

the kite



Getting ready for Autumn



I hope you have had an enjoyable Summer and managed to dodge the rainclouds! Autumn brings with it a noticeable change in daylight hours and the full spectrum of earthy woodland colours which if you are out walking Colney Heath Common or Ellenbrook Fields you cannot help but be impressed by. It's a special time of the year!

Autumn also means the Parish Council gets busier. We skip a meeting in August as people are on holiday, so the September meeting will be a chance to catch-up, review where we are and plan the workload ahead. Currently we have a lot on our plate with both inherited issues and new ones that need to be successfully resolved.

As a Smallford resident it pains me to see yet another return to the table by Brett Aggregates with their proposal to quarry Ellenbrook Fields on the old Hatfield Areodrome. We've been here before and won so we must pull together to stop this happening. The destruction it will reap on Ellenbrook Fields and its wildlife, not to mention the noise, pollution and traffic it will bring to the area, cannot be underestimated. I am vehemently

against the quarry and I know the Parish Council – and the great majority of residents – are too. We must stop it – and this applies to all the threats of inappropriate development in the Parish.

I would like to thank Councillors Burns and Clemow for leading the Planning Working Group, as well as the volunteer residents that continue to give up their time to support them. They will be busy in the coming weeks with the Quarry and Tarmac Inquiries and I'm sure we are all behind them.

Remember too, that residents are welcome at the Parish Council meetings, particularly if you have something to raise. I hope to see you there!

Craig Craig Tallents, Chair

Smallford harvest © Nick Pettit 2024



Parish Council meetings: Thursdays 31st October and 21st November 2024 at 7.30pm at Colney Heath JMI School. Residents are always welcome to attend.

Smallford Station and Alban Way Heritage Society AGM is on Friday 18th October starting at 7.30pm. See page 11 for full details.

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

We've a busy time ahead

The Charles Morris Hall Working Group has made progress with the trustees of the Charles Morris Hall in Tyttenhanger but there are still some important issues to clarify and resolve. The land lease on the hall expires in July next year, so the effort needs to increase to meet this deadline.

The Planning Working Group has been preparing for the Tarmac Inquiry regarding 45 houses on the farmland next to the Football Club and school, which restarts at the end of October. The new Government has issued a draft national planning policy and ministerial statement which we are required to comment on for the Inquiry. In parallel, preparations have been made for the Brett Aggregates Inquiry regarding the proposed quarrying of Ellenbrook Fields adjacent to Smallford. This has been done in conjunction with Smallford Residents' Association (incorporating Sleapshyde), Ellenbrook Residents' Association and Hatfield Town Council.

The proposal for 150 houses on the land behind Tollgate Road in Colney Heath, initially refused by the District Council and then dismissed by the Planning Inspector for the Inquiry in January, was finally thrown out by the High Court in August.

In addition to the Tarmac and Ellenbrook Quarry Inquiries, the Planning team will need to respond to the next stage of the Local Plans by St Albans District Council and Hertsmere Borough Council – in particular their Bowmans Cross proposal.

The Roestock Park Hut Working Group is waiting for the estimate of refurbishment costs from the surveyor who previously identified the works required. This data will inform the evaluation of the options that are available for the future of the hut.

The Environment Working Group, formed in May, has identified several areas that need attention. This includes Horseshoe Field next to Notcutts, reducing the overgrowth along the River Colne on The Common and on Monahan's Field (a small part of the Common by the bridge on Church Lane).

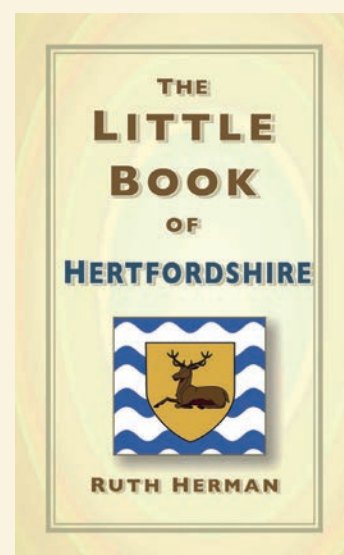
Liaison meetings have been held with Highways and County Councillor, John Hale. Since the Spring, when the verges in the Village resembled a dense jungle, Highways have managed to get them under control – and also on the A414 longabout, which were becoming dangerous and obstructing the vision of oncoming traffic. The new road markings on Colney Heath High Street have been favourably received by residents and the Village is looking neater for it. The Taylor Wimpey construction works of 100 houses at 'Colney Manor' have had the opposite effect, with noise disturbance and mud and damage on Bullens Green Lane and Fellowes Lane.

