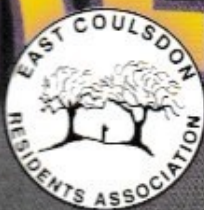


THE REVIEW



EAST COULSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



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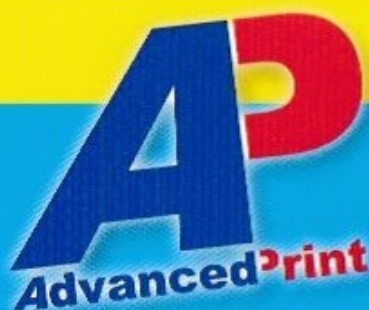
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Vice Chair	Mrs Gill Hickson 6 Mead Way, CR5 1PG	ghilly1@virginmedia.com
Secretary & Website	Mrs Maureen Levy 22 Fairdene Road, CR5 1RA	mcb.l@btinternet.com Tel: 01737 555231
Treasurer	Mr Michael Ryan	Tel: 01883 344203
Review Editors	Mrs Alison Sleight Mr Eric Jenkinson CVO OBE	alisonsleight74@gmail.com jenkinsoneric@hotmail.com
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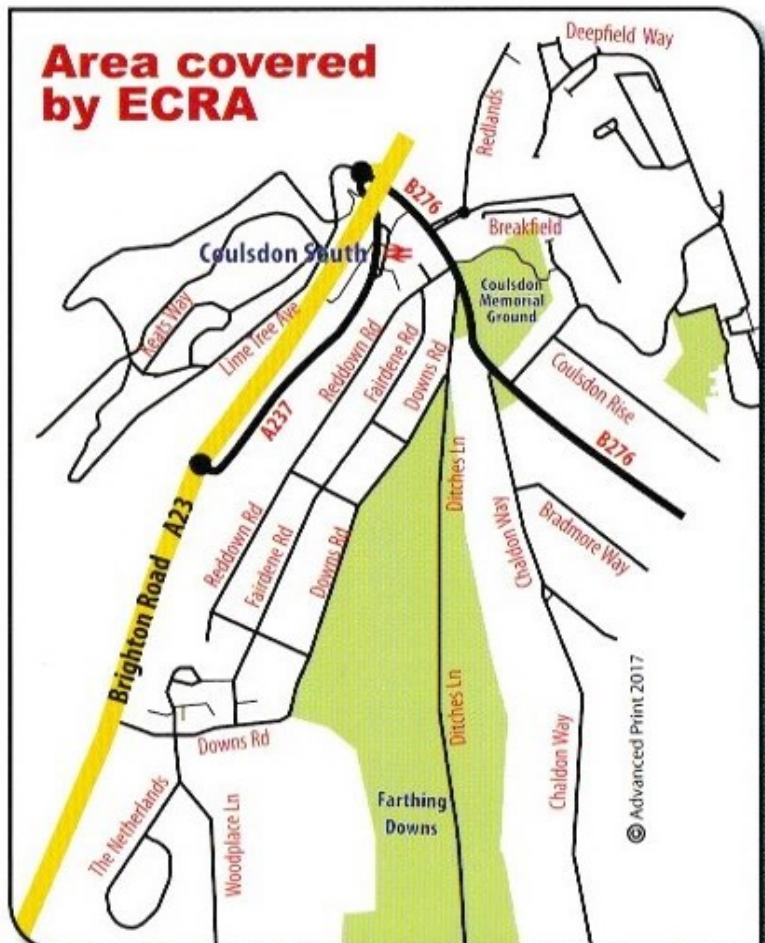
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Area covered by ECRA



Editorial

by Alison Sleight

Libraries: Croydon have not yet announced their re-opening plans for libraries, but have confirmed that all loans have been renewed until 1st September 2020. Don't forget to explore their online options, which offer access to ebooks and audiobooks via BorrowBox. Visit the Croydon Council website for full details:

www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/library-closures-coronaviruscovid-19

Schools across England continue to work tirelessly to provide an education to children in these difficult circumstances. Children of key-workers and those considered vulnerable are still attending school. In primary schools, Reception, Years 1 and 6 have returned whilst in Secondary schools Years 10 and 12 who will be sitting public exams in Summer 2021 are being offered opportunities to return to school and increased remote provision. The expectation is that all school children will return full time from September.

