



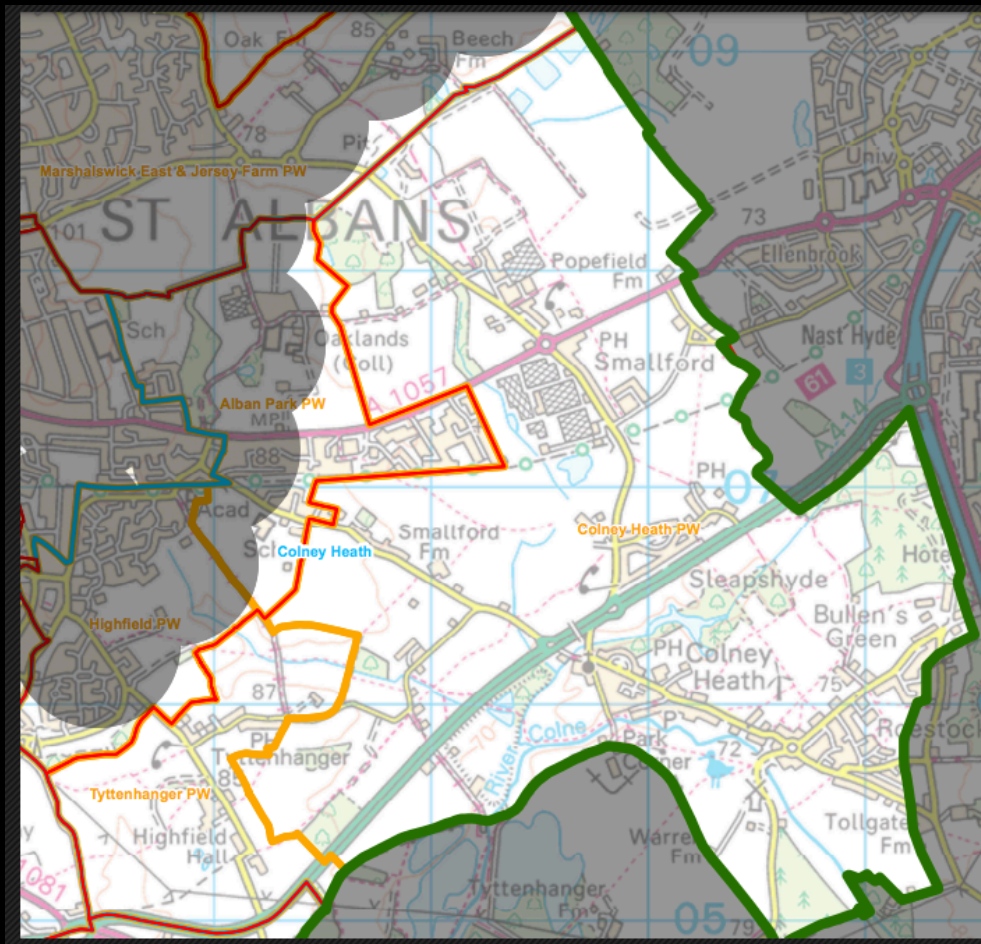
THE COAL POST

THE NEWSLETTER FOR COLNEY HEATH VILLAGES

ISSUE 15

MARCH 2023

PARISH COUNCIL 4th MAY ELECTION ISSUE



The Coal Post Editors :

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Please share this newsletter and print pages for folk who don't use the internet or don't have e-mail.

Contact us 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 cost for inclusion in this digital format) - we do not endorse products or services included this publication..

Please let us know if you spot any errors or have comments

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EDITORIAL

The evidence that Winter is behind us and Spring is here is all around us – snowdrops and daffodils on the verges, and blossom on the trees. As Caroline, our Vicar at St. Marks notes, these sights bring hope and joy – and we add much needed in our troubled times.

The war in the Ukraine, the rising costs of just about everything, and the developers plans for the green fields around us, are just three of the many uncertainties faced by all of us.

But, as we can see in this publication, our community remains strong and, with Covid (mostly) weakening, life is returning to a sense of normality.

The many copies in our archive of the “parent” of this newsletter, “The Chronicle”, published for 40 years until 2015, provides a fascinating record of life in the Parish. For example Issue number 41 for September 1985 (circulation 1,550) includes

The fight against the proposal for a Leisure and Science Park in Smallford

Traffic problems – many “avoiding the horrendous negotiation of the London Colney roundabout, with its suicidal mass of vehicles disgorged from the M25 careering around it, by nipping up Coursers Road.. and turning west at the Queen’s Head along the High street to the A405.”

These are reminder that some of our concerns are not new.

Included in that issue were however are examples of the community at that time.

Tyttenhanger won the best kept village competition

There was a best kept front garden competition with 33 finalists from Tyttenhanger, Smallford, Sleafshyde and Colney Heath village.

The Parish Council ran a summer play scheme at the Football Club

The Youth Club in the Roestock Room in Roestock Lane was due to be officially opened and a Saturday night teenage disco in the Scout centre (tickets £2)

Date announced for the WI produce and craft show

While some of these maybe seen as somewhat quaint through today’s eyes, these are examples of the potential of a vibrant community spirit involving volunteers –community organisations and individuals, working with pride in their villages with the Parish Councillors (who are also volunteers)

This poses interesting questions

“what should our community be doing now?” and “how would this be achieved?”

Thank you to all the contributors to this edition. It is especially pleasing to see several pages from Richard Smith, the Chair of the Football Club.

Regular readers may have watched the long running saga of the plans for Smallford Station Heritage project – patience has paid off and the District Council’s contractor work started on 21 March – 2 days earlier than expected!!.





ST MARKS

COLNEY HEATH

Hope and Joy

If you have recently visited the church grounds you will have spotted many snowdrops appearing through the grass. We have enjoyed watching them blossom as they have been a sign of spring and the hope of a new season. The thought of spring brings with it hope of sunny days, enjoyable walks and sitting in the garden resting as the world passes by.

At a time where the world feels like there are many concerns and worries the thought that better days are yet to come can fill us with hope. The Christian faith speaks of a life of hope and joy. Jesus says that "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" John 10 v: 10. Jesus also says that he has good plans for us. This reminds us that life is not merely to be survived but it is a gift to be enjoyed and embraced and though there are trials and troubles let us remember that there are many things to look forward to and hope for.

I wonder as we ponder the joys of spring, we might be thankful for all the people, places and life events that make life special and happy. And as we think of our plans for the summer perhaps we might place in the diary some special things that make us remember that life can be really good.

Below, we share some exciting events taking place at the church which we hope will add to this joy. Put them in your diary!

Caroline

Rev'd Caroline Keightley. Vicar, St. Mark's Church
Church Lane, Colney Heath, St. Albans AL4 0NH

Connect

This is a group for all young people in school years 6, 7 and 8. Meeting weekly in the church centre on a Thursday (term time only) from 4.15 to 5.30pm. Snacks, games, activities and a chill out area !