Lastly, long delays with the construction of the new playground at Colney Heath Recreation Ground has attracted criticism. New drainage was required following the heavy rainfall earlier in the year and questions have been raised about the suitability of the design. The Council has posted updates on the fencing at the playground, but will also address residents' concerns in more detail in due course.

Discover Hertfordshire!

Colney Heath's resident local history author, Ruth Herman, has a new book out called **The Little Book of Hertfordshire** (published by History Press). It's packed full of interesting, intriguing and often bizarre stories about the County. As Ruth explains: "The aim of the book is to make history as entertaining as possible. When I began planning it, I soon discovered some really weird stories on my travels and from trawling through archives, newspapers and anything else I could lay my hands on. Things like Hertfordshire's phantom headless horse, the ghost who carries a dead fish under its arm and why the Normans carved up the country so it became more tax efficient. You'll also discover how seriously the Victorians took the theft of turnips!"

Ruth's book can be bought from Amazon (Kindle) and from Waterstones and WH Smith – and from many residents' favourite independent bookseller, Books On The Hill on Holywell Hill, St Albans.



Summer in the Parish: news round-up

Beating the Bounds

Beating the Bounds took place on Sunday 12th July. It was an enjoyable two-hour walk and chat around the boundaries of The Common in lovely sunshine. A number of residents turned out, including Chairman Craig and his wife Kate and Councillors Hilary Brazier and Nick Pettit. A tradition that goes back many years, the walk was led by the ranger, Charlie Nash. As always, it was great to hear him talk about the wildlife and plantlife on The Common – as well as some general history about Colney Heath and the Parish. The afternoon was rounded off with tea and cake at Colney Heath Village Hall.



Timber!

Work to successfully fell the nine 'imminent risk' trees (as mentioned in the previous edition of The Kite) began in mid-August and has now been completed. Residents are welcome to help themselves to the left over stumps and logs.



Common cuts

Early September saw Colney Heath Common undergo its annual cut. If you've managed to get out onto The Common over Summer, no doubt you will have enjoyed the wonderful grasses, flowers, insects and birds that have flourished as it has been left untouched. Unfortunately, leaving it this way into Winter is not an option as it then becomes a much bigger job to clear and maintain next Spring.



The Warren has also had a cut. It's been long overdue and it is now fully accessible. It's a lovely part of the Common and the birdlife there is excellent. The scrub and gorse provide a perfect habitat for those that nest close to the ground. On a walk this morning I heard Goldfinches, Dunnocks, Great Tits, Chiffchaffs and a Linnet. Sadly the Ghost Ponds seem to have taken a big step backwards in terms of naturally filling. This is odd given how they were looking in July, so I'll get an update from The Wildlife Trust to shed some light on things (which should be in the next edition of The Kite).



Images © Nick Pettit 2024

**Join us at a
West End Show**

**Christmas bookings
now being taken**

Colney Heath Theatre Club organises great nights out to London's West End and beyond, to see top shows with the ease of coach travel from Colney Heath Village and nearby locations and back. In November we will be at Shaftesbury Avenue to see Fawlty Towers and in December, for a festive treat, at the Apollo to enjoy Only Fools & Horses.

To book tickets and return coach seats, contact Elizabeth Clarke on 07870 701 118 or email: colneyheaththeatreclub@yahoo.co.uk

Cheer on the Magpies!

Colney Heath FC Chairman, Richard Smith, is on a mission to encourage residents to add their support to the Magpies this season – and if you've never watched a game at the Recreation Ground, he's got an incentive for you...