With so many local events still cancelled or indefinitely postponed, we have not included our What's On? page in this issue. The Friends of Marlpit Lane Bowling Green have re-opened, weekends only for the time being and many of our local café's restaurants and coffee shops are finding a way to welcome back customers. **The Review:** Some of you may not have seen the electronic version which we produced in May. We were delighted to have so much positive feedback on this issue and will look at whether it is feasible to continue producing an electronic version for circulation alongside the hard copy in future. The May issue is still available on our website: www.eastcoulson.co.uk/the-review/

In Memoriam Robert Bird



Robert had been treasurer of ECRA for several years prior to his passing from cancer last October, a role he embraced with gusto and thoroughly enjoyed. He had lived in Old Coulsdon since 1983 with his wife Margaret Bird and in their present home since 1987. He retired in 2012, after 42 years with the same company. He wanted to volunteer at the Olympics, having grandiose ideas he would be playing a pivotal role at the centre of the stadium. In reality, he was miles away in the West End opening car doors for dignitaries and didn't see any of the action until he returned home

and turned on the television. It was a great disappointment to him and he received a lot of ribbing from his family, but he was determined to see it though and fulfilled his commitment like he always did with everything.

When he moved into their present home, Robert embraced the large garden and spent many hours out there tending to the lawn and hedges. His other garden pastime was sitting on his bench alongside his pond, watching his fish, and having a crafty cigarette also played a part in the enthusiasm. In the summer of 2017, he started to dig a second pond at the bottom of the garden once he had removed a hazelnut tree. The findings, a fireplace, and what appeared to be an entire bathroom suite kept him busy. Unfortunately, this was a project he never got to complete, but all through his rounds of chemo he still managed his Treasurer duties to nearly the end. He has left behind a wife of 40 years, three children and one grandchild. His booming voice and humour are very much remembered and missed by all who knew him.

VJ Day – The Ending of WWII in the Far East

by Maureen Levy

As VJ day approaches it brings to mind my Father, who was liberated from the Japanese Prisoner of War camp in which he was held. I shall be getting out and hanging up the same Union Jack flag which my mother hung out when my father came back from captivity after more than three and a half years as a prisoner of the Japanese, the same flag which I hung up on VE Day earlier this year.



Edward John Joyce (Ted) was born in Peckham in 1908 and my mother's mother – Gran R, who was the local midwife – actually attended his birth. He and my mother went to the Our Lady of Sorrows convent school. He was the second eldest of seven brothers, soon to become the eldest when his eldest brother Michael died of TB not long after marrying his childhood sweetheart. He took on the mantle of the eldest brother to make provision for his family and was a hard worker. He had various jobs, but after the First World War times got hard and he, along with many other young men, joined the forces. He joined the East Surrey Regiment in June 1926 and was almost immediately sent to India where he remained for nine years and became a first class cook. My mother wrote to him the whole time he was there. He returned to England in 1936 and they married on the 26th December of that year. He left the army and got a job with the GPO.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, as an ex regular soldier, he was a reservist and was immediately called up to return to his old Regiment of the East Surreys to fight in what was termed the Phoney War. He was soon in Europe with the British Expeditionary Force who were pushed back to the beaches of Dunkirk. Thank goodness for those little ships which took so many men off the beach and returned them safely to England. He immediately went to my mother and sister still soaking wet and covered in sand and muck, but was not allowed to touch the baby until he was clean. A few days leave and back to army camp. He and his regiment were almost immediately deployed to The Far East to protect British interests there. The regiment were deployed to Malaya and they fought in the jungle until he, with the remains of his regiment, was taken prisoner on the 15th December. My Mother was told he was missing, presumed dead, and did not find out he was alive until two years later.

Those that survived were held captive throughout the war. He was liberated from the camp two weeks after the surrender of Japan. During this time as a prisoner he was on Changi jail and he worked on the Railway of Death and the famous Bridge over the River Kwai where, it is said, a prisoner died for every yard of the railway which was laid. Malaria and dysentery were prevalent, a quarter of the prisoners died in captivity. The rest returned home sick and damaged.

