

the kite



Festive greetings



As the year draws to a close, I reflect on what has been a busy time at The Parish Council. I would like to be reporting on a long list of project achievements and resolutions, but, the reality is, much of our time has been taken up with responding to planning applications, appeals and inquiries. In a nutshell, we, as volunteers, are stretched to our limits.

This is the sad reality of what we are faced with in today's housing crisis climate. If I'm totally honest, I loathe it – and I'm sure I am not alone in thinking like this. Successive governments have failed to achieve building anything close to the actual number of new homes required. They have failed to think 'creatively' in terms of building better homes, how to bring affordability to those who need it, how to develop more brownfield sites including redundant office spaces and, in general, how to successfully build a better future. The result is that it has opened the door to the Green Belt and much-needed farmland becoming the profit pickings of the housing developers. My fear now is that with new government legislation, a whole heap of national developers will consider every inch of open land as a cash-cow. This is not what I want for the UK and for the Parish, however we have little choice. We will continue to fight against all inappropriate developments!

The team I have with me at the Parish Council are incredibly diligent, considerate and conscientious. We are united in having a common sense approach to everything we do and we know we must present residents with transparency and all the facts. As we move into next year, two important items will hopefully move to the top of the agenda – options on the future of the Roestock Hut and how best to tackle the overgrowth along the River Colne on Colney Heath Common. Both will be challenging, but we hope that with resident support (quite literally with some hands-on river help!), we can make good progress.

If you celebrate Christmas, please do enjoy the festivities in a safe and happy way. My very best wishes for 2025.

Craig Craig Tallents, Chair

Elenbrook frost © Nick Pettit 2024



Parish Council meetings:
Thursdays 23rd January and 20th February 2025 at 7.30pm at Colney Heath JMI School. Residents are always welcome to attend.

- **Twinning Association**
- Midwinter Social and AGM
- at Colney Heath Village Hall
- Studio Room on 8th January
- at 7.30pm.
-

- **Smartees Baby & Toddler**
- Group meets Wednesdays
- at 10am at St Mark's
- Church Centre, Colney
- Heath. Full details on the
- church website.

Wrapping up a busy year

It's been an incredibly busy year for the Parish Council's **Planning Working Group** supported by the Clerk. Together with responding to the draft Local Plan, it has had a massive workload fighting the developers at appeal after appeal. In addition to the 100 houses already being built on Bullens Green Lane, the proposals for new housing in the Parish totals more than 475 houses in Colney Heath Village and 256 houses on Colney Heath Lane – with 40 houses at the end of Boissy Close already approved. Across the Parish, many residents have come out in force by objecting to these developments and we are delighted with the support.

The truth of the matter is that we have to keep the work-rate up. Despite recent 'wins' against two developers, **Vistry** and **Tarmac** we cannot rest on our laurels (Vistry's proposal for 150 houses off Tollgate Road, which was originally refused, was finally dismissed by the High Court in August, and **Tarmac's** proposal for 45 houses next to Colney Heath Football Club, which went to appeal in late October, ended up with them withdrawing before the Inquiry was due to finish). Such is the merry-go-round with planning appeals, that sadly both developers may try all over again.

The Planning Working Group has also been busy at the appeal for **Brett Aggregates** proposal to quarry Ellenbrook Fields. Full details are on page 5, however before the Inquiry concluded it was announced that the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Angela Rayner, had 'called it in', meaning she will make the decision

based on the Inspector's report. With the new government pushing out a major house building programme – and houses need concrete, which includes gravel – it would be very surprising if the quarry is refused. We keep fingers crossed though.

Planning applications that are still to be decided by the District Council include two proposals in Colney Heath for 245 houses on Roestock Lane and 30 on the corner of Tollgate Road and two proposals for 216 houses on Colney Heath Lane. The Parish Council intends to make representations to St Albans District Council Planning Committee when these applications are heard. If refused, the developers are likely to appeal thus involving further planning inquiries in the coming year.

