

Newsletter

EDITION 4 SEPTEMBER 2021



Communications Policy

It is the overall aim of Council to make communications a two-way process: to give people information to understand accurately what CHPC does, whilst also enabling CHPC to make informed decisions using information received from residents and partners.

Good communications will enable CHPC to:

- better understand the needs of the community and develop appropriate strategies and priorities
- raise residents' satisfaction, trust, and confidence by communicating about issues, services and opportunities in the parish, the district and region

- be an effective voice of the community
- maintain and enhance the reputation of CHPC
- proactively challenge inaccuracies and misrepresentations that might undermine the brand image or integrity of CHPC or the parish

Correspondence for CHPC should be addressed to the Clerk, who has overall responsibility for overseeing all communication with members of the community and outside bodies. The Clerk will respond officially in the name of CHPC, making it clear that the response is written in their official capacity and has been authorised by

the parish council and, as such, is not the Clerk's personal opinion.

As part of their role, Councillors will be regularly approached by members of the community, either in person, by telephone, email or letter. Regardless of the Councillor's individual views on any subject, Councillors must ensure that all communication with the public on council related matters reflects the decisions and policies of CHPC as a whole. If Councillors respond to any query on their own behalf, they should make it clear that it is their personal opinion and not that of the corporate body.

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Grants

Council approved an annual budget and grant allocation amount of £5,000 for 2021/22. The following grants have been awarded in the 1st round:

Colney Heath Primary School: £1000 towards a new piece of playground equipment to support children's physical and mental health.

Highfield Park Trust: £450 to create 'Wild about Highfield' signposts with the logo and QR code and 100 badges to be issued to attendees of the launch event.

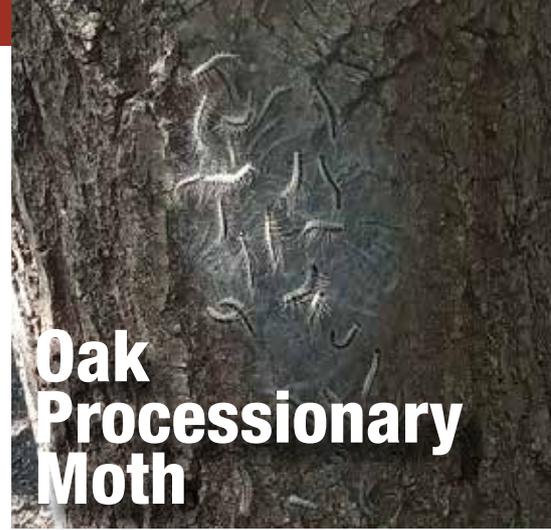
The period for 2nd round applications is open from 6th September; the deadline for submission is 1st November. Further details of the CHPC Grant Awarding Policy 2021/22 and application forms are available on the CHPC website (www.colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk) or by calling the parish office on **01727 825314**.

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All correspondence received by the Council's Clerk, staff or Members may be disclosed following a request under the Freedom of Information Act. If a member of the public requests a copy of any correspondence from a Councillor, the matter should be referred to the Clerk who will consider whether the correspondence is in the public domain.

While it is perfectly acceptable to exchange thoughts, ideas and information, Councillors should ensure they retain an open mind and avoid comments that might give the perception of having reached a conclusion or pre-determination of an issue prior to discussion at a Council Meeting. Correspondence to Councillors from the Clerk marked "Confidential" must be treated as such and not be disclosed to anyone.

Councillors may engage in robust debate at times and are expected to express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions, and policies. Doing these things in a respectful way will help to build and maintain healthy working relationships with fellow councillors, officers, and members of the public, it encourages others to treat you with respect and helps to avoid conflict and stress. Respectful and healthy working relationships and a culture of mutual respect can encourage positive debate and meaningful communication which in turn can increase the exchange of ideas, understanding and knowledge.



Oak Processionary Moth

The oak processionary is a non-native moth whose caterpillars feed on oak leaves, tending to favour oak trees in open grown settings. The caterpillars can pose a risk to human health causing skin irritation and asthma. Oak processionary moth (OPM) has been found in London and Hertfordshire.

OPM is a tree pest because its caterpillars feed on the leaves of several species of oak trees. This can leave trees more vulnerable to other pests and diseases, and to other stresses, such as drought.