(continued on page 6)

VJ Day – The Ending of WWII in the Far East

(continued from page 5)

The war was finally over in the Far East on 15th August 1946, but he was not liberated until the 29th August 1946. After three months of being hospitalised he returned home in December 1946 weighing only seven stones. He was met at Waterloo Station by his boisterous family, including my sister who was then six years old who he had only previously seen as a six-month-old baby when he returned from the beaches of Dunkirk. After a while, he went back to his old job as an Inspector with the GPO which had been held open for him. He did not have a good war and he was never a well man with very poor eyesight and 100% war disability pension. He rarely spoke of his years of captivity

After twelve years at the GPO he came to live with me. *Some of you may have tasted the cakes that I bake due to his teaching.* During this time, we were taking in foreign students and were offered Japanese students who I going to refuse as I did not want to upset Dad. He heard, and I was astonished to hear him say “*Take them, Maureen. It was the parents’ and not the children’s fault.*” I was amazed at his forgiveness. He lived with us for nine years and then he went to Queen Alexandra Hospital Home for ex-servicemen in Worthing for the last three years of his life. He died aged 75 on Easter Sunday 1984 and is buried in the military section of Worthing Cemetery.

Reflections of a Teacher in a World Pandemic

by Mrs Julie Wilshaw, Oasis Academy Byron



Friday 20th March 2020 was the day our Byron school closed as we knew it. Those initial days of lockdown were filled with uncertainty and fear as the enormity of what was evolving began to unfold. Our staff all worked brilliantly as a team to re-structure our school so we could safely take care of the key worker children, some of whose parents were nurses, doctors, shop assistants, care workers, all working together to keep our

country running in the face of adversity.

After the initial lockdown the staff ~~that~~ were able to return to look after an initial 23 key worker children covering a wide range of ages from reception to year 6. Children had to be reminded how to wash their hands thoroughly and keep a social distance of 2m from each other and ourselves to keep each other safe. They were very anxious times for everyone; however, we adapted to the changes and worked as a team. Trying to teach across a wide age range and interact with the children from a social distance of 2m is extremely challenging ! At that stage our main aim was to keep all of us safe, and happy while still trying to manage our own families at home who were all isolated.

(continued on page 7)

Reflections of a Teacher in a World Pandemic

(continued from page 6)

The roads on the way to work were silent, the pavements deserted, it was a very eerie atmosphere as we all felt we were living in a very surreal world. We used our time to teach the children how to plant vegetables, potatoes, peas, tomatoes, in our lovely edible playground and why food was so important to keep us all healthy and alive.

The staff working with the children found we had more time to talk to the children about their personal thoughts and feelings and reassure them they were safe. We thought of creative activities to help come to terms with the huge changes to their lives and our school. Every afternoon was spent enjoying the warm sunshine, looking at cloudless blue skies, birds sang with extra gusto, trees bloomed, butterflies flourished, we talked about what was happening. Suddenly we had more time to pause, reflect and feel grateful for our beautiful school nested in the leafy suburbs of London, keeping us all safe, protecting us from the crazy world outside.

By the beginning of June, we began to prepare for the concept of 'bubbles'. Classes were limited to a maximum of 6 pupils due to social distancing. We had to adjust to wearing masks and using infrared forehead thermometers to greet children at the school gate. Tapes were placed on the edge of the tables indicating where pupils had to sit. I've become really attached to my Year 6 'bubbles', I've watched them grow and mature as they have adjusted to living in a world pandemic. Their personal interests have developed they have continued to develop a curious mind about their strange, new world and how to handle it. They've become even more interested in politics, philosophy, global warming, history, geography and art as they have had more time to explore what interests them without the usual time pressured curriculum we had before, preparing for SATS. They've become respectful of each other, formed good friendships as they prepare for high school in an uncertain world. Most importantly they have become resilient, adaptable, caring and considerate young human beings. We've had more time to enjoy a more creative curriculum, develop their physical fitness, and discuss their mental health as we walk or run the daily mile.