I am very proud to be Chariman of Colney Heath FC. It's a fantastic village club and, like our website says, we 'punch well above our weight'. Last season was testament to this as both the mens and ladies made big strides – and they've made excellent starts to the new season. However, away from first team football, we've got other great things going on at the Club. Three things which really stand out are our youth teams, Steve Bull, our new manager of the Ladies First Team, and the popularity of our Social Club.

This summer, Colney Heath Youth merged with London Colney Colts and it's so far been a success story. The Colts have a long and proud history of producing talented footballers of the highest calibre. At the end of August, Arsenal U21s beat Aston Villa U21s and the Arsenal team included three London Colney Colts boys, with two of them scoring! The new Colney Heath Colts now totals over twenty youth teams across multiple age groups, playing in four different leagues. This means around 250 young people playing for the new Colney Heath Colts badge at various venues around the St Albans area. Youth football has never been so strong in the Village. New players are always welcome, especially in the U6 to U7 age groups, so please contact us if you are interested.

As with any managerial change, there is always a period of getting to know each other – the setting of ground rules, change in coaching style and playing style, but Steve Bull has quickly united the team. He's also been very complimentary about the Club's commitment to Ladies football, going on record to say: "It's so pleasing to see a club that



©Colney Heath FC 2024

cares about the Women's team, rather than it being a tickbox exercise to make it look like they do".

Colney Heath FC also has a thriving Social Club which runs regular events, including live music and quiz nights. Our website has all the details, including plans for a Halloween party for our more junior footballers, with prizes for the scariest costumes! We are a members club run by committee and new members are warmly welcomed – and you can try things out before deciding to join. Membership forms are proposed and seconded by existing members (or a committee member) and annual fees are £10 for an individual and £15 for family membership. This allows a member's discount at the bar (Monday to Friday); access to all Club functions; the right to vote on club business at committee meetings and the ability to hire the pavilion for parties/private functions.

For fixtures, events and membership details go to:
www.colneyheathfc.co.uk



Come and watch Colney Heath FC for FREE!

We'd love to see you at the Recreation Ground, so we're giving you the chance to attend one of our Mens or Ladies First Team home matches (league or cup) in October or November 2024 for FREE. Simply choose your match and present this voucher at the entrance gate to gain FREE entry. One voucher per full-paying adult (age 16+).

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Offer runs October and November 2024 for Colney Heath FC, Mens / Ladies First Team HOME matches ONLY.
- Offer not available at any other time.
- One voucher per full-paying adult (age 16+).
- Photocopies will NOT be accepted.
- Colney Heath FC reserves the right to refuse a person(s) entry to the Recreation Ground.
- Promoter: Colney Heath FC, The Recreation Ground, High Street, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire, AL4 0NP.

Guiding the way...

Colney Heath Girlguiding meets at Colney Heath JMI School on a Monday evening and is made up of age-specific units – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. Our activities are very varied, but always with lots of enjoyment thrown in.

Last term, 60 girls went away to Gilwell Scout Adventure in Chingford where we had a weekend of sun and fun doing wall climbing, crate staking, raft building and enjoying campfire songs. We also visited St Albans Fire Station to meet Green Watch who showed us the station, the engines and equipment. The girls got to try on uniforms and operate the water hoses, getting thoroughly soaked in the process! This year the activities will continue with a litter pick on The Common and around the Village, the annual Remembrance Day parade, adult quiz night, Christmas fair and pantomime and a coach trip to London to see the festive lights. The Guides will also be working on painting and replanting the large plant pots along the side of The Common as part of our 'big help out' theme.

Two new adult trainee leaders have recently joined us, one totally new to girlguiding and the other, an ex-Brownie. Our volunteers are valued members of our team and we couldn't run the weekly units and activities without them.