Older caterpillars develop tiny hairs which can cause itching skin rashes and eye irritations, sore throats, breathing difficulties and, rarely, allergic reactions in people and animals. The risk of exposure to these hairs is highest in May and June.

The caterpillars can shed the hairs when threatened or disturbed. The hairs can be blown by the wind, and they accumulate in the caterpillars' nests, which can fall to the ground. They can stick to trunks, branches, grass and clothing.

If you spot the signs and symptoms of this pest:

- do not touch or approach OPM nests or caterpillars;
- do not let children or animals touch or approach nests or caterpillars;
- do not try removing nests or caterpillars yourself;
- see a pharmacist for relief from skin or eye irritations after suspected OPM contact or call NHS111 or see a doctor if you think you or someone in your care has had a serious allergic reaction - tell the doctor you suspect OPM contact; and
- report the sighting to the Forestry Commission via : <https://treealert.forestryresearch.gov.uk> (or email to opm@forestrycommission.gov.uk; or telephone to **0300 067 4442**.)

Meet the New Councillors



Graeme Shaw, Colney Heath Ward
I currently live in Highfield, where I have resided for the last 15

years, before which I lived in Colney Heath for 15 years with my wife and two children, both of whom attended Colney Heath JMI School.

I am a committed Christian and have attended St Mark's Church since 1983, but I am also involved in a number of other village organisations: I'm vice-president of the Twinning Association, Treasurer of the 4CH Residents Association and a Trustee of the Colney Heath Village Hall. My other interests included playing the piano, gardening and drama.

Prior to retiring last year, I worked for a large multi-national computing company, working in the retail sector, before setting up my own consultancy business.

I recently stood in the by-election to provide good and fair representation of the villages within the parish and ensure that the parish's income is spent effectively and efficiently in order to maximise community services.



Jane Llewellyn, Colney Heath Ward

I am a mother of 3 and have 5 grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 25. My

working life was spent self employed as a restaurant/pub owner and, when I retired 2 years ago, I was employed by the Inner Temple in the catering department. I have lived in Colney Heath village for 10 years so have a reasonable knowledge of the area.

I hope I will be able to have influence on some of the issues that concern residents. There is not enough for young people to do in the area. The bus service is very poor which affects both the young and elderly. We have to oppose building large housing estates in the area which is protected as the Green Belt for good reasons: the quality of the rural environment, the infrastructure is simply not able to cope, and the developers can't, or won't, provide the facilities and services that are required. I would also like to see more community events that bring people together.

I understand that about a third of the people in the ward lives on the northside of the A414 so I want to connect with all the residents.

New Bench

Following a gift of £200 from a resident towards a new bench to be sited on the Church Lane side of Colney Heath Common, an environmentally friendly recycled plastic two-seater bench has been ordered and will hopefully be installed soon. The resident did not wish to be named but hoped that visitors to the Common, particularly dog walkers, would use the bench as an opportunity to "Paws for Thought"!

REPORTING ISSUES

The County Council is responsible for issues such as grass verges, potholes, blocked drains, obstructions, graffiti, and broken paving slabs. If you are aware of any such problems around our parish, please report them by using **www.FixMyStreet.com**. Similarly, the Highways Authority are responsible for maintaining public footpaths and bridleways, so please also use **www.FixMyStreet.com** to report any problems such as obstructions or damage. Please see the contacts page at the back of the newsletter for contact details.



Tree Survey

Following receipt of the Parish Council commissioned tree risk assessment survey, extensive remedial works have been approved to be carried out on several trees over the coming months. In Colney Heath, work will be taking place on the Common, the Recreation Ground and Roestock Park. There will also be tree and hedge management at Tyttenhanger and Sleafshyde Parks.

ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

In anticipation of tree planting this Autumn, we had the opportunity to visit Sandridge Parish in May to meet with members of their Council to be shown where and how they have planted trees over the past few years. They planted apple, pear and plum, infilled with hawthorn and blackthorn and in a separate area planted oak and whitebeam tree whips as dense planting. It was very informative and I would like to thank Councillors John Hale and Jennifer Roberts and Facilities Manager Rebecca Pannese for their time and advice.

Beating the Bounds took place on Sunday 30th May (delayed due to COVID restrictions). Parish Councillors, a District Councillor and members of the public met the Common Ranger who took us on a two hour walk around the Common and Warren on a sunny afternoon. It was a lovely opportunity to meet parishioners and gain some local historical knowledge.

