

THE REVIEW



EAST COULSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



CONTENTS: SPRING 2021 ISSUE 221

Page 4: Editorial and Subscriptions	Page 15: Highway Robbery: The Story of James Cooper
Page 5: The Return of the Cane Hill WW Memorial Plaques	Page 16: Highway Robbery (cont.)
Page 6: Cane Hill WW Memorial Plaques (cont.)	Page 17: Brexit and Changes That Might Affect You
Page 7: What's Happening In and Around Coulsdon	Page 19: Croydon Council: An Update
Page 8: What's Happening In and Around Coulsdon (cont.)	Page 20: Public Transport Report
Page 9: Coulsdon Art Trail	Page 21: Ready, Steady, Census: Census 2021
Page 10: Coronavirus and Vaccinations	Page 22: ECRA in the Community

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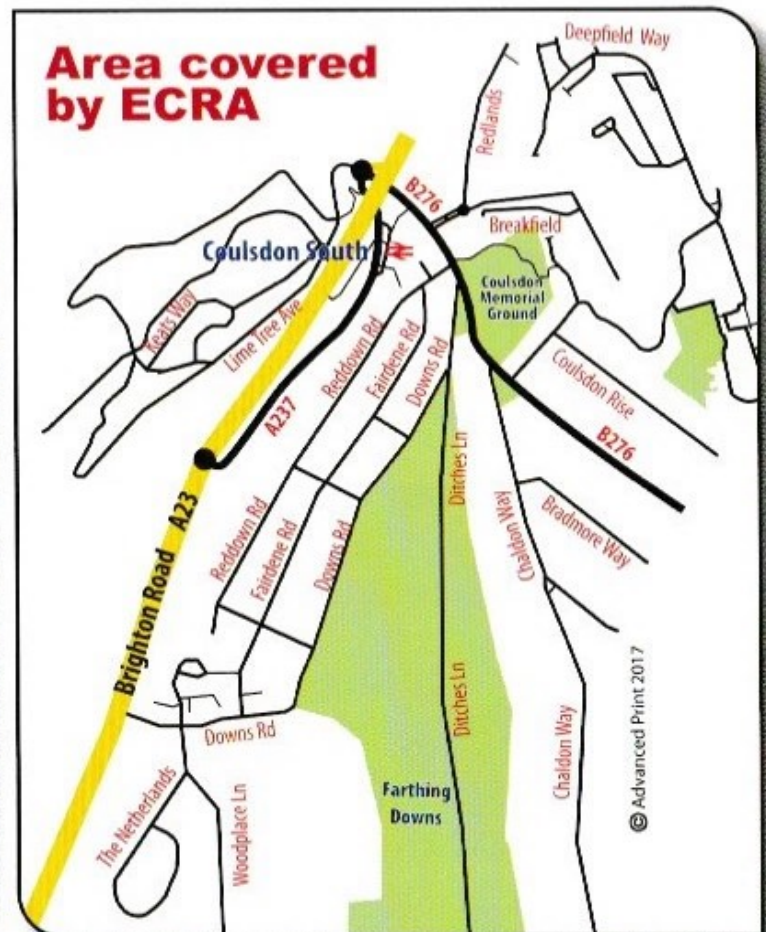
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Editorial

Coronavirus (Covid-19) continues to be the one of the main issues in Coulsdon with latest Tier 4 lockdown coming into effect just before the Christmas break. Schools now remain closed until at least 8th March. Non-essential shops are closed again, while queues are common again outside Aldi and Waitrose, while the rest of the town centre is somewhat deserted. We are very grateful for all key workers who remain at work on our behalf. ECRA has continued to represent you during the Covid pandemic and deliver The Review four times per year (we also produced an online edition in the first lockdown) providing you with local information and articles about local people and things occurring in and around Coulsdon.