Natalie West, Leader in charge



Images © Natalie West 2024

If you would like to volunteer, or want to enrol your daughter into a unit, email Natalie at girlguidingnatalie@yahoo.com or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk

A fun-packed Summer

With Summer term over we can look back and say that the weather, although very changeable, was reasonably kind to us and our meetings outdoors. The Beavers gained a number of badges – nine Hikes 1 and seven Hikes 2 were awarded, as well as five Nights Away 1 and five Nights Away 2, plus other single badges. To start this year and the new term the Beavers will be going on the last hike of the year and will be back in Colney Heath Village Hall for our regular meetings, craft and games evenings (hopefully for the last time too!).

The Cubs have also been very busy. Their highlight was going to camp at Chalfont Heights and sleeping in wigwams. Apart from a wet first night, they had a brilliant time and took part in loads of activities. This term there is a full programme of fun-packed evenings with lots of craft activities. Scouts ended their term with a Slip'n'Slide evening where they all got pretty wet and muddy. They will be taking part in various competitions this term – Green Beret and Derick Turner are team events that will test their various skills.



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Pat Hall, Colney Heath Scouts

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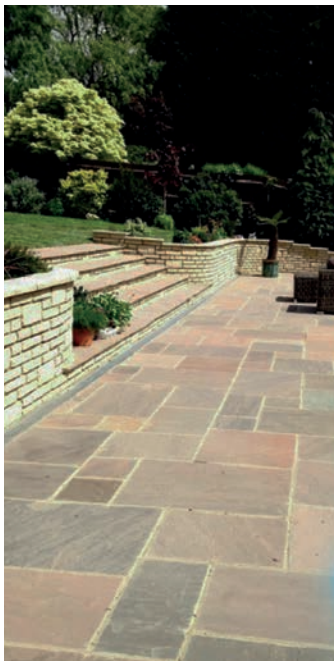


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A summer of fun!



© WI 2024

Colney Heath WI has enjoyed the summer with a series of events and activities, sometimes despite the inclement weather. In June we became the jury for a murder trial! The speaker, Philip McKinder, led us through a murder which took place in Liverpool in the 1920s. After hearing the evidence for the prosecution we were asked to say if we found the defendant guilty or not guilty. Then the evidence was presented for the defence and again we were asked to make a decision.

It was a fascinating case and our members kept changing their minds as to the guilt of the accused.

Once again we supported Colney Heath JMI School's Summer Fair with a cake and plant stall. The weather was a big improvement on last year – beautifully sunny and warm all day – so our members turned the event into an opportunity to socialise and enjoy catching up with friends. The plants – and our horticultural knowledge – proved popular and we made some excellent sales.

Our programme of our monthly meeting talks and subjects is always varied. July's was a demonstration of 'eco printing' by Fiona Balding, an excellent speaker who kept us well entertained. In August, our traditional outside social evening had to be swapped from a member's garden to the Village Hall because of the weather. The committee provided a buffet supper and some wine, which went down very well! To mix everyone up, we played human bingo, discovering who had been on TV or had run a marathon. Great fun was had by all! We always welcome new members and visitors to the WI, so if you want to know more please go to our website: www.colneyheathwi.com

Amanda Furlong

OAKLANDS COLLEGE

Local families needed to host Oaklands Wolves Academy students

In partnership with Hosts International, Oaklands College is offering local families the chance to host students from their Wolves Sports Academies through their Homestay Programme. By opening their homes to students, families can provide a safe and supportive environment – a home away from home – while enriching their own family's experience. They will play a crucial role in supporting the students' educational journeys.

At the same time families will gain valuable insights into different experiences within the UK, broadening their perspectives



and their understanding of various backgrounds. Hosting also provides financial support to help with household expenses and presents a unique opportunity for children to engage in an educational exchange that expands their horizons.

Getting involved is straightforward, with guidance provided every step of the way to ensure a rewarding experience for both the host family and the student. For information email: community@oaklands.ac.uk or visit **Hosts International**.

Homegrown harvest

The school year started with great excitement, in Year 1 particularly, as the children harvested the crop of potatoes they had grown over the summer. These were turned into a delicious feast of mashed potato. This simple activity has borne fruit in more ways than one.



