zoom,
- is the village shop open yet?
- the opening of the village shop,
- Roestock Park play area closed,
- food package mis-delivered,
- where to find yeast,
- who has wild garlic and fresh eggs,
- social (non) distancing out walking,
- flour in stock again at Sainsbury’s

Cubs, Beaver and Scouts

In the January E-News we reported the eviction from their hut in Roestock Park. The minutes of the Council's February meeting suggested the position looked more positive.

The draft minutes of the Council meeting on 19th March states another survey is to be done.

The minutes also record that Natalie West and Louise Jones had been co-opted to serve as Parish Councillors for Colney Heath Ward.

Council meetings scheduled for April and May have been cancelled.

Community bus

The Community Bus has not been operating since the lockdown began. Debbie hopes it will start up again as soon as possible. She is keeping in touch with all the regular passengers.

8th May 75th commemoration of VE Day

The 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' will be at 3pm on Friday 8th May. From the safety of our own homes raise a glass with the following 'Toast'

"To those who gave so much, we thank you,"

Ideas for bunting can be found here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4TrqYDyf4PMdLypxzyTwGDg/great-british-bunting>

ROESTOCK HUT

A paper with the proposal and associated paper was noted by Council. Cllr Solts wished to thank all those involved for a useful meeting and that he felt the Council and Scouts were in a better place. It was also excellent to note that there were funds available from the Scouts to maintain the building. Cllr Cook referred to LG Act 1972 s123 quoting the achievement of best value when letting public assets. Cllr Slaughter said she thought it important that the Council pay and carry out the building survey. Cllr Cook proposed and Cllr Solts seconded a proposal that the Clerk be instructed to obtain 3 quotes and attempt to quickly return this to Council for the next meeting. The Council wished to express thanks to David Barker and the Clerk for their work on getting the joint statement agreed and issued.

ACTION: Clerk

20/134 ROESTOCK HUT The Clerk confirmed that after two rounds of requesting quotes with six companies approached only one quote had been submitted of £1500. Council discussed and noted that access to the building would be restricted. It further noted the building had no hot water in the toilets and is not available for public use during the current COVID-19 restrictions. The type of survey was agreed and a budget of £1500 was set for the works. Acceptance of the quote was proposed by Cllr H Brazier and seconded by Cllr C Brazier and unanimously RESOLVED by all those present. ACTION: Clerk



DAWN ON THE HEATH



photograph by Marko who posts wonderful photos on the Colney Heath Village Facebook

FIELDS OF GOLD

You'll remember me when the west wind moves
Among the fields of barley
You can tell the sun in his jealous sky
When we walked in fields of gold

So she took her love for to gaze awhile
Among the fields of barley
In his arms she fell as her hair came down
Among the fields of gold

Will you stay with me? Will you be my love
Among the fields of barley?
And you can tell the sun in his jealous sky
When we walked in fields of gold

I never made promises lightly
And there have been some that I've broken
But I swear in the days still left
We'll walk in fields of gold
We'll walk in fields of gold

I never made promises lightly
And there have been some that I've broken
But I swear in the days still left
We'll walk in fields of gold
We'll walk in fields of gold

Many years have passed since those summer days
Among the fields of barley
See the children run as the sun goes down
As you lie in fields of gold

You'll remember me when the west wind moves
Among the fields of barley
You can tell the sun in his jealous sky
When we walked in fields of gold

When we walked in fields of gold
When we walked in fields of gold, ooh

COVID - 19 COMMENTS

The UK's performance in dealing with the coronavirus is a subject on everyone's mind and we all have an opinion.

I wanted to understand how badly is the UK affected and how we compare with other countries, so have spent some time reading up on this, and share what I have found .

The map and table of deaths per million of the country's population (below) is revealing.