One resident has raised their concern over garden/grass cuttings which they had observed had been disposed of in the river on the Common. Anything deposited in the river could exacerbate potential flooding during the winter months. St Albans District Council are now charging for removing green waste and it may be tempting to find an alternative means of disposal, but to do so on the Common would be considered as fly tipping. There are household recycling centres in St Albans, Cole Green and Potters Bar which all take garden waste without charge.

In respect of flooding on the Common, we recently had an on-site meeting with 3 members of the Environment Agency who came to visit the area with the intention

of potentially offering advice as to whether any action could be taken to alleviate future flooding risks. We walked along the riverbank inspecting any possible obstacles to free-flowing waters and await a report from the EA on their findings. The EA representatives have expressed an interest in revisiting in the winter to witness the flooding first-hand.

Social media and a parishioner's email made me aware of drone activity over several weekends in May on the Common. The Clerk pointed out in responding to the email that the Parish Council do not allow this activity as part of the bylaws but it is very hard to enforce as usually by the time the Council have been notified the users have moved on. However, if residents observe this as a regular activity, please inform the Parish office with as much detail as possible in order to ascertain whether any action can be taken.

In order to prevent vehicular access to the Common, it has been necessary to install some additional bollards at certain entry points. I have received a number of emails from horse riders who have found that the bollards prevent safe access to the Common by riders from the Coursers Road side due to the width restriction. The Parish Council's priority is to prevent vehicle access onto the Common due to recent incursions, but we are enquiring as to whether it may be possible to move the bollards to accommodate riders whilst still restricting vehicles.

As part of the Great British Spring Clean, we tried to organise a litter pick for 6th June across the whole Parish. However, due to a poor response, a decision was made to cancel the event, but I would like to thank those 4 residents who did offer to take part.



FOOD BANK – Crisis Payments

Colney Heath Parish Council has become a Referral Agency for the St Albans and District Foodbank, an organisation that provides emergency food and support to people in need.

To receive food bank assistance:

1. the person should be in a position where they are unable to afford food (that is, having minimal food and insufficient means to purchase adequate food in the immediate term) or be demonstrably at imminent risk of being unable to afford food.
2. the person's situation should be the result of an identifiable current crisis.
3. the person's circumstances should be known directly to

the referral agency or the agency should be experienced in assessing the needs of members of the public and determining the support they require.

4. the person has not already received food bank assistance three times for the specific crisis unless specific arrangements for further support have been made with the food bank project manager.

Parish residents can apply for foodbank vouchers for short-term crisis relief by emailing clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk or by contacting the parish office on **01727 825314**. This initiative is not funded by CHPC.



Fairy Door Trail

The fairy door trail on Colney Heath Common is now in place and we hope that residents – both young and slightly older – will enjoy the adventure of fairy door spotting. A leaflet is available from the CHPC website or by calling the parish office on **01727 825314**.



For free local delivery contact
Nicky Packman
 Independent Distributor of
 Forever Living Products
07973 102313
nicky@nickypackman.com
www.shop.nickypackman.com

We're still here to help

Our offices remain closed, but you can still get advice.

Call us on: **01727 811 118**

Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm, Friday 10am to 1pm
 Or Hertfordshire Adviceline free on:
0800 144 8848

Call us with Relay UK, if you can't hear or speak on the phone:
18001 then **01727 811 118**
 Visit the Relay UK website for information

To chat to an adviser online or email us, visit our website:
castad.org.uk

For general information visit:
citizensadvice.org.uk

We offer free and confidential advice on debt and money, benefits, housing, reducing energy bills, work, relationships, help with Blue Badge and other form filling, and more.

Updated: March 2021





Communities 1st Volunteers from Colney Heath completing thousands of hours in local Vaccination Centres!

As we adjust to the 'new-normal' across the UK, we are continually reflecting on the achievements of our thousands of volunteers, that give up their time each and every day. Our volunteers have now surpassed 130,000 hours of Vaccination Centre Volunteering, which over the course of 7 months averages to nearly 20,000 hours a month – an unbelievable achievement.

In particular, our volunteers from Colney Heath have been busy taking on important roles such as Front of House, Steward and Administration in many vaccination centres across Hertfordshire. The vaccination centres based in St Albans Batchwood and the Alban Arena have seen the largest uptake of Colney Heath volunteers, with thousands of hours undertaken at each site.