On 12th December 2024, an update to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published. The current draft Local Plan for St Albans District is based on providing 885 new homes per annum in the period 2024 to 2041. The new NPPF requires St Albans District to provide 1,660 new homes per year with a reduction on the level of protection on some areas of Green Belt. These changes may have a significant impact on the Parish.

The Roestock Park Hut Working Group met in December and their review of the options and recommendations will be brought to a Council meeting early in the new year. The **Charles Morris Hall Working Group** drafted 'heads of terms' for the lease and this has been agreed by the charity. The lease will be drafted in the new year hopefully ready for execution before the deadline in June.

A year in the Parish

Photographs by Nick Pettit and Helen Vaux



River Colne update

Most residents in the Parish will be familiar with the River Colne. Although classified as a tributary of the River Thames, the Hertfordshire stretch forms near Colney Heath from two subterranean streams converging at a spring to the east side of Tollgate Road at North Mymms Park. It is a chalk stream – one of only 200 in the world – and is fed primarily by spring water (not rainwater) which bubbles up from the chalk aquifer. It should have clear, cold water and a stable flow, however as we know from its route across Colney Heath Common, this is not the case. A lot of vegetation has grown into the river at various points from the banks, which needs to be cleared – ideally by late Spring next year. Along with Councillor Nick Pettit and the Clerk, we are



© Nick Pettit 2024

working on a plan of action, which hopefully can be augmented with residents' help. We also recently met with a representative of Herts County Council to discuss getting additional help and funding for equipment. We await the full report. In the meantime, please check the Parish Council Facebook page in the New Year for updates about ways you can get involved with the clean-up.

No work, all play!

At long last, the new children's playground next to Colney Heath Football Club opened during October half-term. It's been a long time coming – unfortunately hampered by the heavy downpours, which created unforeseen flooding issues – but we are pleased to say that it has been welcomed favourably by parents and children alike. We hope the enjoyment continues!

On the road...

Highways update by Councillor Nick Pettit

On Tuesday 26th November, I attended District Councillor John Hale's Highways meeting at Sandridge Parish Council offices. As always, it provided some valuable insights into budget spending and the plan of works being undertaken over the coming months. The big issue that is being faced on a regular basis in the Parish – and indeed much of St Albans District – is localised flooding. We've all experienced the heavy downpours this year and seen the flooding problems that they have brought to the roads and pavements. Councillor Hale is pushing hard for improvements to help stop it reoccurring, particular in places like the Alban Way. Much of it is to do with road and field ditches being blocked or not being properly maintained by landowners. Highways have a plan of action over the coming weeks to clear ditches, so hopefully things can be improved. Works on Roestock Lane and the High Street in Colney Heath, and Station Road in Smallford, are on the list.

Speeding still remains of huge concern in the Parish, particularly along Colney Heath High Street. I have asked Councillor Hale for additional speed monitors

to be considered as reminders to drivers about their speed (although for the idiots who give no thought to their reckless driving, there is little that can be done on a daily basis).

Potholes also remain high on the list of Highways' – and residents' – priorities. Thankfully, the recent patch works on Courser's Road has made a difference to last year's 'pothole hell' and full resurfacing works are planned for next year. I urge all residents to report potholes ASAP to Highways on the County Council website (it even has its own dedicated area in the main menu). The more reports made on a pothole, the faster it moves up the 'to-do' list and the quicker it gets resolved.

And lastly: grass verges ...

Can I urge all residents to look after the grass verges. In Spring and Summer they act as wildlife corridors for habitats and help increase pollinators, however in Winter they are a lot softer underfoot. Driving over them, or parking cars on them, churns up the grass, which then affects growth in Spring (as well as making them look very unsightly). Elderly residents in Sandridge have also had accidents by slipping on the mud that had been moved onto the footpaths. The verges are there for good reason and they rely on our help to keep them in good condition.

Honoured to pay our respects

On Remembrance Sunday, residents and their families, The Girl Guides, Councillor Clemow and his wife Sue and myself, came together at St Mark's Church for a respectful service led by Amanda Furlong. As with last year, a small parade led by The Guides walked from Colney Heath JMI School to the church. The service began with The Guides presenting the Association's flags followed by a number of poignant readings, including those by four local children who spoke beautifully.