Western		Central&Eastern	
Belgium	665	Czech republic	236
Spain	525	Slovenia	44
Italy	463	Romania	38
UK	394	Poland	17
France	373	Croatia	17
Netherlands	280	Greece	13
Switzerland	201	Bulgaria	9
Portugal	97	Slovakia	4
Germany	79		
Austria	65		
Nordic			
Sweden	280		
Norway	39		
Finland	39		
Lithuania	17		
Latvia	8		

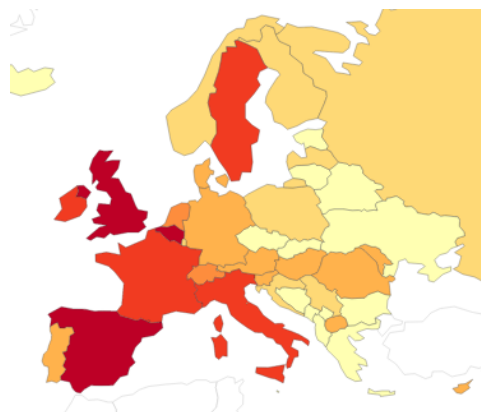
While the recording methods of deaths are debatable, this will be much closer to the differences between countries than "cases" which depend on detection by testing. However, if testing is not extensive, deaths from Covid-19 may not be recorded as such. This is not the end of this grim "league table" of course.

Belgium, Spain, Italy and France are badly affected. With the inclusion of deaths in care homes announced on 29th April, the UK's death rate is now 394 per million.

That Central and Eastern Europe has been less affected is clear, but not why. Germany stands out as the exception. The most convincing answer so far is the median age of the infected in Germany is 46. In Italy it is 63. In Britain is thought to be 64. The general evidence seems to be that younger people are less affected.

If the BBC was one's main source of "news" one would have the impression that it was only the UK that had problems.

I visited China in November 2018. The temperature of all arrivals at the airport were checked as routine health screening. The UK has not imposed any health checks or compulsory quarantine periods in for people arriving into UK airports. At least 105,000 passengers a week are flying in from countries including China, Italy and the USA. The Health Secretary has said *"the epidemiological impact of keeping travel open is very small because there's already large transmissions here."* So, the approach seems "as the hole is already deep, we might as well keep on digging".



The threat of a pandemic was high on the UK "risk radar". But one does not need the benefit of hindsight to know that the UK was not prepared for a pandemic. Nor to see that the government acted later than it should have done. The systems to test and contact trace were not in place, and relying on the global market for PPE supplies was not robust.

These weaknesses are not unique to the UK, but they have not combined well to deal effectively with a pandemic. Nor was it helpful that the Lansley Reforms passed in 2012 gave the NHS operational independence from the politicians. The Government can't issue orders to the NHS. Whether the criticism of NHS England (for not engaging private labs in testing, for not getting to grips with PPE, over-optimistic reports to ministers) is fair or not, this disconnect will not have helped.

Speed and clarity of decisions and delivery of the right actions was required. The extraordinary swift and bold action by the Treasury in their proposals to support the economy is a matter for another day when the economic consequences are better understood.

Capacity

It has been reported that the NHS has not been overrun (yet). This may be in part due to treatment of non Covid-19 conditions being suspended, and the truly amazing effort made by hospital staff.

The UK has fallen behind in the healthcare provision and is well below the average for the OECD (so called “developed” countries) for doctors, nurses, hospital beds, and key diagnostic equipment. For critical care bed provision, the UK ranks number 24 out of the 31 countries in Europe.

Nevertheless, when a resident in the village broke her hip walking on the heath, the ambulance service responded quickly and she had an emergency total hip replacement. So our NHS still works.

Slow to act

The coronavirus outbreak in China was thought to start in November 2019 but may not have been recognised there until late December. Governments of the countries in the Far East that had experienced SARS (a coronavirus) in 2004 were prepared and acted quickly. Singapore, for example, was screening and isolating travellers from China in early January, before the first case in Singapore was recorded on 23 January. So far 10 people have been recorded there as dying from the virus in Singapore.

The virus was detected in Europe in late January; in the UK on 23rd January. Europe sleep walked into the crisis. From the first confirmed case to lockdown, the European countries were slow to respond. Italy took 38 days to act, Spain 44 days, France took 52 days, Germany 55 days, and the UK 59 days.

While acting faster than Germany and the UK, Italy and Spain both underestimated just how fast the virus could spread and how quickly it could push their healthcare systems to the verge of collapse. Italy's healthcare system, with twice the number of the UK's critical care beds, was overrun.