© ColneyHeath JMI School 2024

The spoken language opportunities involved are vital for learning. It is the corner stone of reading, writing and all areas of learning. The children have asked questions, observed the potatoes as they grew, exclaimed excitedly as they dug up the crop and described the flavour and taste of the final mouthwatering mash!

This year across the school we are working particularly on oracy – the ability to communicate effectively in a range of situations, with different people and for a variety of purposes. It informs all areas of learning. We would love you to come and help us because giving our children the opportunity to communicate with people on a variety of topics will really help them to become confident.

If you think you would enjoy volunteering for this project, please get in touch. You might like to start with hearing the children read and chatting about a book? If you enjoy gardening, maybe you can talk with interested children as you care for plants – and our history curriculum is an ideal chance to share childhood memories too. Do get in touch if you feel you could help us and be part of next year's harvest!

Anne Clark, Head

The fight starts again

Since the last issue of The Kite, Brett Aggregates has indeed appealed against the County's decision to refuse them permission to quarry the old Hatfield Aerodrome site in Smallford Village, north of the Smallford roundabout. The consequent Inquiry is expected to last up to two weeks and will start on Tuesday 19th November. Much of our time to date has been spent in compiling and submitting evidence to the Inquiry, which has been on tight deadlines to enable it to be included in the Inquiry proceedings. We are working closely alongside the Parish Council and Ellenbrook Area Residents' Association to ensure that we are not duplicating submissions.

As for the SSRA Committee, I am pleased to report that we now have another member joining us, making 12 committee members. However, we really need some Sleapshyde residents to join so that their Village and residents' concerns and issues can be properly represented. If you want to join, please email: info@smallford.org

Steve Ross, Secretary SSRA



Book now for Christmas

As we move into Autumn and Winter, bookings are coming in for Saturday afternoon children's parties and grown-up parties in the evening. The Studio is ideal for smaller parties and with Christmas fast on its way it provides an ideal entertaining space. We have had several bookings in previous years for family groups too large to sit down to eat at home. With a well equipped kitchen, the Studio can cater for up to 20 people. The trustees have plans for improvements to the Village Hall which we hope to be able to report on in the next edition of The Kite.

To make a booking, please go to our website: www.colneyheathvillagehall.com/enquire

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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. Here **Patrick Brooks** from **St Albans Good Neighbourhood Scheme** talks about the charity's invaluable work in the community and the need for new volunteers.



St Albans Good Neighbour Scheme

Do you want to make a change in your local community?

St Albans Good Neighbour Scheme is looking for new volunteers



For over 40 years, the St Albans Good Neighbour Scheme has stood as a trusted charity supporting the local community. The Scheme helps residents who live in the following areas: St Albans, Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green, Colney Heath, London Colney, Park Street and Sandridge. Established in October 1980, it is run entirely by dedicated volunteers and the mission remains steadfast: to extend a helping hand to any local resident in need, particularly seniors facing health challenges, isolation, or difficult circumstances.

Today, with a team of 142 volunteers serving 1,208 clients, our reach continues to grow. The Scheme is proud to offer assistance; whether it's providing transportation to medical or social appointments, help with shopping, tackling household or garden tasks, or simply offering companionship to combat loneliness, we're here to lend a hand. Our helpline operates daily from 9:00am to 1:00pm, ensuring assistance is available every day of the year.

We are constantly seeking new volunteers to join us in various roles, including drivers, helpers for practical tasks, shoppers, companions, and duty officers managing our helpline. Any amount of time offered is welcomed with many volunteers taking on multiple roles and finding immense fulfillment in the impact they make on our clients' lives.

Interested in becoming part of our volunteer team or accessing our services as a client? Simply call or visit our website for more information:

Call 01727 830 713

www.stalbansgoodneighbourscheme.org.uk

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

COLNEY HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Cheers to friendships

Since our French friends returned home after the annual exchange, we have continued to enjoy the Summer. In June, a picnic in Leighton Buzzard was followed with a ride on the local railway. We had amazing weather, so it was good to have open-sided carriages as we trundled our way through the town to the outskirts, forcing traffic to stop at crossings!