We also listened intently as the annual list of local residents who lost their lives fighting for King and Country was read out – a very moving few minutes of reflection. Councillor Clemow laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

Councillor Nick Pettit



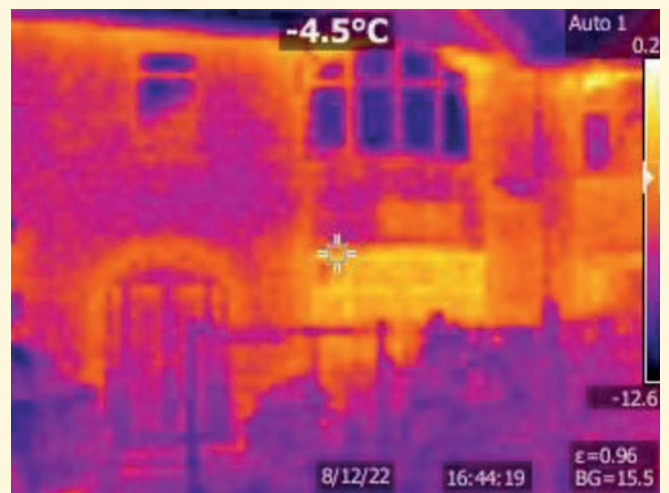
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Keeping the heat inside this Winter

A Thermal Imaging Camera will show you where your money is going.

For most homeowners, heating bills are firmly at the top of their list when it comes to managing household budgets and spending. Electricity and gas power the majority of our central heating systems, as well as our daily demand for hot water for baths and showers, washing machines and dishwashers. However, most people give very little thought as to where this 'generated' heat actually goes in the house. A huge amount goes straight down the plughole as hot water, however an even bigger amount simply escapes the house through bricks, wood, windows and tiles. Quite literally, your hard-earned money is evaporating away on an hourly basis.

Wouldn't it make sense to be able to see the areas in a house where most heat escapes? Then you could undertake remedial works to help contain more of it (after all, we lag our loft space to stop heat escaping through the roof). This is where a thermal imaging camera can help. The picture shows the outside of a semi-detached house on a cold winter's night. It uses a colour spectrum – yellow (hot), orange/red (warm) and purple/black (cold) – to show heat escaping through the downstairs bay window and front door. Although the upstairs front rooms were



not heated when this picture was taken, you can still see the heat, which has risen through the house, escaping from under the roof eaves.

Thermal imaging cameras are very expensive to buy, but under a scheme offered by **Sustainable St Albans** you can borrow one for free, simply by leaving a cheque deposit and doing a short online instruction course. If you are interested in surveying your home, please email Julian Gannon at julian.gannon@sustainablestalbens.org or visit sustainablestalbens.org for more information.

Discover the joys of Girlguiding at Colney Heath

At Girlguiding Colney Heath, girls of all ages are invited to embark on a journey of adventure, creativity and friendship. Every Monday, we host sessions for:

- **Rainbows (ages 4–7) from 5:30pm to 7:00pm**
- **Brownies (ages 7–10) from 5:30pm to 7:00pm**
- **Guides (ages 10–14) from 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

Rainbows take their first steps into a magical world of laughter, learning and fun. Brownies embrace new challenges and discover their creative sides while exploring the great outdoors. Guides thrive in a dynamic space of self-discovery, adventure and unforgettable experiences. Rangers enjoy a relaxed environment, tackling meaningful projects and creating lasting memories with friends.

On 9th December, the girls delighted their parents and carers with a special performance showcasing all the hard work and dedication they've poured into their activities. It was an inspiring celebration of

their teamwork, talent and growth—a testament to the vibrant community Girlguiding fosters.

Join us and see your child flourish in a safe, supportive and engaging environment. To find a group near you, visit girlguiding.org.uk or for more details, email girlguidingnatalie@yahoo.com. The world of Girlguiding awaits!