Spain, despite the added advantage of seeing what was happening in Italy, also failed to recognize the rapid spread in the critical early weeks of the virus's introduction into the country. By 8th March, 10 people had already died and 520 cases had been confirmed. On the same day a quarantine zone was declared across much of Northern Italy, in Madrid 120,000 people packed into the city centre to support gender equality.

The same day, supporters gathered in crowds as large as 60,000 in dozens of other Spanish cities, as other large events like football games and political rallies continued in full force.

In the UK there were around 800 cases and 10 deaths from Covid-19 when the Cheltenham Festival was held on 10-13th March attended by 250,000 people. Many other activities took place that week, a Premiership football weekend beforehand, a Six Nations rugby match on the Sunday, Crufts indoors, millions of people were using the tube in London.

Contact tracing

Some countries in the Far East had a rigorous system of contact tracing - following up on the people who had been in contact with someone who had been infected, and quarantining them. Vietnam, Singapore and South Korea applied this successfully and have had very low rates of infection and deaths.

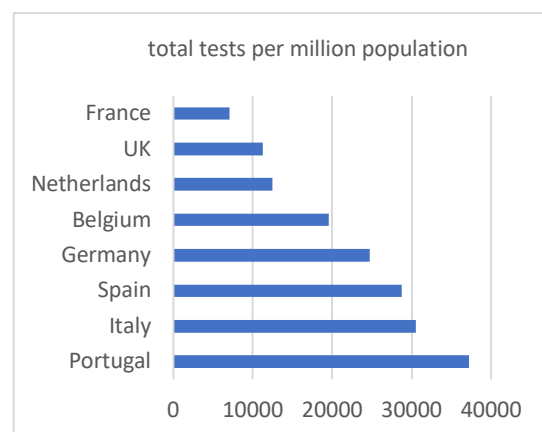
The UK is only now looking at ways of how to do contact tracing and has no firm solution in place.

Testing

Testing is obviously important to

- know if someone with symptoms has the virus,
- see the penetration of the virus in the population,
- to clear people to return to their work and
- to know who died from the virus.

As at 29 April the number of tests for Covid-19 has been reported for a selected number of countries in Europe as follows.



The UK has been very slow to get its testing programme up to speed, maybe reaching Germany's rate of testing by the end of April.

PPE

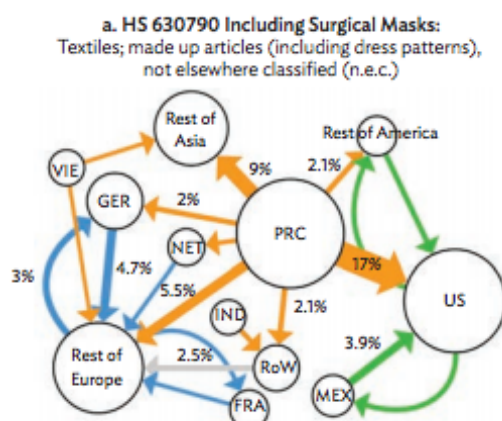
The shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) has been widely reported. The UK had a huge stockpile of PPE as part of planning for an epidemic. From 25 February to 18th April about 14 million items per day were delivered. The total, 748 million items, included 470 million pairs of gloves (62%), masks (18%), aprons (18%), gowns (2%)

Based on data from four UK hospitals with three ICUs, use of PPE is around 72,000 items per day : gloves (16%), masks (60%), gowns (2%) plus aprons and eye protection. The mismatch between use and supply may explain why so many shortages are reported.

With around 1,250 NHS and private hospitals, and around 21,700 local authority and private care homes, the UK has a very serious logistics problem getting the right amount of the required item to where it is needed. The army was called in to assist, being better at logistics than a fragmented healthcare system. The UK's stockpile was quickly consumed.

British manufacturing is not predominantly geared towards the high-volume, labour-intensive production of PPE. Replenishment has had to be sourced on the international market.

The requirement in many countries created a simultaneous international demand from manufacturers and suppliers of PPE. This is a highly complex interconnected global market, with China (the PRC) forming a major part as illustrated in the example for surgical masks.



The supply chain which has proved to be far from "open" as countries prioritised supplies for their own needs.

The UK's problem is not unique and the World Health Organisation notes this is a global problem.

The Guardian reported on 27 April 20 "A group of German doctors have posed naked in an attempt to draw attention to shortages of protective clothing and equipment. German doctors have repeatedly appealed for more PPE since the arrival of the virus in Germany in late January".