“St Albans has a wonderful dedicated team of volunteers. It’s a positive and rewarding experience.”
– Jane (Vaccination Volunteer at Batchwood)

Here at Communities 1st, we’ve gradually seen our friends and family make their way to their local vaccination centre to receive their jabs. The feedback on volunteer support received and efficiency of the process has been fantastic, with many nervous attendees leaving comfortable and assured.

“(The volunteers and staff) greeted him, took him off to a quieter area and supported him ... Afterward the doctors went and got him a diet coke and some biscuits. Their patience and time was really appreciated.” - Joanna (Mother of one patient who needed extra care at Batchwood)

Now that we’re days away from the final stages of the re-opening process, we would like to emphasize our new and exciting volunteering opportunities, including our litter-picking programme that aims to keep the parks of St. Albans clean and sustainable for years to come. With the summer season well under way, we hope to offer more new and exciting ways to volunteer, all whilst enjoying the sunshine!

If you or someone you know would like to participate as a vaccination centre volunteer or explore one of our many other volunteering opportunities, they can visit: www.communities1st.org.uk/volunteer-information, email: volunteer@communities1st.org.uk, or call: 020 3940 4865.

Community Bus

The Council plan to re-introduce the weekly community bus service running every Thursday from Colney Heath to Hatfield from 7th October 2021. Passengers are collected from their homes from 9.45am and returned around noon and, in the past, have used the time to shop at Asda and other stores, visit the bank or post office, or just have coffee and cake in a café.

From October, the return journey

will cost £3. The service is available to every adult in the parish not just senior citizens. Child-seat laws prevent us allowing children of any age on the bus. Non-motorised wheelchair passengers are welcome.

To book a seat on the bus, passengers must contact Sue Walsh-Havens, Assistant to the Clerk on **01727 825314** or **swalshhavens@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk** by 5pm on the TUESDAY before the

Thursday on which they wish to travel. So, for the first trip on Thursday 7th October, please make your booking on Monday 4th or Tuesday 5th October.

The bus is crewed by DBS-checked volunteers – one driver and one courier per trip. If you are interested in joining the rota of volunteers, please contact Sue Walsh-Havens, Assistant to the Clerk on **01727 825314** or **swalshhavens@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk**.



Highfield Park Trust celebrates its 25th Anniversary

On Sunday 18th July, Highfield Park Trust, the independent charity that manages Highfield Park, celebrated its 25th Anniversary.

Despite being oppressively hot, staff and trustees were determined to mark the occasion in a special way for the many supporters, volunteers and ex-employees who attended.

Almost 100 people gathered to hear the Mayor of the City and District of St Albans Edgar Hill open proceedings by explaining the origins of the park in the 1990s. Hill End and Cell Barnes Hospitals were shut and the Council

chose to create a Charitable Trust to manage the now 82-acre rural park, rather than following the traditional, local authority managed model. At the time this was considered to be an innovative and brave move, but it has proved to be hugely successful. St. Albans now benefits from a beautiful and well managed greenspace, without any burden on its taxpayers.

Tim Abbott, the current Chair, then spoke of the community spirit and volunteering effort that makes the Trust special. He thanked everybody

who had contributed to its success over the last 25 years and outlined some exciting plans for the future.

St Albans MP, Daisy Cooper, then revealed a plaque to commemorate the event and cut a beautifully crafted (and very tasty) cake.

Throughout the afternoon, the BSV Jazz Band kept everybody entertained.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable event which allowed many old friends to come together for the first time in a long while.

Bring on the next 25 years!

TRESTLE THEATRE COMPANY



40 years of education and innovation

Trestle is a mask and physical theatre company that has been making innovative physical theatre since its inception in 1981. Through their internationally renowned mask and physical theatre practice, Trestle aims to open up opportunities for everyone to engage with the arts, unleash their creativity, and increase confidence and general wellbeing through participation.

The Company has been situated in their home in the renovated former chapel in Russet Drive, Highfield Park since 2002. Today they run Trestle Arts Base as a hub for their work and other community arts programmes. Regularly attended by over 100 members of the public each week, Trestle Arts Base offers a wide range of creative classes, workshops and events both directly run by Trestle and other creative groups.

Trestle also make and export their masks to companies and

educational institutions around the world, delivering high-quality training and workshops to theatre-makers, teachers and schoolchildren.