The Big Lunch

Tuesday 4th April 12-2.30pm

Following the success of this last August, The Big Lunch returns for one day in the Easter holidays. There will again be activities, games, crafts, bouncy castle, toddler area, a place to sit and relax and, of course, lunch! The day will conclude with a short look at the Easter story. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking not essential.

ST MARKS CHURCH

Community Cafe

Thursday 6th April 10am-12.00 Easter Themed! Everyone and all ages welcome for tea, coffee, soft drinks and homemade cake.

Easter Services

Palm Sunday 2nd April at 8.30am and 10.30am

Good Friday 7th April 10.30am

Easter Sunday 9th April Holy Communion 8.30am & 10.30am Holy Communion All Age with Easter egg hunt.

Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship - live streamed

Our Children and Young People's groups meet at the same time as the 10.30am service in the church centre.

You can view all our Digital Services through St. Mark's YouTube channel or visit our website.

The Clergy are available for baptisms, wedding and funerals.

Please contact the office for more information:

Office:01727 825175

email: office@stmarkscolneyheath.co.uk



PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

A new Parish Council will be formed following the election on 4th May. The boundary of the area that our Parish Council will be responsible for will change, as shown on the map below, to cover Tyttenhanger, Smallford, Sleafshyde, and Colney Heath village.

The Parish Council will have six Councillors for Colney Heath ward with we understand 1,952 electors covering Smallford, Sleafshyde, and Colney Heath village – and Tyttenhanger ward with have one Councillor for 162 electors.

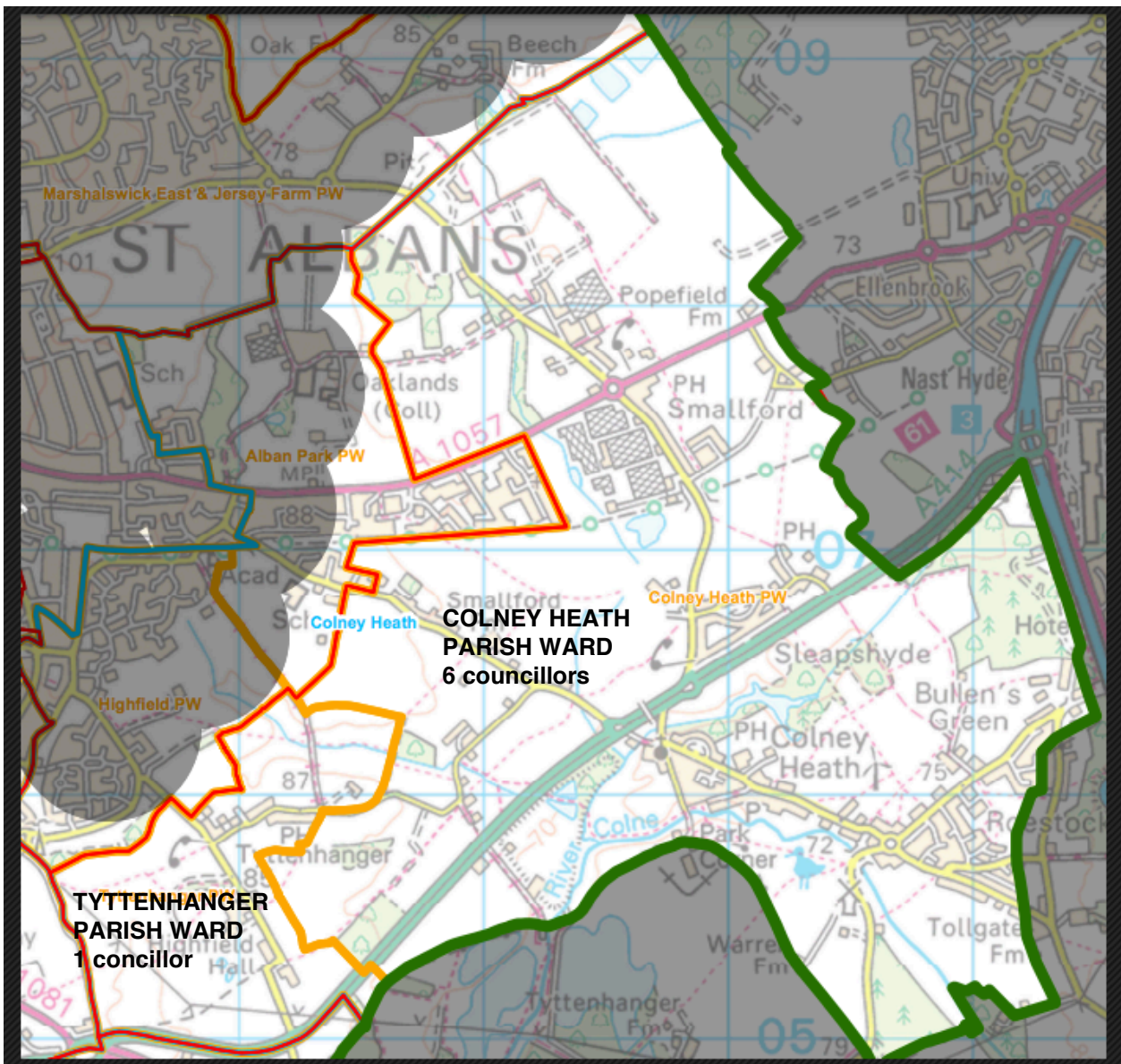
Nominations for candidates wishing to stand for election opened on 20th March and close at 4pm on 4th April. St Albans District Council, will announce the accepted candidates on 5th April.

If there are more than 6 candidates in Colney Heath ward, or more than one in Tyttenhanger ward, there will be a ballot and electors will have the opportunity to vote for the candidates they favour.

If there are 6 or fewer candidates in Colney Heath ward, or only one in Tyttenhanger ward, they will be “elected unopposed” and no ballot will be held.

Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers donating their time and effort. The Parish Council is responsible for various basic services that are the closest to residents. These include open spaces including the Colney Heath Common, Parish-owned buildings and land and play areas at Roestock, Tyttenhanger & Sleafshyde, and noticeboards, bus shelters, dog waste bins and litter bins. The Parish Council assists residents with matters that are the responsibility of other authorities such as the District and County Council and is a statutory consultee on planning applications, a very important function and especially so now with the various planning applications for multi-dwelling housing developments.

Another important function is the neighbourhood plan which the Parish Council is creating on behalf of the community.



DERRICK CRUMP'S LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Many thanks for the latest edition of the Coal Post and the succinct summary of the issues and opportunities facing a new Parish Council in 2023.