Registered nurses who are members of National Nurses United, the largest nurses union in the United States, protested in front of the White House 21st April, and the New York State Nurses Association on Monday filed three lawsuits alleging that they were given "grossly inadequate and negligent protections" and were instead forced to work in "unsafe working conditions,"

Unlocking

The WHO has met with 50 ministries of health to discuss what they've learned :

- ◇ the need for early detection and isolating of confirmed cases;
- ◇ the need for identification follow-up and quarantining of contacts;
- ◇ the need to optimize care, build trust, and engage communities in the fight.

Singapore was the model of how to deal with the pandemic. Their system worked until mid-March when people were urged to return home; thousands returned from countries which had not been as proactive. By then it was mandatory for returnees to stay at home for two weeks, but the virus was brought in. Now all new arrivals are sent directly to government quarantine. With a tiny number of people now entering, the number of imported cases has dropped into single figures in recent days.

On 7th April, Singapore passed a new law : everyone is prohibited from leaving their homes except for essential activities and exercise.

About 600,000 people die each year in the UK. The number that will really tell will be the change in the annual total of deaths in countries around the world. This will reflect the deaths from Covid-19 and other health conditions. The day of reckoning for the governments has yet to come.

COLNEY HEATH VILLAGE HALL

www.colneyheathvillagehall.com



As instructed by the government, the hall was closed for use on 20th March. This included the pre-school children's group, Treasure Tots, along with all our regular hirers and other bookings. Sadly this has affected a number of planned celebrations and family gatherings, which only goes to reinforce the benefits of the village hall to the community.

Meanwhile, we have continued with regular cleaning to ensure that the hall is ready for use once the restrictions have been lifted. Fortunately, as a result of our investment in various refurbishment projects over the last four years, maintenance and repair works are minimal.

Financially, we are in a relatively strong position, having built up our reserves and we have sufficient funds to cover our operating costs for the foreseeable future. Consequently, we do not anticipate the need for financial support from the government or the local community.

The transfer of the hall from the original charity to the *Colney Heath Village Hall*, a charitable incorporated organisation, whose charity number is 1182267, was completed at the end of March 2020.

The trustees remain the same, with the same charitable responsibility, which is to ensure that the charity is solvent, well run, and delivers the charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public for which it has been set up.

Disappointingly, our issues with the Colney Heath Parish Council remain unresolved, which relate to the use of, and payment for, the office space in the village hall. We hope that this crisis will help bring us closer together in realising our mutual service to the community.

We are preparing to open again to serve the community.

SMALLFORD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (SRA)

Contact sra@smallford.org

The Smallford Residents Association (SRA) continue to meet every other month, thwarted of course by the lockdown which has also delayed our AGM.

Its probably fair to report that the topic of most discussion and action has been and is the proposed gravel pit that Brett Aggregates wish to quarry on Ellenbrook Fields – this is the land between the eastern boundary of Smallford and the Hatfield Business Park. There is obvious concern about the pollution arising from heavy lorry traffic, dust and noise, but also about the bromate and bromide pollution which is currently flowing under the proposed area.

There is a huge concern that this pollution could find its way to source water currently used for public supplies, which would mean the water company would have to look further afield for water in what is currently a water scarce area – it makes no sense!

The SRA have lobbied councillors at all levels, MP's, and the issue has been considered at Secretary of State level. We have also spoken at St Albans District Council planning meetings, where the council has now resolved that it objects to the application.

Our neighbouring resident's association at Ellenbrook has also mobilised similar support, and we are jointly preparing for the 'crunch' planning meeting at County Hall which could be held as soon as June.

We intend to fight this application using all the support we have mobilised, and will shortly be asking for contributions from residents to ensure we can engage the necessary expert representation.

Any Parish resident who would like to contribute towards this fight to preserve public access to this beautiful area please let us know on sra@smallford.org.



Looking East into that part of the proposed quarry that is in the parish with back of Jove Gardens, off Oaklands Lane, a small part of the proposed area to quarry

SMALLFORD STATION AND ALBAN WAY HERITAGE SOCIETY

info@smallford.org



It's almost a cliché to say that 'we're living in unprecedented, strange and fearful times'!