The exhibition *Behind the Mask* charts the history of the company and invites the public to discover the extraordinary theatre and education work that they have created over the past four decades. Currently installed at the St Albans Museum + Gallery, the exhibition is open to the public until 5th September 2021 before moving online.

Trestle's Creative Director, Helen Barnett, said: "The feedback for *Behind the Mask* Exhibition so far has been wonderful and we are delighted to be offering workshops throughout the summer. We hope it will allow more people to experience the work we do and get involved".

Visit www.trestle.org.uk for full information on the Trestle Theatre Company.



Cassiobury Court is a rehabilitation clinic based in Watford, which specialises in the treatment of mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, as well as substance and behavioural addictions. They are currently offering a free helpline to advise anyone who is struggling with depression, anxiety, and addiction. The helpline allows you to talk to people who have faced the plights of mental health issues and addiction themselves, giving you the best advice for your next steps and allowing you to speak to someone who knows exactly what you're going through.

Helpline: **01923 369 161**

Web: cassioburycourt.com

Behind The Mask

Celebrating 40 years of Trestle Theatre Company



This FREE exhibition opens on the 17th May at the St Albans Museum + Gallery, followed by a digital exhibition opening late 2021.



Supported using public funding by
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MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES
TRUST**



Would you like to advertise your business or event in future editions of the Colney Heath Parish newsletter?

The newsletter is to be published three times a year, with a circulation to approximately 2,500 households across the three Wards of the Parish. Costs are £25 for a quarter page, £50+VAT for a half page and £100+ VAT for a full page advert. Full details of the advertising rates and policy can be found on the Parish Council website or call the office on **01727 825314**.



COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Highfield Park Office
Hill End Lane
St Albans, AL4 0RA

Colney Heath Village Office

83 High Street
St Albans, AL4 0NS

www.colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk



CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: **01727 825314**

Clerk & RFO, Lisa Chaplin:

clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Assistant to the Clerk, Sue Walsh-Havens:

swalshhavens@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Finance Officer, Michele Gilbert:

mgilbert@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

COLNEY HEATH WARD

Cllr Slaughter:

cllrslaughter@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Shaw

CllrShaw@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Llewellyn

CllrLlewellyn@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

• Vacancy as of 29th July 2021

HIGHFIELD WARD

Cllr Barnes:

cllrbarnes@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Cook:

cllrcook@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Solts:

cllrsolts@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Mulroney:

cllrmulroney@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

HILL END WARD

Cllr H Brazier:

cllrhbrazier@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

ST ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Civic Centre
St Peters Street
St Albans
AL1 3JE

Tel: **01727 866100**

Email: contactus@stalbens.gov.uk

Website: St Albans City and District Council

To sign up for a District Council account where you can report issues directly to the District Council uploading photographs and locations please go to: www.stalbens.gov.uk/mystalbensdistrictaccount/

To report missing, damaged or cannot be read easily street name plates email: streetnameplates@stalbens.gov.uk or telephone **01727 819392**.

To order or request information on recycling Bins email: A.CleanerDistrict@stalbens.gov.uk

To report or discuss fly-tipping email: wastemanagementservices@stalbens.gov.uk

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DQ

Tel: **0300 123 4040**

Website: Hertfordshire County Council

To report issues with roads (including pot holes), cycle paths, pavements and lighting, use the following link – www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting/ or email: Highways.customerservices@hertfordshire.gov.uk

For information on road closures, use the following link – <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/roadworks-and-road-closures/roadworks-and-road-closures.aspx>

Please note that many meetings and events could be cancelled, postponed or changed, sometimes at very short notice. Always check with the Parish Office or event organisers for the latest updates.

PUBLIC OPENING HOURS:

Highfield Park Office: Every weekday 10am – 12.30pm

Colney Heath Village Office: by appointment only.

If you wish to meet or discuss specific parish issues with the Clerk an appointment can be made for you by calling or emailing the office.

FULL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2020/21

23 Sept 2021	24 Feb 2022
21 Oct 2021	24 Mar 2022
25 Nov 2021	21 Apr 2022
16 Dec 2021	8 Apr 2022 (Annual Parish Electorate Mtg)
13 Jan 2022	

All Council, HR Committee and Finance & Governance Committee meetings will be held in the main hall of Colney Heath Primary School, High Street Colney Heath AL4 0NP and Environment Committee meetings will be held in the Atrium of Highfield Park Trust Visitor Centre, Hill End Lane AL4 0RA.