Natalie West, Leader in charge



© Natalie West 2024

A quarry state of affairs

The Inquiry into the application by Brett Aggregates to quarry the old Hatfield aerodrome site (Ellenbrook Fields) commenced, as planned, on 19th November. What wasn't planned was the total u-turn by Herts County Council (HCC) to withdraw its opposition to the quarry, an act that threatened to trash months of work by SSRA, Ellenbrook Area Residents' Association and the Parish Council. Fortunately, the Inspector allowed us all – and other individuals – to mount an opposition to Brett Aggregates under the banner of our Parish Council, without the prospect of incurring liability for the eye watering costs of Brett's campaign if we lost!

Particularly galling was HCC's decision in their opening statement to support Brett's application, (done perhaps, in their mind, to reduce their liability for costs). Ironically, Brett tabled their application for costs against HCC in one of their opening statements – it could be argued that HCC might just as well have continued with their objection and work with us, so improving the chances of winning (as we did at the last Inquiry). Not a great decision for the taxpayer!

We are now left to wait for the Inspector's decision, which is expected in a few weeks. Our thanks to all the residents who attended and spoke at the Inquiry, and to everyone else who completed a mountain of work to enable a strong defense of our local environment.

Residents near Oaklands College have received a newsletter regarding the early-stage proposals by Oaklands College to develop a new hub of education and creativity at the heart of the community, with housing on part of the site to fund the initiatives. A community event was held at the College on 10th December to explain these proposals. There are also plans to re-site their footpaths around the Campus rather than through it as at present. Details can be found at stalbansvillage-consultation.co.uk

Lastly, we have recently seen offices erected on commercial sites in Smallford Village, which do not appear to have planning permission. These have been noted and the matter is now with Planning Enforcement at St Albans City and District Council. We await their decisions.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish all residents a happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas to recharge us all for 2025!

Steve Ross, Secretary SSRA

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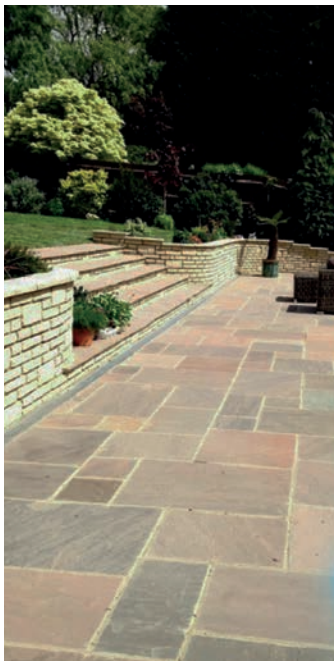


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Colney Heath Theatre Club is a not-for-profit organisation working for the benefit of the local community.

COLNEY HEATH THEATRE CLUB

Curtain call

Colney Heath Theatre Club organises great nights out to London's West End and beyond to see the top shows with the ease of coach travel from Colney Heath Village and nearby locations. To round off 2024, we had two fantastic nights – the first, at the highly amusing Fawltly Towers at The Shaftesbury Theatre and then watching Only Fools & Horses with Vinnie Jones (who used to live in Colney Heath) and Paul Whitehouse (who did not) at The Eventim Apollo Theatre.

Next year, we have tickets available for Just For One Day on 15th September 2025 at The Shaftesbury Theatre after a run at The Old Vic where it broke all records as that venue's fastest selling musical. It tells the story of the original Live Aid event and is packed with songs by Bob Dylan, David Bowie, The Who, Queen, Madonna, The Police, Paul McCartney and Elton John and many more of the artists who made history at the charitable concerts in London and Philadelphia. Tickets to the show cost £60 which includes return travel. To book contact **07870 701 118** or email colneyheaththeatreclub@yahoo.co.uk. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Elizabeth Clarke, Colney Heath Theatre Club

COLNEY HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

A feast of fun!

Since our French families and friends departed in May we have continued to have a lot of fun at social events – getting together at various functions to enjoy some food and drink and share in some great conversations. Feedback from members has been very positive and everyone seems to have enjoyed the year.

Highlights of the year (which have been reported in past issues of The Kite) include our sunny June afternoon picnic in Leighton Buzzard and riding the steam train railway; the popular Cocktails & Mocktails event with Tapas in September in the Studio at Colney Heath Village Hall and the Games Night in October (the board game in French was especially mystifying!).