Regarding the reference to the 'John Dean Affair' you are correct in stating that the 2021 CHPC 'Report in the Public Interest concerning the Parish Council's governance and ultra-vires payments April 2004 – July 2015' inferred that more than £100,000 of cash had not been accounted for.

The actual statement on page 6 of the report was as follows;
*'Over £100,000 was taken from the NatWest bank account in **petty cash**. Most were signed with the cheque photocopied on the back of the payment approval sheet but there are no records of what this money was used for.'*

I find it unfortunate that the PIR (Public Interest Report) is now quoted without reference to subsequent clarification that identifies inaccuracies contained therein, particularly when demonstrated through Freedom of Information (FOI) responses on the CHPC web site.

I appreciate that there are many FOI responses on the site and therefore in order to support my comment I have extracted a few of the key points regarding the stated 'over £100,000 taken from the NatWest bank account'.

'As petty cash was not 'withdrawn' the following amounts have been taken from all cheques made payable to the former Parish Clerk which were either marked or noted as 'cash', 'petty cash' or simply marked with his name.'

The response stated that 301 cheque payments were made to the clerk totalling £75,510.95, and records for 5 (of the 11.33) years are described as incomplete.

It would be interesting to know how the figure of £100.000 was calculated given the published (FOI) data (was an assumption made for years with incomplete data?).

More significant in my view is clarification in this FOI response that the £75,510.95 comprised cheques *'made payable to the former Parish Clerk which were either marked or noted as 'cash', 'petty cash' or simply marked with his name.*

It is apparent therefore that the £75,510.95 was not only composed of payments 'marked or noted' as for petty cash (to maintain the petty cash float). A further CHPC FOI response dated 4th February 2022 shows that in one example year (2011/12) only 4 of the 37 cheques payable to John Dean were recorded on cheque stubs as being for petty cash.

The FOI response also includes the statement concerning cheques payable to John Dean that *'the cheque stubs which are held do not include expenditure reason.'*

A subsequent CHPC FOI response of 8th March 2022 makes the following statement concerning the example year of 2011/12; *'Council agree that the number of cheques they have identified from cheque stubs as payment for petty cash in 2011/12 is four and their total value is £955.27 which represents 13% of the total value of the 37 cheques they identify as payable to Mr Dean.'*

The FOI response of 8th March 2022 then makes clear that the historic records held by the Council when preparing the PIR (Public Interest Report) did not include important Council documents that were circulated at every parish council meeting at that time and were available to any member of the public attending (or by request subsequently);

DERRICK CRUMP'S LETTER TO THE EDITORS

'The Parish Council do not hold the 'Report of payments' documents (known as 'pink sheets') that were presented to full Council meetings in financial year 2011/12 by the late clerk Mr J Dean (along with payment approval cover sheets and supporting invoices/receipts) and were the subject of full Council resolution to approve payments and included a description of the purpose of payments, including that of topping up the petty cash float.'

It should be realised that 2011/12 is just an example year from the 11.33 years of interest and that the process of approval of payment of all cheques at full council meetings was standard practice throughout the whole period that John Dean was clerk.

Cheques made payable to Mr J Dean (other than for wages) were for reimbursement for payments of goods and services approved by Council. All payments were supported by receipts for such goods and services.

This system of reimbursement was necessary because the only means of payment available to Council was a cheque signed by the clerk and two authorised signatories. This was adequate for payment of invoices but not practical for goods and services where payment was required at the time of receipt of goods e.g., in a supermarket or other retailer.

Council did not have a credit or debit card. Small items could be purchased in cash using the petty cash float but this was kept at a level of the order of a couple of hundred pounds because of the security risk posed by cash in the office.

It is in my view apparent that at the time of writing the PIR there were no records of what the '£100,000' taken from the Nat West bank account in 'petty cash' was used for because the most relevant historic records (i.e., pink payment sheets/ financial reports approved by full Council) have apparently been lost or mislaid. Indeed, it would appear that the surviving incomplete records (i.e., cheque stubs) held by the Council indicate that only a minor proportion of those cash payments was for 'petty cash'.

I have also pointed out to Council (by means of a letter dated 10/02/2022) that all petty cash expenditure was the subject of audited records. Examination of the available internal audit reports on the CHPC web site e.g., for 2014/15, refers to these records of petty cash transactions.

THE SIEGE OF COLNEY HEATH CONTINUES

Planning applications have been submitted for
Site 1 Vistry 150 houses
Site 2 Bellway 155 houses
Site 3 Pegasus Group 110 dwellings
We would not be surprised if we see applications for sites 4 and 5 in due course.

Not shown on this map is Tarmac's application for 45 houses next to the Football Club which may be the "catflap entrance" to 700+ houses along the A414 from the school to the A1M.

The Tarmac, Vistry and Bellway applications have all passed the 8 week deadline for the District Council to give their decision, in part because the applicants have submitted further information extending the time for the decision.

Some residents are wondering if the developers and the District Council are "working together" on a plan to develop our little village into a much bigger "dormitory unsettlement" to be sprung upon us after the election in May.



THE SIEGE OF COLNEY HEATH CONTINUES

100 HOUSES ON BULLENS GREEN LANE
TAYLOR WIMPEY CONSULTATION EVENT

4th APRIL 2023
VILLAGE HALL 3PM TO 8PM

The aim of the consultation event is to allow anyone affected by the construction process to attend and ask questions regarding the process and raise any concerns e.g. plant vehicles, parking, etc.

**YET ANOTHER PLANNING APPLICATION
RIGHT ON YOUR DOORSTEP!**

MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN ON MANOR GARDEN PARK

Dear Resident,

We are very sorry to notify you of yet more worrying news for Colney Heath village. Mr Ryan Franklin-Smith, the landowner who lives in Roundhouse Farm, has recently circulated an email to some local residents announcing his plan to build on land behind his house (the fields adjacent to Roestock Lane and opposite Roestock Gardens – currently where the sheep graze). This application was submitted to St Albans District Council on 28th February, but without full details or architectural drawings.

Called Manor Garden Park, it is being promoted in partnership with The Fairliving Foundation as a 'residential care home with key worker housing'. However it's really a new housing estate that features residential care as one element of it. Yes it does offer something different, however our big concern is that if it does not work out economically on paper, it could all change. That could mean many more homes being built – mostly unaffordable to key workers – and once again, on Green Belt farmland.

You can read about the development at www.manorgardenpark.co.uk

Mr Franklin-Smith has already held 'consultations' with local residents where he has openly stated that he only wants what's best for the Village and will listen to residents' views. He has said that if there is a consensus not to build Manor Garden Park, he won't. If you are concerned about Manor Garden Park and the effect it will have on the Village, can you please sign the online petition at the address below. This will then be sent to Mr Franklin-Smith so that he can understand the full opposition of residents to his plans (you'll be able to submit your views about Manor Garden Park to St Albans District Council once the application goes 'live' in the next few weeks).