Probably like most, if not all, voluntary community groups, all of our activities are currently on hold. So – our planned exhibitions, guided walks and talks to various community and interest groups have understandably been cancelled.

However, there is one future event that may still take place

**Smallford Station Heritage Open Day:
Sunday 13th September 2020**

The Annual Heritage Open Days are scheduled to take place around the country between Friday 11th and Sunday 20th September. Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,000 organisations, 5,500 events and 46,000 volunteers. Every year in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – and it's all FREE. See <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Should this (hopefully!) go ahead, perhaps you'll come to visit us at Smallford Station to

- meet the team
- see our Exhibition illustrating much of the history of Smallford Station and the Hatfield & St Albans Railway it served,
- see and discuss our exciting plans for the future

Please note: Unfortunately, we do not have access to Smallford Station itself.

We continue to be most grateful to Hertfordshire University Heritage Hub for their support.



Items available from us

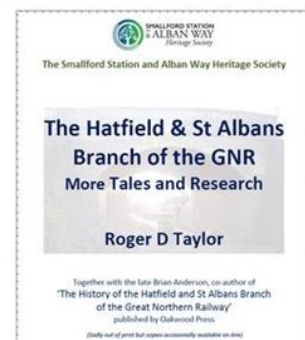
We have a number of items that might be of interest to you; we don't sell them – but would appreciate a donation to our funds!

Fridge magnets



Minimum suggested donation
£2.50 + £1 p&p

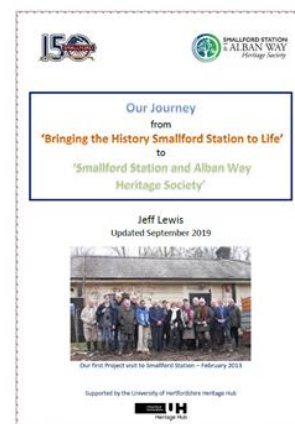
Roger Taylor's 'More Tales'



1. Introduction, Biography
2. Railway Memories
3. The Branch Line on Film
4. Specials on the Branch
5. After the Line Closure in 1969
6. Halts, an Incident & Others
7. New Research & Corrections

Minimum suggested donation
£3.00 + £1 p&p

The story of our Journey – from Bringing the History of Smallford Station to Life to Smallford Station & Alban Way Heritage Society



Minimum suggested donation
£1.50 + £1 p&p

Plans for the Future: An Exciting Collaboration with Oaklands College

Our ongoing negotiations with Oaklands College and our planned collaboration have obviously been put on hold.

Improving the Environment around Smallford Station



Making the entrances to the station area and car park more inviting – with welcome signs and an information board

Improvements to the platform area – creating some flower beds, constructing and installing replica benches and lamp posts together with a set of display boards along the rear fence

Refurbishing our Railway Goods Van Body

This is stored **at Oaklands College** Smallford Campus) to create a permanent exhibition space which will be open to the public



Please contact us via info@smallford.org If you:

- would like more details of **these** projects
- would like to be actively involved (design, implementation, maintenance...) *and it would obviously assist us if you would let us know how you would like to be involved together with any particular skills and interest that you could offer.*
- have ideas/suggestions to contribute....
- would like to make a donation towards the costs of these projects....

Jeff Lewis: Chair: Smallford Station & Alban Way Heritage Society
info@smallford.org

COLNEY HEATH WI

www.facebook.com/colneyheathwi e-mail colneyheathwi@gmail.com or
call Joanna on 07956 502369.

We celebrated our 67th birthday at our last meeting on March 12th. Little did we know then how rapidly everything would change and that we would not be seeing each other for some time to come.



We have of course suspended all meetings until further notice due to Covid 19 which saddens so many of us who miss the friendship and speakers we enjoy every month.

However, memories of the birthday meeting celebrations will keep us going for the time being.

“Just A Capella” singing group entertained us with songs old and new while we shared good food and drink.



While waiting until we can meet again (in the words of a well known song) we have endeavoured to keep in touch with email and also held our March book club meeting using the internet conferencing tool Zoom. A glass of wine and discussion of Catherine Webb’s *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August* did much to lift our spirits and encouraged us to experiment with social media.