We ended the year a couple of weekends ago with the annual Christmas buffet and disco, again at the Village Hall. I must say a personal thank you to the catering team for the delicious food. We look forward to 2025 starting with our Midwinter Social and AGM in January. Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

John Clemow



Ending the year on a W-high!

The Colney Heath WI belongs to the Hertfordshire Federation, which holds its Annual Council Meeting at St Albans Verso Vineyard Church in October. Five of our members attended. As well as the business, there were very entertaining speakers. In the morning, Annie Brewster showed off her High Sheriff outfit. She explained the role and history of the High Sheriff. Then, in the afternoon, we listened to Esme Young from the Great British Sewing Bee. She took us through her life as a fashion designer during the punk era to today on TV. The Federation puts on smaller events to suit different tastes. There is a quiz, a 'Try-a-Craft' day, a Literary Lunch and a Christmas Carol Party. There is also a walking netball group for the more active! The next big event is on April 29th when we will be going behind the scenes of Strictly Come Dancing with a talk by Gerald Schwanzer, which will be open to non-members.

Meanwhile back at our Colney Heath base, we have spent the last three meetings brushing up on our history with talks on the use of quilts to communicate to the runaway slaves, Hatfield House and the women of Bletchley Park during World War 2. We've already got our programme for 2025 sorted so why not join us? You'll find all the details on our website at www.colneyheathwi.com and our Facebook page.

Amanda Furlong



© WI 2024

COLNEY HEATH VILLAGE HALL

Addressing complaints

There has been some recent criticism on social media about users of the Village Hall blocking the driveway and the change to the Bill Franklin garden, so let me address them. We try our best to avoid problems for our neighbours who use our land to exit on the High Street and therefore we try and meet with hirers of the Hall to discuss their booking. The parking is explained to them and we ask that they tell this to their guests. The hire contract which they receive clearly states that there must be no parking on the track behind the cottages and no stopping in front of the main entrance. Instructions

for overflow parking is shown on a map which is also given to all hirers of the Village Hall.

Regarding the Bill Franklin memorial garden, the new landscaping has been done in response to a number of complaints that we have received around users not being able to see the hall from the road – and that the plants were well past their best. The new scheme, which is not finished, will include planting while keeping a clear view of the building. This will be done over the winter. We also have plans for some other features which we hope will enhance the impression of the hall and the village. I would therefore kindly ask all keyboard warriors to reserve judgement until we have finished the new garden.

Mike Redfern

Festive cheers!

Our Parish pubs are all open over the holiday period. If you get the chance, pop in and show some support.

The Crooked Billet, Colney Heath

Christmas Eve	12:00 – Midnight
Christmas Day	12:00 – 14:00
Boxing Day	12:00 – 16:30
New Year's Eve	12:00 – Midnight
New Year's Day	12:00 – 16:30

The Plough, Sleapshyde

Christmas Eve	12:00 – 20.00
Christmas Day	Fully booked
Boxing Day	Fully booked
New Year's Eve	TBC
New Year's Day	12:00 – 18:00

The Three Horseshoes, Smallford

Christmas Eve	11:30 – 22:30
Christmas Day	11:30 – 18:00
Boxing Day	11:30 – 22:30
New Year's Eve	11:30 – Midnight
New Year's Day	12:00 – 23:00

The Plough, Tyttenhanger

Christmas Eve	12:00 – 00:30
Christmas Day	12:00 – 14:00
Boxing Day	12:00 – 16:00
New Year's Eve	15:00 – Late!
New Year's Day	12:00 – 16:00

A magical time of year

Christmas in a primary school is a magical time of year. It is also an extremely busy and exciting time too and this year our excited children have been enjoying the preparations as we head towards the end of term. Here at Colney Heath School we have a tradition of decorating 'Christmas Doors' – this year each door had to contain a hidden Christmas pudding in a 'Where's Wally-style' puzzle. As you can see, our classes chose some fantastic ways to disguise the pudding amongst Christmas trees, elves, dinners and one even hitched a ride on the Polar Express!