Subscriptions

Although we have delivered The Review, collecting our subscriptions has proved more difficult with covid and isolating. We would like to thank all those that have paid their subs this year; the more people that subscribe enables us to keep the subscriptions at £3. If you have not paid your subscription this year to your Road Steward, you can still pay in one of the following ways:

- **By cash or cheque** payable to ECRA for £3 in an envelope with your name and address on it to your Road Steward, or drop it in to the Chair, Charles King, at 50 Reddown Road or Vice Chair, Gill Hickson, at 6 Mead Way.
- **By Bank Transfer** to East Coulsdon Residents' Association, Nat West.
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- **By Standing Order:** this makes things easier for you and our Road Stewards. To do this please use the same bank details and reference. If you have not paid this year, please start your payment on 1st March 2021 and 1st March thereafter. If you have already paid this year, please pay on 1st May 2021 and the 1st May thereafter. Please remember to use your name and first line of your address as reference.

If you need more help, or if you need a form for your bank, please contact us on info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk

Coulsdon Art Trail: We are pleased to see the first three finials were put on top of the finger posts in the town centre. See our article on page 9 for more about the Coulsdon Art Trail.

The **Croydon Art Society's** Annual Exhibition has been so successful that they have decided to extend its run until 31st March 2021. The exhibition can be found at The Croydon Art Society website: www.croydonartsociety.org

Steam trains: At present there are very few steam trains on the network and none on the Brighton Line at present. However, some can be scheduled at short notice. The following web site provides information of steam services:

www.railadvent.co.uk/steam-locomotives-on-the-mainline

The Return of the Cane Hill World War Memorial Plaques

by Charles King

There were two Memorial Plaques on the Cane Hill Chapel commemorating the employees of Cane Hill Hospital who gave their lives during or as a result of their injuries in World War I and World War II. There are 8 names on the WWI plaque and 3 on the WWII plaque. The difference being that for WWI there was a major Army recruiting campaign in Coulsdon and a considerable number of volunteers came from workers at both Cane Hill and Netherne Hospitals. In WWII many people working in hospitals were classified as a Reserved Occupations and were not conscripted. However, many did volunteer and those that didn't join the Home Guard or did other essential jobs such as Air Raid Wardens and relief Fire Fighters.

World War I			
Name	Died	Name	Died
Cordrey : Herbert Thomas 1 st Bn Life Guards	11 Feb 1916	Rice : Harry Charles West Surrey Regiment	14 July 1915
Joyce : Herbert George West Surrey Regiment	26 Sept 1917	Russell : Arthur West Surrey Regiment	17 June 1916
Key : George William Royal Artillery	11 Oct 1917	Warren : Alfred Kings Royal Rifles	26 Aug 1916
Moore : Edward Charles Royal Air Force	29 Nov 1918	Wright : Leslie Norman Leicester Regiment	22 March 1918

World War II			
Name	Died	Name	Died
Alexander Sherriff 2 nd Bn Cheshire Regiment	17 March 1943	Kathleen Bon Nurse; Killed by Enemy Action	7 July 1944
Dr Winifred Porter Killed by Enemy Action	29 Jan 1941		

The Plaques are interesting in that WWI surnames are first while WWII the first names are first. Edward Charles Moore was one of the first people to die as a member of the Royal Airforce which was only formed on the 1st April 1918. The WWII Plaque is rare in that it contains the names of two women civilians who were killed by enemy action. Dr. Winifred Porter died in Brook Hospital Greenwich which was requisitioned for military personnel and victims of air raids and nurse Kathleen Bond died when a V1 destroyed her house in Hooley.



(continued on page 6)

The Return of the Cane Hill World War Memorial Plaques

(continued from page 5)

At the height of metal thefts some five years ago the plaques were removed with the intention of selling them for scrap metal. We were very fortunate that the culprits were apprehended by an alert security guards who retrieved the plaques.

I was pleased to find that a local resident, Laura Frost, has looked after them and stored them securely until work started on renovating the Chapel. They have now been handed over to Haxted who are restoring the chapel and will be displayed on the chapel again on completion of the work.

Remembrance Sunday 2020 Due to the Covid restrictions the normal Remembrance Ceremony and Parade at the Old Coulsdon War Memorial was cancelled. After the church service at 11am on Sunday 8th November 2020 a sole wreath was laid by Reverend Paul Roberts on behalf of the Coulsdon Community. Our Chair laid a wreath on behalf of ECRA later in the day, as did many other organisations. In addition, ECRA renewed the Poppies at Marlpit Lane Memorial Park.