We say, let's hold Mr Franklin-Smith to his word. If he is a man of integrity, then, as he has said, he must listen to residents and what they want for their village – not what he wants!

SIGN THE PETITION

www.change.org/OpposeManorGardenPark



COLNEY HEATH JMI SCHOOL

Recent Ofsted visitors to Colney Heath School, in November, confirmed what we have known for some time – our children are eager to learn and are proud of their school. We were pleased to see that our village school was recognised as a ‘Good’ school that offered children opportunities to gain important life skills, as well as providing them with a curriculum that ensures their skills and knowledge build throughout their time at school. In the photos below you can see a few of the areas we have been learning about this term.



We are proud to offer these opportunities to our next generation of children through our Nursery provision. There is still time to apply for our Nursery if your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020. We hope you might come and visit us to find out a bit more about the exciting things that happen.

At Colney Heath School we place a great emphasis on reading, and aim to foster a love of books. This term we have been fortunate to benefit from the purchase of new books that will enable our children to learn more about themselves, their friends and the world around them, thanks to a grant from the County Council, facilitated by Councillor John Hale. They will be hitting our book shelves, and book bags, next term filled with fabulous stories to make you laugh, cry and think carefully. Watch out for one that you can enjoy sharing !



Colney Heath School Ofsted report

🎉🎉🎉 CONGRATULATIONS to the staff and children at Colney Heath Primary School on their superb OFSTED report released recently! 🎉🎉🎉

OFSTED say... “Pupils are eager to learn and they feel proud of their school. They listen closely to their teachers and to each other. They support one another in lessons.”

“Pupils learn well in lessons because their teachers explain clearly. Pupils make links between new learning and things they have learned before. This helps them remember important knowledge.”

“Pupils are kind and polite. Pupils take part in a variety of extra-curricular activities that help them gain important life skills. Through the school council, pupils raise funds for charities. This helps pupils develop an understanding of those who are less fortunate.”

STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS..... STOP PRESS.....

Exciting news ! Colney Heath School will be offering **30 hours a week nursery provision** from September 2023. We also have Breakfast and After School provision available.

Contact us to find out more....



Chairman's Comments by Richard Smith

We are delighted to be able to contribute to the Coal Post for this Spring 2023 issue. As chairman of a large organisation in a small village, I am aware of the responsibility of the football club to serve the interests of the people of Colney Heath just as much as it is to provide adult and youth football in a safe and supportive environment on our pitches. In the pages below we are happy to report on the various teams, fixtures, and events on the pitch, and to inform readers about our social events in the pavilion and recreational areas.

Not everyone is interested in football, we understand that, and know that the pavilion nevertheless has an important function in the village. We can let it out for parties and events, and occasionally have live music or guest speakers for members and non-members alike. It can also be used for clubs and hobby-groups if the timings work out.

Last year during the Queen's Jubilee our social team put on two full days of community-facing events, and it was delightful to see so many people enjoying the family entertainment which included bingo, sing-a-longs and inflatable toys. We are hoping for similar engagement with the upcoming coronation of King Charles this year.

The Coal Post is a good opportunity to remind all in the vicinity of the defibrillator that is housed on the outside wall of the clubhouse. This has been called-upon and applied in life-threatening situations on two occasions since installation eight years ago.

We hope you never have need to use it, but if you do then you can be assured that it is readily accessible to anyone, and we will have it re-charged with new pads and electrodes within days after each use.

My ambition is to see the football club playing an ever more positive role within Colney Heath. For example, litter in our village is too often visible, and my hope is that we can co-ordinate and supply a litter-picking team from the Recreation Ground. We will meet fortnightly (Saturday mornings perhaps) and pick litter around the parish for an hour or so before returning for complimentary tea/coffee and biscuits. Please email me if you would like to be part of this team.

Finally, I would like to thank you for reading these words. Football, like life, is a mirror reflecting the eyes that view it. If you look to see hostility, tribalism, and intolerance you will find it easily enough in football. But by the same token if you look for sportsmanship, fraternity, equality, and the extraordinary achievements that can be made possible through commitment, dedication, and teamwork you will find that too, and in abundance.

I have met some amazingly inspiring people through being associated with football. Of course, the game of football itself is ultimately rather futile – every match starts 0-0 and there'll likely be another one next week.

But it is no more futile than social media, reality TV, the stock exchange or war. And indeed, it does far less harm and makes people a good deal healthier too.

COLNEY HEATH FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

Senior Football

We are not enjoying a great season in the Spartan South Midlands Premier Division, and currently reside in the bottom five of the table. It has been a tough transition back to non-league step 5, having enjoyed a season at step 4 in the Southern League in 2021/22.

Results and performances have been picking up recently and manager George Georgiou is working hard to keep us in the division. Since he joined in November last year George has had a solid vision of how he wants to play, based on his own footballing experience with Fulham, Dagenham and Redbridge, Purfleet and playing in Cyprus.



First-team manager George Georgiou (right) with U23 manager Chris Halmshaw

In addition to the senior teams, Colney Heath FC are fielding an U23 Development team in the Herts Senior County League, and an U18 team in the Southern Counties Football League.

We have Ladies teams in the Eastern Region Women's Football League competing against clubs the size of Luton, Bedford, Kings Lynn and Stevenage FC; and also in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Women's Football League.

These girls play on a Sunday afternoon and upcoming fixtures are listed below. They warmly welcome support in their matches.

We also host 12 youth teams playing in the Eastern Junior Alliance, the West Herts Youth League, the Watford Friendly League and the Mid-Herts Rural Minors League.



COLNEY HEATH FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

Upcoming Fixtures and Events and the Recreation Ground



Date → → KO → Match ¶

19/03/23° → 2pm → Colney Heath Ladies Reserves vs Biggleswade United (Ladies) Blues ¶

25/03/23° → 3pm → Colney Heath vs Shefford Town and Campton ¶

01/04/23° → 3pm → Colney Heath vs Harpenden Town ¶

08/04/23° → 3pm → Colney Heath vs Leverstock Green ¶

09/04/23° → 2pm → Colney Heath Ladies vs AFC Sudbury ¶

15/04/23° → 3pm → Colney Heath vs Risborough Rangers ¶

16/04/23° → 2pm → Colney Heath Ladies vs Haringey Borough ¶

23/04/23° → 2pm → Colney Heath Ladies Reserves vs Bedmond Ladies ¶

30/04/23° → 2pm → Colney Heath Ladies vs Needham Market ¶

07/05/23° → 2pm → Colney Heath Ladies vs Bowers and Pitsea ¶



COLNEY HEATH FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

Social Events at Colney Heath Football and Social Club

Hall hire

The clubhouse consists of a function room and a member's bar. The function room holds up to 100 people and is available for parties and other bookings. The telephone number of the clubhouse is **01727 824325**.