The children have also celebrated the festive season through Nativity plays and Carol Concerts, with a

full school service at St Mark's Church – complete with very enthusiastic audience participation! Our choir have also been busy leading their own service at church, as well as entertaining friends at the Community Lunch.

Our PTA organised an incredible Christmas Fair to raise funds for our children. It was a great success and we really appreciate all the support. Seeing the children's faces when they entered Santa's Grotto was wonderful – and one parent proclaimed it: 'The most beautiful thing I have ever seen in a school'. If you came along, thank you for your support – next year's fair is already being planned.

On behalf of everyone at Colney Heath JMI school, may I wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Anne Clark, Head



© Colney Heath JMI School 2024



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Your Voice is given over to a person connected to the Parish to speak on a subject that others might be interested in. **Councillor Jamie Day** was elected to be the **Mayor of St Albans** for the 2024–25 civic year. He was inaugurated on May 22nd 2024 along with his wife Liz who became Mayoress – the same day their latest grandson was born. Here, Jamie explains the history and role of the Mayor and gives an insight into what being Mayor involves.

First Colney Heath Mayor for over thirty years!

It was an honour to be elected as Mayor of St Albans City and District in May this year. I believe I am the first Mayor to live in Colney Heath Ward since the late Peggy Hughes, who held the office in 1991/92. Each May when local District Council elections are held, the reconstituted Council meets shortly after and elects a Mayor as chairman of the Council for the next twelve months (in practice, the new Mayor usually has already been chosen). The Mayoralty is offered to each of the political parties that make up the Council in rotation, with a weighting according to the proportion of seats that party holds. The Mayor must be seen to be impartial. He/she cannot be politically active during the year and must not be seen to favour their own political party or disadvantage the other parties.

I am the 480th Mayor of St Albans, so there is a long pedigree behind me. The first Mayor was installed in 1553 when Henry VIII granted the town a Royal Charter (shortly before he started to dissolve the monasteries, including St Albans!). In 1877 St Albans became a City via a Royal Charter issued by Queen Victoria. Being a city allowed 'The Right Worshipful' title to be added to the title of Mayor, making the Mayor of St Albans the most senior Mayor in Hertfordshire. However, the Mayor is superseded in rank by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, who is the monarch's representative in the County.

Today, the Mayor of St Albans role is largely ceremonial, representing the City and District Council locally in the county – and where needed nationally and internationally. The official garments include a Chain of Office, a red fur-trimmed gown and a black tricorne hat. When wearing these, the mayor must be preceded by a Mace Bearer carrying a silver-gilded mace dating back to the reign of Charles II. The Mace Bearer walks three steps ahead of the Major and is there to protect the Mayor should trouble arise. The last time the mace bearer needed to act, was during the Poll Tax protests in 1990.



My twenty years as a District Councillor made me eligible to be Mayor. I was a Colney Heath ward councillor – alongside Chris Brazier – from 2006 to 2022, when the Boundary Commission changes saw Colney Heath split into two. The Village ward now has one Councillor, Chris, while the Highfield Estate on the St Albans side of the A414 was merged into the new Hill End ward – of which I am now one of three councillors. However, Tyttenhanger Green, where I live, remains part of the Colney Heath Ward.

So far this year I have represented the City at a number of civic events, from chairing the Full Council to marking local anniversaries. The Mayor is patron of several local organisations, so attends AGMs and fundraising events. I led the annual Remembrance ceremonies and D Day commemorations in this 80th anniversary year, which included a Beacon lighting in Highfield Park. We visited St Albans' twin town of Nevers to formally mark the 50th anniversary of the twinning. With Christmas approaching, I spoke at St Albans Christmas Cracker, when the Christmas lights were switched on, in the memorable company of two Pantomime stars! I will also be attending a number of carol services, including four in our wonderful Cathedral. It's a busy year for Liz and myself, but certainly one we won't ever forget!