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What's Happening in and Around Coulsdon

by Charles King

Cane Hill all though nearing the end of the Barratt Homes building programme. It is running a little behind due to Covid restrictions of social distancing and staff self-isolating but should be complete by Easter. It is still unclear what is to happen to the remaining part of the site down by Brighton Road which is allocated to commercial development. We have been told that the 5 new blocks of Flats in Iron Railway Close are suffering noise and vibration problems and will require extensive remedial work.

Haxted are continuing with renovation of the Water Tower, the old Admin block and the Chapel, but are also suffering the same problems of Covid restrictions of social distancing and staff self-isolating which may delay the completion slightly.



Public Art: In October 2020 Barratts unveiled their public art, a Sundial by south London Artist Holley Graham. This is situated in Crawford Crescent. At 12noon the sun casts its shadow at the lowest point on the sundial. It contains extracts from poems by past patients.

Lion Green car park in the town centre construction of the new car park at the Post Office end of the existing car park is well under way.



All the demolition work has been completed and the ground levelled. There was a pause in the work waiting for UK Power to confirm what was needed to protect the high voltage cables that cross the car park. Work is also continuing on the rest of the site in preparation for the construction of the blocks of flats.

Coulsdon Medical Centre: Discussions are still being undertaken between BrickbyBrick and the Southwest London NHS over a Coulsdon medical centre on the old CALAT site. We are pleased that the NHS have now undertaken a study of the medical needs of the Coulsdon with its increased population. The study has clearly indicated that there is a need for improved medical facilities in the Coulsdon area and their preferred location is for the CALAT site in the town centre.



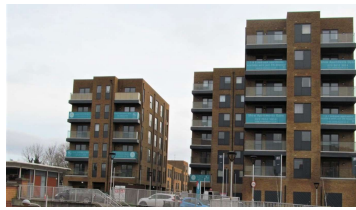
Digital Passports online renewal is now available at Coulsdon Post Office: This offers you a much quicker and easier way of renewing your passport. All you need to do is call in, or phone for an appointment (020 8660 4154). Turn up with your old Passport, sit in the photo booth and the staff will guide you through. It costs £91.50 for Adults and £65 for Children, plus the

photo (but you do get to keep the photos!). When your new passport turns up you just send your old one back. **International Driving licences** are also available, which cost £5.50

What's Happening in Coulsdon

(continued from page 5)

Town Centre Parking: Just before Christmas the council announced that they were going to revise parking charges and move to emission-based parking charges while at the same time removing the 1-hour free parking from district town centres. ECRA was one of the many groups that put in objections based on our concerns about the effect this would have on local independent traders in Coulsdon and other district centres. Although the council decided to press ahead with the increase, it was referred to the Scrutiny Committee. ECRA contacted the chair of Scrutiny and asked if we could give evidence to the Scrutiny committee. We were told that this was not possible under the Covid restrictions, but we could submit a statement which would be put to the committee as evidence. We are pleased to say that the Scrutiny Committee have referred the parking charges back to the Cabinet and ECRA's evidence had helped make this decision.



The new flats **Varis Court** (far left) adjacent to the Lloyds bank building and **Smitham Yard** (left) at the top of Leaden Hill providing over 100 new flats. Are now in the process of completion and being occupied

What's happening in and around Coulsdon: Farthing Downs: Despite local objections car parking charges were introduced on 25th January 2021 by the City of London Corporation at the car park on Ditches Lane.

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/farthing-downs/parking-at-farthing-downs>

As both Yulefest and turning on the Christmas Lights ceremony at Old Coulsdon were both cancelled this year. Danny from the Fish and Chips shop got together with Steve



from Pistachios Park café and the other Old Coulsdon shopkeepers got together and ask local chalk Artist Sam Temple-Milnes to decorate their window with Christmas scenes.