Positions available

Paid positions – Casual bar staff required. Over 18s only, previous experience would be useful but not essential.

Volunteer positions – We are always in need of dynamic and motivated people to join our matchday delivery teams for both the men (Saturdays) and Ladies teams (Sundays). There are a range of matchday duties on and off the pitch that need to be completed to allow the matches to go ahead and the players to perform. Volunteers are always welcome and hugely valued by our club. We currently need specifically:

- Matchday Twitter operator
- Admission support



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 7th May 2023



Colney Heath Football & Social Club
Will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles III.

There will be A BBQ, Live Music, Bouncy Castles, Pop Corn/Candy Floss Stalls & a karaoke, and everyone is invited.

If anyone has any ideas to add, to make it a day to remember please let us know

! HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS THE JUBILEE LAST YEAR!



COLNEY HEATH FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

Future plans

The club achieved FA Charter Standard award in 2015, and Youth Charter Standard award in 2018. With the senior team, the Ladies, the U18s and the Youth teams in healthy positions, we are anticipating an exciting end to the season.

Looking long-term, we would love to deliver a 4G surface at the Recreation Ground. This would enhance our training & coaching but would also provide a multi-use sports facility for the whole Colney Heath community.

We have a loyal and hard-working committee at the club, and we warmly welcome all visitors, comments, and conversations about how we can improve our club and enhance our positive influence in Colney Heath.

CHFC Committee March 2023

Richard Smith - Chairman contact:

rs@colneyheathfc.com

Richard Timpson - Vice-Chairman

Dan Burr - Secretary

Gaye Lloyd – Club Welfare Officer

Nick Sanders – Club Treasurer

Andy Slaughter – Business and Sponsorship

Brenda Sibley – Events

Nikki Dunton – Youth Football Chair



In 2015 the club raised funds for a public defibrillator. It is permanently available on the external wall of the clubhouse, and we would urge all village residents to make themselves aware of its location. Ready access to a local defibrillator is the single most significant factor that determines chances of surviving a cardiac arrest. This life-saving equipment is optimally user-friendly, giving clearly voiced instructions for use whenever activated. We will be happy to be able to explain further if you are interested.

(EDITORS' NOTE : There is another defibrillator at the Colney Heath Village Hall outside the kitchen)

COLNEY HEATH VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall continues to be busy with strong bookings by both regular and one-off (casual) hirers.

The main hall is well booked, although there are some slots available, particularly during the school holidays.

The studio which can accommodate 30 people has more availability. This is ideal for family party number that exceed the available space at home.

You can view booking calendar on www.colneyheathvillagehall.com/enquire. This is updated regularly but contact : e: jackclemow@gmail.com or 07803 313 525 to check that the slot you would like is available.

Our regular hirers provide activities and services for a variety of age groups and interests.

For children and young people hirers include the Treasure Tots Pre-school, the Scout Group's Cubs and Beavers, and the DS Achieve Youth Club. For adult socials hirers include the Colney Heath WI, the Colney Heath Boissy Twinning Association, and the Old Friends Club.

Sporting activities are provided by Tae Kwon Do and the Colney Heath Badminton Club. For those interested in keeping fit we have Cheryl's Boot Camp and Julie's Clubbersize.

Iris's Art Group is for those who draw and paint, beginners and budding artists alike.

We round off on Sunday afternoons with dog training by A Different Dog.

In addition to our regulars we have one-off bookings for a variety of hirers such as First Aid Training, music classes, group meetings such as the 4ColneyHeath Residents Association, public meetings and exhibitions, and periodically elections.

Saturday party time

The DS Achieve Youth Club will be leaving us after Easter. This means Saturday afternoons are again available for parties, especially popular for children's birthday parties, a function the trustees feel is important for local residents.

Friday and Saturday nights are usually available for suitable adult parties.

The village hall is very competitively priced and we believe we offer excellent value for money.

Quality facilities

Over the last 6 years we have made a number of improvements modernizing our kitchen, toilets, and the Studio (previously known as the Community Room). We have upgraded the lighting to LEDs throughout, just before our electricity charges went stratospheric (as a "commercial" customer we don't benefit from the domestic cap).

In addition to the many regular maintenance jobs, we have refurbished the flat roof over the porch. We have more improvements planned for 2023.

We play our part in the issues of community importance such as submitting representations for the Community Governance review and objections to the large planning applications that residents say they don't want.



4COLNEY HEATH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



INTRODUCTION

The 4ColneyHeath committee hopes that all our members and friends have a happy Easter and that the weather is kind for the school holidays. Colney Heath and our rural environment are tremendous assets in which to enjoy the glories of spring and early summer.

Our overriding challenge is fighting the flood of planning applications on Green Belt land in the village.

Property developers are increasing their requests for development in and around our village, with an applications for a housing developments

- Close to the Football Club;
- At the rear of the houses on Tollgate Road;
- And two along Roestock Lane

2023 is turning into a busy and challenging year!

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

The next hardcopy Newsletter is planned to be delivered to all households in the village in March – thank you to all the volunteers who get this done so quickly.

The key issues at the time of our last newsletter were the number and scale of housing development applications, and the Community Governance review. We are pleased to report that our recommendations for parish boundary changes which reflect the rural nature of our village together with Tyttenhanger, Smallford and Sleafshyde have been adopted by St Albans City and District and that therefore a new Parish Council will be elected in May.

The next Newsletter is due to be published in July. We are grateful to Colney Heath Parish Council for having awarded a grant towards the printing costs of our newsletters and hope this will continue.

4ColneyHeath CONTACTS

Communications michaelredfern2006@gmail.com
Secretary jackclemow@gmail.com
Treasurer graemeshaw25@gmail.com

OUR COMMITTEE

Our Committee, which was formally elected by the members at the AGM in December is looking for new members. Our Chair, Renu Bansal, announced her resignation at the AGM effective in March due to pressure of work. We would like to thank Renu for all her efforts over the past two years.

Currently the Committee comprises Secretary John Clemow, with Pam Fox, and Mike Redfern. Graeme Shaw continues as Treasurer. We need more committee members and ideas to see that our work is representative of our members' interests.

Our Planning working group has been strengthened to concentrate specifically on fighting unwanted housing developments. Hopefully you will have seen the banners and leaflets which have been produced from our funds allocated in our budget for the current year.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership target is 400 (about one third of the registered electors). There is no fee to join but donations are welcome. We think £5 per household is reasonable.

In addition, it's important to know that being a member does not require attendance at meetings. However, you are very welcome to contribute to our efforts in any way you think appropriate for you.

PLEASE HELP US TO GROW – INTRODUCE ONE NEW MEMBER AND OUR NUMBERS WILL DOUBLE. Additional members of your families are particularly welcome.