If you would like to invite the Mayor to an event, contact mayoralty@stalbens.gov.uk. You can also follow the Mayor's activities on social media – [Mayor of St Albans on Facebook](#), or [mayor_of_stalbens](#) on Instagram

If you want your voice to be heard in a future edition, email Helen at: hlvaux@yahoo.co.uk

Looking up at Christmas time

I love Advent and Christmas, especially when decorations go up and beautiful Christmas scenes are created throughout our community. But for me, nothing compares to the beauty of looking up at a full moon on a clear night sky. How awesome is creation? Its beauty helps to keep our eyes fixed on something much bigger than ourselves and our problems. When I look up it reminds me that I am not in control and that someone bigger is. For Christians, when we look up to the stars and gaze in wonder, we are reminded of Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem as a Saviour born to be the Light of the World. This is light that never dims or hides in the clouds. So this Christmas, I wonder, could we look up and see that this light of the world might be for us?

From everyone at St Mark's Church, I wish you a very Happy Christmas.

Rev'd Caroline Keightley, Vicar



**CHRISTMAS
WONDER**

Carol Service
22nd December 7.30pm
followed by mulled wine/spiced apple
and mince pies

All Age Carol Service
24th December 4pm
followed by seasonal refreshments

Christmas Day Services
25th December
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Worship

Full details can be found at stmarkscolneyheath.co.uk



THE SCOUTS

Enjoying the festive spirit

We've had another busy and fun-packed term. The Beavers completed their Money Skills badge tasks and brought their cooking and craft skills to the kitchen, making tasty pizzas and Christmas serviettes. The Cubs too have enjoyed getting into the festive spirit by baking some delicious mince pies. They also went on their 'Chippy Hike', walking to Fleetville along the Alban Way. Bringing the term to a close, the Beavers and Cubs came together to watch the brilliant 'Nativity 2' at the Odeon Cinema, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

News from the Scouts is that they did their own Chippy Hike by walking from Harper Lane to London Colney. They also took part in two challenges: The Green Beret and The Derek Turner Trophy, the latter a District inter-Troop competition based on putting Scouting skills into practice, involving a hike route, doing activities at various bases and based on a theme. All sections also took part in the London Colney Remembrance Parade.

Pat Hall, Colney Heath Scouts

Bring on 2025!

As we move into the Winter season, it's always a good time for reflection about the year just gone and the ambitions for the new one looming on the horizon. Year 2024 has seen a great return on the football pitch across all our teams. Once again the Ladies are in poll position as they sit top of the Eastern Region Women's Football League Division 1 South, with nine wins from twelve games.

Our Colney Heath Colts are playing their first season after the merger with London Colney Colts and in the competitive divisions from U13 to U16, three of our six teams lead their divisions, with another in second place and the other two mid-table. You never win a football match by accident, and whilst winning consistently is thoroughly satisfying, it only ever happens as a consequence of excellence in a number of things happening around the team – coaching, team ethic, club vision and organisation. If those things are done right, then winning becomes a lot less elusive.



Another highlight for me this past year was the inaugural Summer Sixes tournament we held over a glorious May weekend. Over thirty small-sided teams provided some great football to enjoy.

Off the pitch, the new children's playground, at the back of the main car park, was completed and several live music events and quiz nights were enjoyed by residents in the Clubhouse. We have a Christmas Carol event coming up with the help of our friends at St Mark's Church and, looking towards the new year, some exciting plans for monthly bingo evenings starting at the end of January.

On behalf of Colney Heath Football and Social Club, I would like to wish everyone in our community a wonderful Christmas and a very happy 2025.

Richard Smith, Chair, Colney Heath FC



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Keep in touch with Colney Heath Parish Council

www.colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Call 01727 825 314 (mobile: 07484 520 070) **Email:** clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Write to: The Clerk to the Council, Colney Heath Parish Council, Highfield Park Visitor Centre, Hill End Lane, St Albans, AL4 0RA, Hertfordshire.

Public opening hours: The Parish Office is open Thursday and Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm. Staff are part-time so please call before visiting as we want to ensure we are there to meet you.

To advertise in The Kite: email: clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk for availability

Submissions for the Spring issue of The Kite: By 1st March 2025 please to Helen Vaux at hvaux@yahoo.co.uk

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