This is an amazing opportunity for change to create a more caring, nurturing education system for the future of our country which helps develop good mental health, important life skills and resilience to help children deal with the full impact of this incredibly challenging period of history. As a staff we have been creative, resilient, patient and understanding. We've laughed together, cried together, stood by each other through the most tumultuous time in the history of our country. I'm proud to be a member of such a wonderful staff creating special memories that will live with us all for ever.

What's Happening in and Around Coulsdon

by Charles King

The main issue to hit Coulsdon has clearly been the Coronavirus (Covid-19) which was followed by the lockdown from the 23rd March 2020 to the 14th June when non-essential shops were allowed to open. From 4th July 2020 among the places that could open included : Cinemas, Museums, Galleries, Hairdressers, Pubs, Restaurants and places of Worship. Social distancing must remain in place but was reduced from 2metres to 1metre plus. ECRA have estimated that around 70 shops and businesses in and around Coulsdon managed to stay open in some form. While many of the restaurants were able to convert their businesses to Take Away service. We have written and thanked them all along with thanking NHS, transport, and emergency service workers. Please support our local shops.



It is nice to see the majority of shops open and people back in the centre of Coulsdon both during the day and evening. Although there is still queuing at the shops, there is no longer the panic buying and empty shelves at the local supermarkets. The streets have been marked out for social distancing. The biggest change has been the accelerated move to on-line shopping. Online grocery sales have doubled. Our roads are now filled with white delivery vans day and night

There have been a few changes in the town centre during this period Café Time at the northern end of the town has become Desperados now selling fresh fruit and vegetables as well as coffee and the Big Panda Chinese has changed to the Bombaylicious Indian takeaway The closed Purnell and Powell shop is being converted-as a Nail Parlour



The local Waitrose Coulsdon on-line distribution depot which services south and central London has taken on addition employees from John Lewis and local agencies to cope with a massive increase in on-line sales. As a result, they have brought forward the opening of their second distribution centre in Enfield to serve north London to September.

Construction sites were a mixture with both Barratts and Haxted closing down on Cane Hill, while the site in Station Approach Road continued. Smaller sites were also mixed depending on the individual builder. **Cane Hill:** sites had a phased return from Monday 18th May. The first apartments in the admin block should be completed by the end of the year and all by the Easter. The water tower should be finalised at the early part of 2021. Work is still ongoing in the chapel. It is hoped to arrange visits for interested people in September.

(continued on page 9)

What's Happening In and Around Coulsdon

(continued from page 8)



Historic Blue Plaque walk: ECRA have created a blue plaque walk from Old Coulsdon to Coulsdon passing all nine Bourne Society blue plaques in Coulsdon full details on the ECRA website:

www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk/information/coulsdon-history

Marlpit Lane Bowling Green and Putting opened on 5th July 2020, initially on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only. Social distancing measured have been implemented in order to allow people to play. For Group booking please contact Maureen on 017137 555231. Cream teas can also be arranged at the Poppy Café. **The Bourne Water** at the rear of Coulsdon South which started on the 8th January 2020 stopped flowing on Tuesday 12th May 2020. Flowing for 126 days in total. The longest recorded flow in Coulsdon was in November 1968 to June 1969 of 211 days. **St John's Church Bells** have now been silent for several months. A special recording was put on YouTube to commemorate VE day on 8th May 2020. For those that are missing the Church Bells of St John's church. You can still hear the recording on YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wZAPbtUFv4



The Council have cleared an area of grass from **Bradmore Green** with the intention of creating a wildflower meadow. The Second-hand Furniture shop at Lacy Green has been taken over by the local **Coughlans Bakery**.



BrickbyBrick the council owned building and development subsidiary. At **Homefield House** Old Coulsdon called Windmill Close are now complete and are being handed over to occupants. the block of flats has been purchased by the council as Key Worker accommodation. The site has turned out to be a very nice development. TOLLERS is progressing after social distancing measures were introduced. As part of the development on the old CALAT site, the NHS have now appointed consultants to assess the requirements for a Medical centre for Coulsdon. Work is due to start on Lion Green in the near future.