On 14th September, we met at the Village Hall for Cocktails and Mocktails. Members and guests really enjoy this event and we have got the combination of cocktail making with snacks down to a fine art. Memories of the details are a bit hazy, but everyone seemed to enjoy it!



© John Clemow 2024

Our next event, open to all, is a Games Night with a Fish/Chicken & Chips dinner in the Village Hall on Saturday 9th November at 7.30pm. Bring along your favourite game and tipples. Tickets are £15. Call **01727 823 007** for information and to book.

At your service...

We warmly invite you to:

Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship – which is also live streamed.

Our Children and Young People's groups meet at the same time as the 10.30am service in the Church Centre, next to St Mark's church.

Harvest Services

Taking place on Sunday 6th October. All donated non-perishable food items will be given to a St Albans Foodbank.

Remembrance Service

Remembrance Sunday is on 10th November at 10.30am with the uniformed organisations. Last year this was also attended by residents and their families as well as Parish Councillors. Please do join us again.

Full details are at www.stmarkscolneyheath.co.uk



EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO THE BIG LUNCH

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Midday – 2pm

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A pop-up success!

We had our annual Heritage Open Day on Sunday 8th September and were blessed with some decent weather. We had a steady stream of visitors throughout – including our local MP Daisy Cooper and St Albans Mayor Jamie Day. Committee Member Roger Gray, looked after Daisy and Jamie and they enjoyed some delicious snacks from our pop-up café gurus, Pauline and Frances. If you've ever been along to one of our café events, you'll know how popular they are and, amazingly, we received well over £400 in donations from our generous supporters. Daisy was kind enough to post on our Facebook group page: "Lovely to chat to folk at the Smallford Station & Alban Way Heritage Society today."

Our AGM is on Friday 18th October starting at 7.30pm, in the Sapsed Room, The Manor House, Oaklands College, Hatfield Road, St Albans. Residents are very welcome to join us. As usual,



© Smallford Station and Alban Way Heritage Society

there will be a formal agenda with reports from our Chair, Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary. If you'd like to see our refurbished goods van body (and the weather is dry enough – last year we got soaked!) please arrive by 7pm. Refreshments and biscuits will be served. If you do plan to join us, please let us know via info@smallford.org as it will help with catering.

Jeff Lewis, Chair

It's kick-off time!



© Colney Heath FC 2024

As Autumn takes hold, it is pleasing to see the senior teams starting the new 2024/25 season as strongly as they finished the previous one. The men's first team have won three Spartan Premier matches from the first six and sit in the play-off positions in the division's early table. Although, sadly, the Magpies were eliminated at the first stage of the FA Cup losing 1-2 to Takeley from the Essex League, they made it through to the 2nd Qualifying Round of the FA Vase. They won on penalties in a great game against Stanway Rovers at the Recreation Ground on Saturday 21st September.

Colney Heath Ladies chose high-level opposition for their pre-season friendlies and the boldness seems to have paid off. Their opening match in the Eastern Region Women's Football League resulted in Sheree Oliver notching the decider to beat Stanway Pegasus 4-3. Their second match at this level against Cheshunt FC Women produced a stunning 17-1 win! Hat-tricks from Amy Phillips and Cally Salter and braces from Sophie Joseph and Olivia Corbett added to the tally of the 11 different goalscorers in a very one-sided display. They are now top of Division 1 South table.

Colney Heath U23s let slip a two goal lead in their inaugural Suburban League fixture versus Aylesbury Vale Dynamos, but have bounced back with a 2-2 draw at Berkhamsted before securing a 2-0 victory at Chalfont St Peter Development. Harley Fonti bagged both goals. The U18s have just started their league campaign and will have played their first competitive fixture in the FA Youth Cup versus Bishops Stortford at the beginning of the month.

Richard Smith, Chair, Colney Heath FC

PS. We've a great event coming up in October – our Music Quiz Night. It's always good fun, so if you fancy yourself as a popmaster, do come along.



Colney Heath FC © 2023 Nick Pettrit

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 Winter issue of The Kite: By 8th December please to Helen Vaux at hvaux@yahoo.co.uk

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