For membership forms e-mail 4colneyheath@gmail.com

4ColneyHeath WEBSITE

Please visit our website where you will find information and updates on a number of subjects <https://4colneyheath.weebly.com>

SMALLFORD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Our AGM will be held at the St Albans Rugby Club, 38 Oaklands Lane, Smallford AL4 0HR on Tuesday May 30th at 7.30. There is a bar!

Readers of the Coal Post are warmly invited to hear about the issues that affect Smallford and Sleapshyde, as well as general issues that affect the Parish. It would be helpful if you drop us a quick email at sra@smallford.org if you would like to come, so we know numbers.

We have invited John Hale, who is our County Councillor and will give us a run down of the issues he has been dealing with. We hope that the new parish Council Chair will also join us and be able to answer questions

Issues we expect to discuss are

- Inviting Sleapshyde residents to join Smallford Residents and thus have a larger critical mass of opinion when we comment on local issues, whether they are on planning or our local environment
- Quarry – we will update on the latest news. Our objections have already been received by Herts County council and we await the hearing
- Parish Council. As many will be aware, the May Parish elections will leave us with 7 councillors in a much smaller parish, now that residents previously in the Hillfield Ward of Colney Heath Parish will be part of the large St Albans ward. The elections are close to the AGM date, but we hope to have a representative to tell us what the new Parish priorities are
- Election of the committee. We would like to invite 2 or 3 Sleapshyde residents to join the committee – it matters to us that we are inclusive of the residents we represent. Anyone who would like to know more about the committee, please let us know on the same email address sra@smallford.org
- Smallford Station and Alban Way Heritage Society – Update
- General Planning Issues

Steve Ross
Secretary of Smallford Residents Association

I for one will be glad to see the back of this winter! What with the snow, ice and trying to keep a control of the heating bills it has at times seemed a bit grim. So it is good to reflect on the highlights which include our WI gatherings.

The October meeting was joined by a stuffed badger! Part of the talk given by Pete Butchers on protecting badgers. Obviously the stuffed badger met his demise before protection was available!



In November we heard about Lasting Power of Attorney. The speaker, Gaye Illsley made this dry subject entertaining.

December saw the ladies quit Colney Heath for Welham Green. The Sibthorpe Arms put on an excellent Christmas meal for us. Our meeting that month included more food provided by the members this time as well as entertainment by our own drama group. Along with some amusing poems there was a rendition of 'The 12 days of Christmas' with actions! Pipers piped, a Lord leaped and various birds cooed, swam or laid eggs! A call for an encore showed the members enjoyed this. The drama group is now resting!



At the January meeting we heard about Waterways Experiences. Or pottering about on the canals in barges. Then February had us making bath bombs under the excellent instruction of Dawn Lewis. We filled the village hall with the delightful aromas of rose, lavender, and Jasmine.

My thanks to the village hall committee who provide us with this excellent venue to hold our meetings. It was good to leave the cold outside and enter the warm space.

As you can see our meetings are varied and there is always time for tea, cake and a chat. We have welcomed some new members but there is room for more so if you fancy joining us we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm and your first visit is free



COLNEY HEATH BOISSY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Following our barn dance in October last our next event was our annual Christmas event.

Held in the Colney Heath Village Hall this event was greatly enjoyed by our members and their guests. The Barnette singer serenaded us during our traditional pre-dinner welcome drinks.

All enjoyed the excellent food provided by Caroline from the Crooked Billet, and the lively disco by Sam Newlove inspired us to join in dancing till quite late into the evening.



The Barnette singer



Chatting over pre-dinner drinks



Our chair in festive jumper



Catching up on the footie?



Feeling happy



Father and daughter catching up

In January we had our AGM.

The current committee members re-elected are

Graeme Shaw (Chair)

Alun Puddefoot (Vice Chair)

Lesley Lewis (Secretary)

Sue Rowland (Treasurer)

Other committee members elected were Mary Baillie, John Clemow, Pam Fox, Judy Puddefoot and Flori Solomon.

We are looking forward to our annual exchange with our French friends in May. This year its our turn to visit them in the village of Boissy.

We are back to normal with our programme of social events planned for July and October.

And we have booked Christmas in the Colney Heath Village Hall for 2nd December.

JUMBLE SALE

Stopped by the Covid lockdowns since our last Jumble sale in January 2020 we were back in the Colney Heath Village Hall in February.

Judging by the mountains of items contributed it seems lockdown was an opportunity to clear out those cupboards, drawers and the loft.

Almost 100 eager shoppers surged through the doors making this one of the most successful jumble sale we had held. And after shopping many enjoyed tea and cakes provided by the WI.

OUR NEXT EVENT



Colney Heath Boissy Twinning Association

Quiz Night  Paella Supper
(choice of chicken or vegetarian)

Saturday 25th March 2023
7:30pm -10:30pm

Tickets £12.50. Call 01727 823007 for tickets.

Colney Heath Village Hall, 83 High Street, Colney Heath, AL4 0NS

Bring your own Rioja, Sangria or Cerveza.

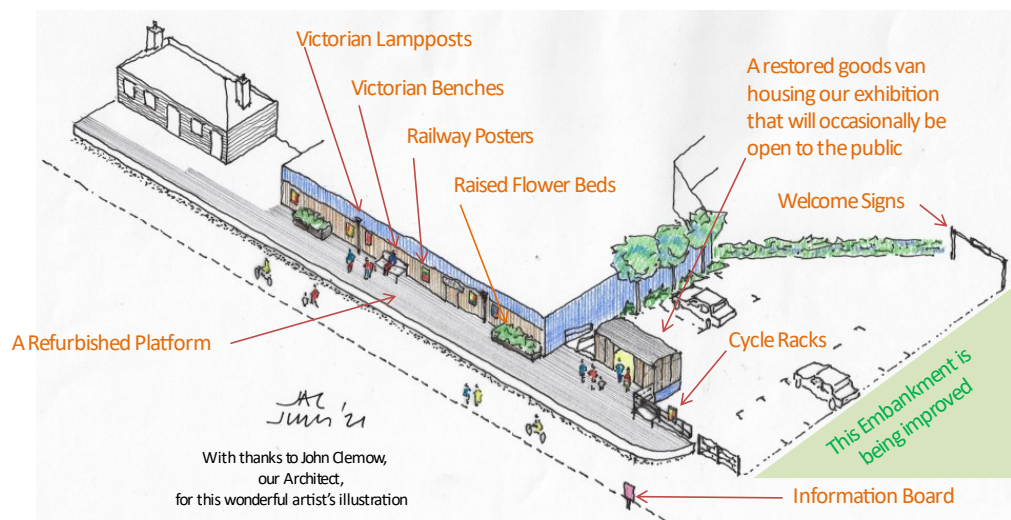
SMALLFORD STATION AND ALBAN WAY HERITAGE SOCIETY



Improving the Environment around Smallford Station

The change is about to happen! On March 23rd 2023, contractors, working on behalf of St Albans District Council, are scheduled to start the refurbishment of the platform at Smallford Station. This is expected to take around 3 weeks and, once it has been completed, we will furnish the platform with Victorian-style lampposts and benches, railway posters, raised flower beds. We hope that Horticulture students from Oaklands College will be involved in planting up the raised flower beds. If you'd like to get involved with this restoration work, or assist with keeping the area neat and tidy, email info@smallford.org.