A further new endeavour for us is a brand new Colney Heath WI website that we are planning to launch in the near future.

Now we all have more time on our hands we might well be encouraged to try another first and enter the WI national Lady Denman Cup Competition 2020 “What I heard on the bus”.

That is if our memories can stretch that far back!

COLNEY HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION (CBTA)

Contact Lesley Lewis 07710 599 725 lewislesley@hotmail.co.uk

The CBTA is a local organisation providing opportunities to meet and socialise for the community. Membership is not required to enjoy our social events, which are not priced to be fund raisers.

Since the last newsletter we have only managed to hold one event; the Annual and very popular Jumble sale at the end of January. This was yet again a great success with nearly 100 people attending generating £400 towards Association funds.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the annual quiz night which was due to be held on the 21 March. We do hope that it will be possible to hold this later in the year, and we all have plenty of time to swot up on all manner of topics and possible questions. Opposite is a picture of last year's winners who can now hold on to the trophy for at least a few more months!

Events

We do not have any scheduled events at the moment, but will keep you informed once the Lockdown has been relaxed and we are in a position to run more events.



It is also very sad that, for the first time in 38 years, we have had to postpone the annual twinning exchange visit. This year it would have been our turn to visit Boissy in May. We have of course been in touch with our friends in France and eagerly look forward to meeting up again in the future. **For those of you that are not familiar with the Twinning Association, below is a short article on the history of CBTA.**

In 1981, a two-man delegation from Boissy sous St Yon visited Colney Heath and were given a conducted tour of the village by the Clerk to the Parish Council, Dudley Wood. They visited, amongst other places, the school and the Mother and Toddler Group, and had meetings with representatives of various organisations including the WI.

They liked what they saw so Dudley Wood made a return visit with his French-speaking daughter.

In April 1982, Martine Vigneron, Claude Cherdo and Michel Gabilan visited Colney Heath. During their visit, Martine Vigneron and Claude Cherdo together with Dudley Wood and Heidi Waters signed a mutual declaration of friendship between the villages of Colney Heath and Boissy. During the visit it was agreed that there would be a visit to Boissy.

In June that year, a group drawn from many organisations in Colney Heath and their children visited Boissy. They departed from Colney Heath at 1.30 pm on the Friday afternoon which is, as we now know, far too late and consequently they did not arrive in Boissy until after midnight!

In September 1982, the first formal visit to Boissy took place during which the Twinning Oath was signed by the Councils - the Maire and the Colney Heath Parish Council, and the twinning organisations - ABAI and CBTA.

Since then there has been an exchange visit with Boissy every year - one year Colney Heath visits Boissy and the following year Boissy visits Colney Heath.

COLNEY HEATH THEATRE CLUB

Contact : colneyheaththeatreclub@yahoo.co.uk or telephone/text 07870701118

Colney Heath Theatre Club has been running trips to West End for the past thirteen years, allowing local residents to enjoy the best of London's theatreland at a sensible prices and in a secure manner.

As part of our plans for 2020, we were looking forward to seeing Prince of Egypt in May, but clearly that is now not going ahead. With the future uncertain, we are still able to see the best that the arts have on offer, albeit somewhat vicariously but from the comfort of our own living rooms.



Many West End shows are available on-line via Youtube, Amazon and Google. Richard and I watched **A Man and Two Guv'nors** featuring James Cordon only last week. I had seen it in the theatre but with Rufus Hound and it is great fun in the best traditions of British irreverent slapstick comedy.

The Wind in The Willows is also being shown on YouTube as I write this article. I can thoroughly recommend this show. I saw this at the London Palladium a few years back and it was an incredible spectacle with some superb costumes backing up great performances.



Andrew Lloyd-Webber is showing one of his musicals each weekend, again on YouTube. I managed to watch Joseph last week with a very young Donny Osmond taking the tile role, which may, or may not be a selling point depending on one's age and perspective....

At present, we are full steam ahead with plans to see **Pretty Woman** on 15th October and are now taking bookings for **Hello Dolly** at The Adelphi Theatre, starring Imelda Staunton on the 28th of October. The cost of the ticket and the coach (departing from various boarding place in the Parish) is £55.00. However, at present, we are only taking reservations and NOT payments until we know that the show will go ahead.