COVID-19 Pandemic Working in the NHS Frontline

by Nurse Frances Garratty



As a nurse working at St Helier hospital during this pandemic. I have seen first hand the effect Covid-19 has had on patients and colleagues. As nurses we have had to adapt to the way we work some of my colleagues had to move into hotels to protect vulnerable family members. In addition, I have witnessed the way the NHS has had to rapidly change the way it works in order to accommodate the vast number of patients requiring care due to Covid-19.

I am proud of how the NHS coped with the huge impact that Covid-19 has had on it and the rapid changes the hospital had to make to accommodate the virus. This included changing the function of wards (e.g. making Covid-19 and non Covid-19 wards and areas), the staff being moved from non-patient facing areas to clinical areas and the constant review and amending of procedures and controls to meet changing government guidelines as we learnt more about the virus.

A change that had a huge impact on patients was the no visiting rule, which has now been relaxed. To try and combat the effect of not having visitors' colleagues and the trust put in place ways for patients to communicate with loved ones. I saw colleagues charging patients phones and making sure they knew how use their phones to stay in touch with their loved ones. Doctors and nurses also rang patients' relatives to keep them updated regarding their care and condition. During this time my colleagues and I have been overwhelmed with the kindness and generosity shown to NHS staff by members of the public and commercial sector. This has ranged from food parcels being delivered to the hospital, discounts in shops and clapping for carers, which me and all my colleagues have been very grateful for. I would also like to acknowledge that there are other key workers who have continued to work throughout the pandemic who should also be thanked.

I myself have not knowingly caught the virus but a number of my colleagues have tested positive for Coronavirus. This has undoubtedly caused concern and worry of the risk of taking it home to their families. Personally, I am thankful to have been able to continue going to work to support my family and have contact with colleagues outside the house. Obviously, there has been concern for me that I may bring the virus home to my daughter and husband in Coulsdon, but thankfully we have all remained healthy through this time. The country now appears to be in a much better place in respect of Covid 19, let's hope this continues.



ECRA would like to thank Frances and all her colleagues for the fantastic work they are doing for us all in the NHS. Looking after the sick with compassion and understanding, while often putting their own lives in danger helping us combat Coronavirus pandemic.



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A Local Business Coping with COVID-19

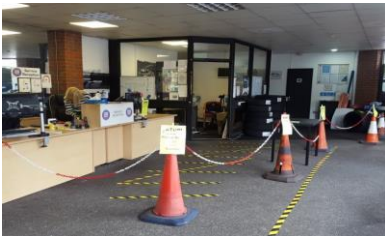
by Alex Martin



Cars4You Direct is a family MOT, Service and Repairs garage. Husband and wife team Nigel and Alex were established in Coulsdon for 19 years, where they still live. With the re-development of the Pinewood site we had to re-locate up to Caterham on the hill in April 2013. Throughout the Covid outbreak we have been on a roller-coaster of emotions. Initially there were a few days of real uncertainty, and a lot of hurried anxious staff meetings; how could we continue to pay everyone with no money

coming in ? We hastily came up with a sketchy plan, then huge relief with the job-retention scheme and local government grant. However, even then we suspected it was not going to be over in a matter of a few weeks. How would we cope over the medium term? The cost is not just financial; we cannot underestimate the stress on individuals, worrying about their jobs as well as family.

Then came the very strong government message "stay at home". The staff were really torn, should they stay at work or stay at home, as the government were saying. Again, meetings to discuss and agree, until the clarification a few days later that our business was one of the few deemed essential. Then the Government introduced the 6 month MOT extension. This was the final straw for most of our competitors, many shut for over a month. During the next 6 weeks we had half our staff furloughed and the remaining staff coping with sometimes next to nothing and then with large numbers of broken cars waiting for unavailable parts! Driving into work at the beginning of lock-down we were all feeling tense, almost guilty at driving along deserted roads, avoiding the increasing number of pedestrians and cyclists many of whom had clearly never taken a cycling proficiency exam! All seeming as if they wanted to ask - "should you be driving?" Each night driving home listening to the increasing numbers of new cases and deaths was very worrying.