Our Exciting Plans for Smallford Station



Some of the items that will furnish the platform



Victorian Style Benches



Victorian Style Lampposts



New Car Park Sign



Art Deco -Style Railway Posters – designed by Level 2 A&D Students from Oaklands College

Refurbishing our Goods Van Body

To date, we have fitted a sturdy, steel reinforcing girder to the base of our Goods Van Body (to ensure that it can withstand being transported) and fitted a new, waterproof roof.



Over the Easter week, a small group of us will be –

- Removing all the remaining old steel bolts holding the plywood walls in place.
- Cleaning the metal framework, applying rust converter and painting it in its period colour - 'Goods Van Bauxite'.
- Replacing the plywood sides - which will also be painted 'Goods Van Bauxite'.
- Repairing the damaged end ventilator.

If you'd like to get involved with this restoration work, email me at info@smallford.org.

There will still be plenty of work to do, including –

- Designing and building a mounting frame and floor.
- Fabricating and fitting the doors and locks.
- Furnishing and painting the interior: we hope that Carpentry students from Oaklands College will be involved in fitting out the interior.

Once all the above has been completed, the Goods Van Body will be moved to Smallford Station Car Park where it will be sited next to the platform. It will hold part of our exhibition illustrating the history of the station and the Hatfield & St Albans Railway that it served, together with a selection of our collection of artefacts. We then plan to open this to the public on various occasions throughout the year.

Rewilding the Embankment at Smallford Station

Early in February Hilary Brazier, Derrick Crump and I planted a new hedgerow at the top of the embankment to help screen the area from passing traffic. The young plants were generously donated to us by St Albans District Council.



We're now planning to design, build and erect an information board at the foot of the embankment, explaining the rewilding project, including photos of the work undertaken, and images of many of the indigenous flowers that have been planted so that visitors can identify them. Again, we are hoping that Oaklands College students, from their Art & Design and Carpentry Departments, will be involved.

Presentations to Local Groups

A reminder that we are very happy to provide presentations to local groups on –

- The development of our Society and what we've been up to over the past 12 years
- Our hopes and aspirations for the future.

I would like to think that we've developed a good reputation for engaging our audiences and making the content interesting. We've given presentations to a wide variety of groups – including Women's Institutes, U3A groups, model railway societies and engineering groups, students at Oaklands College – to name but a few.

We don't charge for these presentations but are happy to receive donations that go towards meeting the costs of our exciting, collaborative community projects.

Jeff Lewis: Chair: Smallford Station & Alban Way Heritage Society

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

- would like to be actively involved in any of the above activities
- would like to be kept informed of our work and be added to our emailing list
 - would like a presentation to a group that you're involved with
- have questions to ask or ideas/suggestions to contribute....

COLNEY HEATH THEATRE CLUB

Colney Heath Theatre Club has been running trips from the village and local area to see a range of hit shows in the West End for the past sixteen years. Back in October we saw The Choir of Man, a show that had just returned to the West End. It was one of the best shows I have seen and was really popular with a number of people keen to return for a second trip. A multi-talented cast of nine guys combining beautiful harmonies and foot-stomping singalongs with dance and even some poetry.

Ain't Too Proud

On 9th May we are off to see Ain't Too Proud at The Prince Edward Theatre. This is a new musical coming to the West End after a successful run on Broadway. From the creators of the award-winning Jersey Boys, Ain't Too Proud is a brilliant new musical following the remarkable journey of The Temptations from the streets of Detroit to The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



We Will Rock You

On Monday 10th July we have tickets for We Will Rock You, the worldwide smash hit musical combining music from Queen and written by Ben Elton. This is returning to the London Colosseum for just twelve weeks. We missed it the first time round and are looking forward to seeing it this time.



COLNEY HEATH THEATRE CLUB

Disney's Frozen

At present we are taking bookings for Frozen at The Theatre Royal Drury Lane on Wednesday 6th September 2023. Disney's Frozen is an award winning musical which brings to life a world of sumptuous beauty, humour and iconic music in a jaw dropping production which will, they assure us, melt the hearts of all ages! As with all Disney productions, such as the Lion King and Aladdin, the special effects will be amazing.



The shows starts at 7 pm and the coach will leave the various pick up points at 4.15 pm. The shows finishes at 9.15 pm. The cost of the ticket and coach will be £48.50.

We provide a comfortable and convenient way to enjoy an evening in the West End.

There are various boarding points in Colney Heath, Smallford and Colney Heath Lane for many a door to service!

Colney Heath Theatre Club is a not-for-profit organisation. If you would like to receive information on the theatre trips please either email colneyheaththeatreclub@yahoo.co.uk or telephone/text 07870701118



If you have been eagerly awaiting to get your hands on the second volume of the Colney Heath Chronicles it's available.

Some people have even said it's better than the first one!

This time you have an eye-witness account of the tragic loss of an RAF plane shot down by "friendly fire", of the extraordinary valuation of Victorian turnips and a land-locked admiral.

There are so many tales of the village that it is impossible to give you more than a flavour of the fascinating things inside.

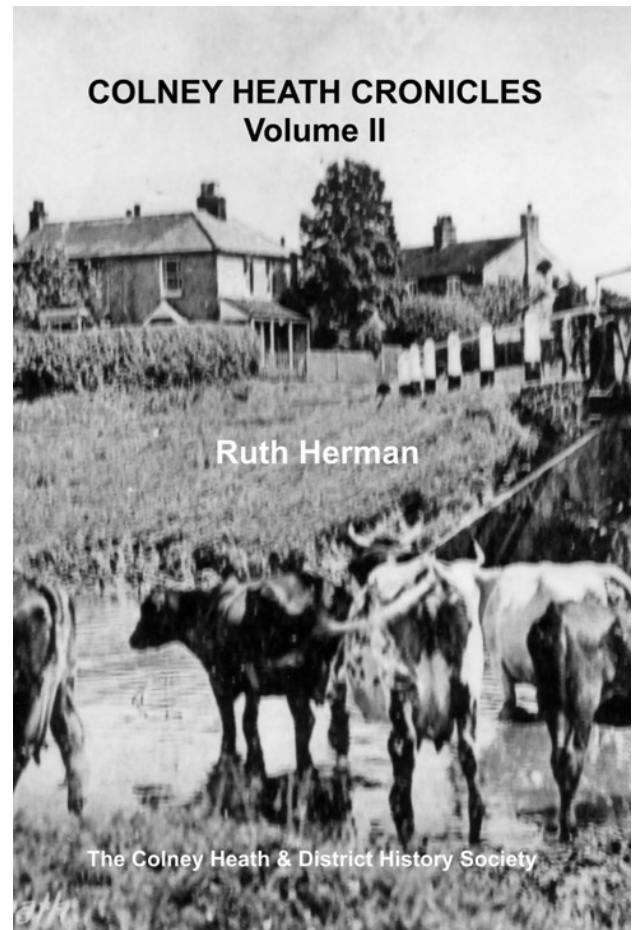
Available for £7.50 from the village post office or contact jackclemow@gmail.com

The Society was re-formed in January 2020

committee members are

John Clemow, Pam Crofts, Dr. Ruth Herman, Jeff Lewis John Rowland.