If you would like to receive details for the theatre trips please either email colneyheaththeatreclub@yahoo.co.uk or telephone/text 07870701118.

Colney Heath Theatre Club is a not for profit organisation which provides a safe, comfortable and convenient way to enjoy an evening in the West End.

Elizabeth Clarke

IRIS'ART GROUP

Contact irisbond8@gmail.com

Iris' Art Group normally meets in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month.

Our last meeting together was on 4th March when the theme was painting objects - glass and solid containers which often form part of still life subjects.

During lockdown we have continued to paint in our homes. The suggested theme for the group in April has been "Spring". As usual some of our members have chosen their own topic, while others chose the "Spring" subject.

We have shared our paintings on the gallery page of this website <https://www.colneyheathvillagehall.com/gallery.html> and some of these are illustrated on the next page.

Our topic for May is "Rainbows". One of our members may have made an early start with an interesting interpretation.

As paintings are completed they will be uploaded to the gallery page.



Iris says "when I am drawing and painting my mind is clear of thoughts, the time passes quickly, and I feel great enjoyment when I have produced something I have done well. Being part of a group of enthusiastic amateurs of all ability levels is both motivating and keeps me learning to draw and paint in watercolours and acrylics.

I hope we can meet again soon as I miss the buzz in the Community Room, and of course chatting over coffee and biscuits."



ZUMBA

Contact zumbaalista@gmail.com

Ali Chason continues to run her Zumba classes, now by Zoom video conferencing. This can run on a computer, laptop, iPad or Smartphone.

Zumba is a great way to get and keep fit, all the more important at this time. This is also a good way to break the sense of isolation by participating in a fun group activity.

Ali's classes are at varying times :
in the morning (9:30 earliest, 11:00 latest)
every day and
6.30 in the evening Monday to Thursday.

See the timetable below.
Every day there is an optional 20 minute
Tone & Stretch class after morning Zumba.

If you want to join in with the fun, e-mail me at zumbaalista@gmail.com

I will e-mail you an invitation with the programme for the week. You will need to download Zoom onto your tablet, laptop or PC. Then all you need to do is click on the e-mailed link for the session you wish to join.

If you are able to make a contribution for taking part in my classes, I'll be very grateful but this is about coming together. Set your budget as to what you can afford. If you want to pay a weekly fee, that's grand, if you want to pay class by class, I'm equally happy. Anything I make from this venture will be gratefully accepted.

- Pay as you go - £2 per class
- If you know you'll be doing roughly 2 to 3 classes a week - £5 per week
- Unlimited access – you will be doing loads to stop going crazy - £10 per week

Ali's Online Timetable



	Login in	Class Time	Class
Monday	10:10 - 10:25	10:30 - 11:30	Zumba
	11:30 - 11:35	11:35 - 11:55	Tone & Stretch
	18:10 - 18:25	18:30 - 19:30	Zumba
Tuesday	10:40 - 10:55	11:00 to 12:00	Zumba
	12:00 - 12:05	12:05 - 12:25	Tone & Stretch
	18:10 - 18:25	18:30 - 19:30	Zumba
Wednesday	09:10 - 09:25	09:30 - 10:30	Zumba
	10:30 - 10:35	10:35 - 10:55	Tone & Stretch
	18:10 - 18:25	18:30 - 19:30	Zumba
Thursday	10:10 - 10:25	10:30 - 11:30	Zumba
	11:30 - 11:35	11:35 - 11:55	Tone & Stretch
	18:10 - 18:25	18:30 - 19:30	Zumba
Friday	09:40 - 09:55	10:00 - 11:00	Zumba
	11:00 - 11:05	11:05 - 11:25	Tone & Stretch
Saturday	09:10 - 09:25	09:30 - 10:30	Zumba
	10:30 - 10:35	10:35 - 10:55	Tone & Stretch
Sunday	10:10 - 10:25	10:30 - 11:30	Zumba
	11:30 - 11:35	11:35 - 11:55	Tone & Stretch

A DIFFERENT DOG

Gretta has moved her dog training classes from the Village Hall and other venues and is now offering virtual classes and virtual 1:1s instead. Gretta says these seem to be going down well with clients.

Take a look at the Facebook page for A Different Dog

<https://www.facebook.com/adifferentdog/>