In our profession the mechanics wear gloves. The real change happened at reception; A separate table for customers to put/collect keys and paperwork. All keys taken off keyrings and sanitised. Demarking the distance from the staff grew from a line of tape, tyres and finally a chain-link barrier. Despite this, more people than you would imagine still climb past to get to the staff! Our collection and delivery service is

more popular than ever. Now we wear gloves and sanitise surfaces in the car before returning. There is still a strong sense of responsibility in delivering cars back to very vulnerable customers safely, often posting keys through letter boxes to limit exposure. We reached a point when gloves were suddenly very hard to purchase, tripling in price and just like everyone else, we struggled to buy hand sanitiser. However, we were still able to donate several rolls of disposable seat covers to the NHS, delivered direct to hospitals

A Local Business Coping with COVID-19

(continued from page 15)



Enterprise car rental closed many branches including ours within a week or so and they remain closed. The upside is that now we had more room on-site for all the broken cars awaiting parts. With main dealers closed and all other suppliers down to one delivery a day. We sometimes had to drive to them to get parts. Tyres are an increasing part of our business but, without exporting to China, no one is collecting the old tyres. We have had to come up with many creative solutions! A local NHS home had several from us to create planters!

One member of staff now works entirely remotely as their partner remains very vulnerable, which created us some technical challenges to enable this. Another staff member had to isolate right at the outset when their partner had COVID, but otherwise, no one is aware of actually having been ill with it. So, we count ourselves very fortunate to have so far avoided the actual illness. But we remain vigilant to the on-going risks and will continue to adapt to this very fast changing environment. In particularly Oct - Feb 2021 when there will be effectively double the number of MOTs and the associated rectification work. With each challenge our staff and customers have been brilliant in supporting us and it has demonstrated a real can-do attitude which is so reminiscent of this society at times of adversity. A big thankyou to everyone from us. **Remember you must have a valid MOT from the 1st August 2020 now is the time to get it done.**

The Humble Postbox

by Charles King

The Coronavirus pandemic has caused many of us to learn new ways of communicating, these include WhatsApp, Facebook, Skype, MS Teams and Zoom to name a few. However, one older form of communication has been a life saver to many of us. That is the humble post box and our postal staff who have continued to collect from our streets and deliver to our houses throughout the pandemic.

When Roland Hill introduced the Penny Post in 1840 it opened the post to everybody. At that time to post a letter you would have to take it to the Post Office as you would at Coulsdon's first Post Office at Cherry Tree Cottage in Coulsdon Road from 1851. The alternative in larger towns was to look out for the Bellman who walked through the town ringing his bell collecting letters from the public. As the volume of letters increased there had to be a better way. The soon-to-be novelist Antony Trollope worked for the Post Office as Surveyor's clerk and his duties took him across the channel to Belgium and France where he saw roadside letter boxes. He proposed these were adopted in Britain in 1852 the first cast iron boxes were installed in Jersey and then Guernsey. The boxes in the Channel isles were red, but when they were rolled out across Britain in 1859 the Post Office decided they should be green (as they are today in Ireland). However, after complaints that they were not obvious enough in 1874 they decided that they would be returned to Red as they are today.

(continued on page 17)

The Humble Postbox

(continued from page 16)

Other colours were later used Blue for airmail and of course there are a number of Gold post boxes in the towns where the 2012 Olympic Gold medallists come from (*our nearest being Wallington*). As it is Royal Mail all post boxes have a Royal Crown and contain the initials and cypher of the reigning monarch at the time of installation, the exception being in Scotland where Elizabeth II is Elizabeth I and in the 1950s boxes with ER II were destroyed by nationalists. After this Scottish post boxes just bear a Scottish Crown.

Post Boxes in Coulsdon As the development of Coulsdon took place in three main eras the majority of post boxes will have one of the following three Monarch's initials and cyphers.