Our main activities are collection of local history records and the publication these materials.



IRIS'ART GROUP

We are all amateur artists of varying ability. Beginners are welcome, and will quickly improve with the help and support of the members of the group. We have list of what you really need to get started so check with us before you buy anything.



Exercise in cropping a reference photograph in preparation for a painting. Members of the group produced 5 different proportions.

We meet in the Studio at the Village Hall the first and third Wednesday morning in every month from 10-12. It is only £3 per session and you only pay for the sessions you attend. There is no commitment to join a minimum number etc.



Painting by one of our members attempting acrylics for the first time during a demo led by one of the group.



Watercolour view at Barton-on-Sea looking towards the Needles, Isle of Wight

NICKY PACKMAN



Nicky Packman
*Independent
Distributor of
Forever Living
Products*

Are you feeling a little sluggish? Have you got into some poor eating and drinking habits over the Winter months? Have you got out of the habit of exercising? Need a bit of a kickstart perhaps?

With Spring on the way, right now is the perfect time to begin your reset. We all have lifestyle and wellbeing goals, but sometimes life gets in the way and we simply don't have time to make a plan and stick to it.



That's where Forever's **C9** programme is here to help you! This easy-to-follow, nine-day programme gives you all the tools you need to kickstart your weight management journey and feel better.

I like to think of it as giving my body a bit of an MOT and I always feel so much more energised after completing it!

Contact Nicky Packman on
07973 102313 or
nicky@nickypackman.com
www.shop.nickypackman.com

Healthy eating is one of the most important aspects of any healthy lifestyle. However, it's important to remember that everyone's 'ideal diet' is different, and you should always make the food choices that suit you. What's great about Forever's **C9** is it provides you with the opportunity to meet your goals by following an expertly designed, calorie-controlled diet.

You'll also get a fantastic list of recipes to add variety to your nine-day programme and ensure you don't go hungry. Some of our top meals include the intriguing 'Burrito Bowl', the delicious 'Indian Tofu' and good-old fashioned 'Pasta Night'. We've even put together some seriously good **Forever Lite Ultra** shake recipes to offer healthy, delicious hits of inspiration throughout the programme

Exercise is of course one of the very best ways to boost your health and mental wellbeing. And depending on how you like to exercise, it can often be free. On the **C9** programme, Forever's taken the hard work out of choosing which exercises to do and how often. For each day, you'll receive a list of low-to-medium impact exercises to try, such as brisk walks, swimming and stretching.

Inside the **C9** box, you'll get all the drinks (choice of flavours) and supplements you need to complete the programme. You'll also get electronic access to an Information Booklet packed with advice, tips, recipes and inspiration to motivate you from Day 1 through to Day 9 (and beyond).

And I will also be on hand to guide you through the whole programme - please do get in touch for a chat and to get your questions answered.

Why not buddy up with someone else and do it together?

**** SPECIAL OFFER: 15% off for all C9 orders placed directly with me in March ****

JASON DAVIS

Support your local businesses

In the latest of our features on local businesses Mike recently met with Jason Davis.

Jason has been an Estate Agent for more than 20 years. He has worked in Muswell Hill, Golders Green and Hampstead Garden Suburb for well established firms such as Connells, Martin Gerrard and Ellis & Co.

He has always liked St Albans and so moved to Richardson Place in the village 4 years ago. His partner Lucy is in property lettings management and they have a 4 year old daughter.

Jason left Ellis & Co in December 2022 and set up a new business focused on the local property market, particularly the AL4 postal area. This enables Jason to enjoy a better work / life balance and become more involved in his daughter's development.

Based from his home office Jason sells properties online. This is how most properties are sold these days. He is linked to Rightmove and Zoopla in the same way that major agents are.

Jason believes that his key advantages over traditional estate agents are:

- Personal Service – from start to finish he works in partnership with the seller – he listens and helps;
- He's local with local knowledge;
- Traditional agencies don't give Colney Heath and the immediate area the same focus that he can;
- Being independent he can be flexible, carrying out viewings seven days a week and outside of office hours.

We wish Jason the best of good fortune in his new endeavour.



TREASURE TOTS PRE-SCHOOL



83 High Street,
Colney Heath,
Hertfordshire,
AL4 0NS

☎ 07580100368

✉ info@treasuretots.co.uk

🌐 treasuretots.co.uk

Treasure Tots Pre-School Ltd. is the village pre-school for Colney Heath but welcomes children aged 3 months to 5 years from the village and surrounding area. They have government funded places for 3 & 4-year-olds, as well as eligible 2-year-olds.

Run by Deborah McHale and an experienced team, Treasure Tots Pre-School offers a friendly and inviting environment to prepare children for their entrance into school life. They maintain a good working partnership with Colney Heath School and other local schools and provide extended care for children who attend school nurseries. This helps enable children and families to gain the maximum benefit from their entitled funded early education. Staff readily share information on children's learning with families and teachers and are always available to discuss any concerns. Parents speak highly of staff and the pre-school. They say their children feel safe and secure and receive a good education that prepares them well for starting school.

At Treasure Tots, children are supported and encouraged by staff to engage in a wide variety of activities and play. A child-centred approach is at the heart of the pre-school, enabling children to develop their creativity, individuality, and self-confidence in a caring and nurturing environment. All learning and development is guided by qualified and experienced practitioners who build strong positive relationships with all the children they work with.

Located in Colney Heath Village Hall, Treasure Tots Pre-School Ltd. is rated 'Good' by Ofsted and has access to the large indoor hall as well as a garden area. Two sessions run daily during term time from **Tuesday to Friday, 9:15am to 12:15pm, and 12:00pm to 3:00pm.**

Prospective parents are warmly invited to visit the pre-school and meet the team. Appointments can be made by calling Deborah McHale, Pre-School Manager on **07580 100368.**