From left to right:

George V from
1910-1936

George VI from
1936 -1952

Elizabeth II from
1952 – today

However, there are some unusual post boxes that can be seen around Coulsdon)



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)

(1) Our oldest post box is in Woodcote Grove Road. This probably dates from around 1887, from the reign of Queen Victoria 1837 – 1901. (2) In Deepfield Way there is a box dating from Edward VII 1901-1910. As this was only placed there in the 1980s, it must have been recycled). (3) In the Brighton Road near Stoats Nest Road and on the corner of Gidd Hill there are two rare 1936 Edward VIII, who abdicated after eleven months. (4) At Stoats Nest parade there is a more modern type K box. (5) In Ullswater Crescent there is a post box for prepaid franked business letters and packages. (6) Coulsdon's newest post box on Cane Hill Drive. Elizabeth II from 1952 – today. In Coulsdon Town centre and at the Post Office there are larger and double post boxes.

If you would like to know more about post boxes and postal services and ride on the post office railway the London Postal Museum is well worth a visit:

www.postalmuseum.org or www.postalmuseum.org/discover/collections/letter-boxes

ECRA would like to thank all the staff at our local Post Offices and Coulsdon Sorting Office for all the work they have done during the Coronavirus pandemic on our behalf in Coulsdon.

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Unlocking the Birds 2020

by John Birkett, RSPB Croydon Local Group

As we slowly come out of lockdown in England and people are allowed to travel around more widely there are greater opportunities to go out and watch the birds in the wider countryside. But how far do residents of Croydon need to go to find some good birds? If some of the findings from the Croydon RSPB Local Group's lockdown bird-watch are anything to go by, the answer may be 'not very far'.

Looking or listening from an open window or going out into your garden could bring rewards. The insomniacs amongst us might just hear a tawny owl calling. Sparrowhawks could be seen dashing through the garden and perhaps snatching an unwary small bird (or even a pigeon), while looking to the skies there is a chance of a bird of prey drifting over. If you hear crows making a racket, they may be trying to shepherd a buzzard or red kite out of their territory. Kestrels used to be the most commonly seen raptor, but in recent years they have dropped down the list, while peregrine and hobby have been increasing. Meanwhile, great spotted woodpeckers have been showing their offspring where the garden feeders are and stock doves and collared doves have been pecking around for seeds. That most aerial of birds, the swift, has been screaming around at rooftop level to nest during their brief three month stay over here.



Song birds cannot be forgotten. People have been reporting blue and great tits using their nest boxes (or other suitable spaces such as someone's verandah roof). Young blackbirds and robins have been visiting gardens with their parents. Greenfinches had been in trouble in recent years, but 2020 may see a reversal in their fortunes with numbers of singing birds increasing and goldfinches now grace many gardens.

Song thrushes (*pictured above, by Jenny Morgan*) and blackcaps have been heard singing so they should also have young around. OK, so you may have to go further afield to see many species that do not normally come near our suburban gardens, but just relaxing in your own space can help us to (re)connect with nature, which is something that can be of benefit to everyone. Then something magical and unexpected happens; can you really count that osprey or bee-eater that has just flown over while you were enjoying a relaxing cuppa?

We would appreciate if you could email us with information about what you see and hear. Also contact me if you might like to participate in our on-going survey of Croydon's birds, or to find out what has been recorded already. Our group's activities are currently suspended, but keep checking our website to find out when they are likely to start again. Whatever you do and wherever you are, please stay safe and adhere to any guidelines that are currently in place. For more information about RSPB Croydon please contact:

Email johnbirkett@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon

Public Transport Report

by Charles King



Buses: All local buses returned to full schedules from the middle of June with a restriction on boarding numbers to 20 on a double deck and between 8 and 10 depending on the size of single deck buses. A strengthened screen has been fitted to the drivers cab to shield the driver and the seats adjacent to the driver are taped off. All buses are now charging fares again. Like NHS workers a large number of transport workers especially bus and taxis drivers have succumbed to Covid-19, in London over 40 bus drivers

and front-line staff have died from the virus.

Transport in London is entirely financed by the Mayor and no longer receives a government grant. The loss of fare revenue has caused a major shortfall of income to TfL. The Government has now agreed to a mixture of grants and Loans to TfL to cover the major short fall in fares. However, this has a number of conditions :

- The Mayor puts up Fares. This will apply in January 2021
- The Freedom Pass and 60+ pass can no longer be used in morning peak hours before 09.00. *The disabled Freedom Pass can still be used before 09.00.*
- Children between the ages of 11 & 18 will have to pay fares all day (no date as yet).

Locally the 404 bus started it new route serving Cane Hill and the Tollers estate on Saturday 29th March 2020 with some very nice and helpful drivers. This was the very day that the government started the lockdown and advised people not to use public transport. At some future date the 404 will be diverted to serve Placehouse Lane and Shirley Avenue in Old Coulsdon. Route 405 will transfer operation from Metrobus to Arriva in August 2020.

Trains: The lifts at Coulsdon South opened in the last week of February and have proved beneficial to many people. As a result of the lockdown usage dropped by up to 90% and most services were reduced to Saturday and then Sunday services, while TfL withdrew the Overground to West Croydon. Asking people to make essential journeys only. From 5th July trains were restored to a Saturday plus service with the aim of restoring a full service in September. **Dan Jaconelli's coffee shop** on Coulsdon South reopened on Monday 6th July.

The messaging has now changed since the opening of non-essential shops and businesses

- Where possible work from home.
 - Use Cycling and walking where possible.
 - Try to avoid using the car.
 - Use public transport for necessary journeys only and avoid the peaks.
 - Face coverings must be worn on public transport.
 - Wash your hands before and after journeys and if possible, carry a hand sanitiser.
 - Please respect staff and their instructions.
- Stations now have hand sanitisers at ticket offices and gates lines along with posters reminding people to keep social distances. Large stations have introduced one way systems.

Public Transport Report

(continued from page 20)

East Croydon Station: Network Rail have published plans to rebuild East Croydon station, moving it 200 metres north, and to rebuild Norwood Junction station with four accessible platforms. There is an interesting video on the following Network Rail web page: *Unblocking the Croydon Bottleneck* <https://carsconsultation.com/>
You have until September to comment.

Air Transport has been severely hit with London Heathrow reduced from four terminals to two terminal 2 and 5 only. Gatwick has been reduced to one terminal and only operates for a limited time of the day, on 2nd June 2020 there were only seven flights from Gatwick with 21 passengers only. London City Airport suspended all flights from 25th March until 6th July 2020. A lot more flights were introduced from the 5th July when the requirement for passengers returning to UK needing to self-quarantine for 14 days was removed from many countries using a traffic light system.

Steam Trains: As there are no steam trains running past Coulsdon at present, for a change here is some **information on freight trains**. On an average weekday up to 20 freight trains can pass Coulsdon in a 24 hour period. Most of these are aggregate trains running from Essex, Crewe Kent, the Peak district and Somerset to Purley, Crawley, Ardingly, Newhaven and Kent. Newhaven is interesting in that it receives aggregate from Somerset and dispatches sea-dredged aggregate to various parts of the country. Other freight trains that run less frequently are Gypsum trains from Roberstbridge to Southampton and, when the line via Bromley is closed, Channel Tunnel trains from France, Germany and Spain run via Tonbridge & Redhill and pass through Coulsdon

		
Channel Tunnel train	Aggregate Train	Aggregate Train

Realtime trains web site provides you with information on all trains that pass through Coulsdon.

www.realtimetrains.co.uk/search/detailed/CDS?stp=WVS&show=all&order=wtt

Electric (e) Scooters :



Over the last few months e scooters have appeared on the streets of Coulsdon. Although you can use them on private property, they cannot be legally used either on the pavement or the highway. However, nobody seems to enforce the regulations. The Government announced that they would make hired scooters legal on the highway and in cycle

lanes, but not the pavement. from 4th July 2020 for a 12 month period. This does not apply to privately owned ones. I am not sure how you distinguish? This still has to be agreed by each local authority and the first locations will be Middlesbrough and Portsmouth. They have also allowed a higher speed of 15.5 mph and heavier battery than was recommended. You will also have to be over 16 and have a driving licence. Helmets are recommended, but not compulsory. More information is available on the government web site www.gov.uk/government/publications/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-local-areas-and-rental-operators/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-local-areas-and-rental-operators#eligibility-and-dft-trial-requirements

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