Woodplace Lane After an inspection by Network Rail the plastic melba blocks were deemed no longer necessary and finally removed from the Woodplace Lane bridge (pictured left). **ScULPT Aesthetics and Beauty** opened at Rickman Hill (01737 555139)



Coulsdon Art Trail

by Charles King

Over the last few years, a number of attempts have been made by various residents and traders' groups to put some local street art in Coulsdon town centre to make the town centre more interesting and attractive to local residents and visitors alike. Unfortunately, most of the initiatives were unsuccessful due to a multitude of reasons. Last year the chair of ECRA, Charles King, with the help of Lewis White, a local landscape architect, put together a project to place small finials on top of the existing nine finger posts in Coulsdon that satisfied Croydon Council's requirements. These finials commemorate the history of Coulsdon and Smitham Bottom and were selected from a list of suggestions that were put together from a public consultation by Pauline Payne when she was secretary of ECRA.

The first three chosen were:



Cuthraed the Saxon warrior 648 AD whom Coulsdon is named after *By Pizza Express, opposite Waitrose*



The Greater Yellow Rattle, a rare wild plant that grows on Farthing Downs and Happy Valley *Opposite Lion Green Road.*



Cricket Stumps Surrey versus East Grinstead; an early Cricket match on Lion Green in 1739 *Opposite the Library where Lion Green was.*

These have been paid for by East Coulsdon Residents' Association, Friends of Farthing Downs and Happy Valley and generous local individuals.

Future finials would include: Emeline Pankhurst, who in 1911 spoke at the Smitham Parish Hall; Logie Baird who made the first transatlantic TV transmission from Coulsdon to New York in 1928; The Red Lion Pub from 1680-2003.

ECRA would like to thank Croydon Council and Marshalls Landscape for their help and assistance.

We would like to complete all nine finger posts and are now in the process of fund-raising for the remaining six. If you would like to make a donation, please contact us on the ECRA Facebook page or by email to info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk

Coronavirus (Covid-19) and Vaccinations

by Charles King

Coronavirus (Covid-19) continues to be the main issues affecting us both nationally and globally. Government advice, which is now a legal requirement, is to stay home, work from home if you can and schools are closed except for the children of key workers. You are now not allowed to visit another household except if you have a family bubble (with only one other household) or have caring duties. You may go out for exercise once a day with one other person and you may do essential shopping or attend a medical appointment. You must wear a face covering on public transport and in shops. For more information consult the Government website: www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home

On the positive side three vaccines have been approved for use in the UK. Croydon was one of the first areas to get the vaccine in mid-December 2020. Vaccinations started across the borough on 15th December. As well as Croydon University Hospital the local NHS arranged four additional sites across the borough. **We were very lucky in that the first two to open were the at the Old Coulsdon Congregational church and at Keston GP Practice at Purley Hospital.** However, from January when the national vaccination centres are up and running Coulsdon residents may also get an appointment at Fairfield Halls, the Excel Centre or Epsom Racecourse.

The Government have divided the population into a number of groups based on age, need and vulnerability. The first four groups should all have had their first vaccination by mid-February. The government also estimate that the remaining groups down to 18 years old will all be vaccinated by the middle of September. The NHS estimate that this requires vaccinating 500,000 per day across the UK

1. Residents in care homes for older adults and their carers
2. 80-year-olds and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. 75-year-olds and over
4. 70-year-olds and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. *65-year-olds and over*
6. *16- to 64-year-olds with serious underlying health conditions*
7. *60-year-olds and over*
8. *55-year-olds and over*
9. *50-year-olds and over*
10. *The rest*

A second vaccination is required, originally 3 to 4 weeks later. However, in order to get as many people as possible vaccinated with the first dose the government have extended the waiting period for the second dose to 12 weeks. **The Government and the NHS are keen to stress that the vaccines are rigorously tested and are safe.** It is important that as many people as possible have the vaccine. This is the only way we will defeat the pandemic and return to some form of normality. **If you have an underlying health condition and are not sure about having the vaccine please check NHS website:**

www.uh.nhs.uk/content/uploads/2020/12/PHE-vaccine-leaflet.pdf

If you feel ill with Covid -19 symptoms you and your family must self-isolate. If your symptoms become serious, especially if you have problem with your breathing, you should ring 111 for advice. If you have any of the symptoms you can obtain a free Covid test by logging on to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or you can ring 119 if you are unable to use the internet.

Hospitals, GP Hubs and local GP surgeries are still open so please do contact them if you have a problem. In an emergency please continue to dial 999.

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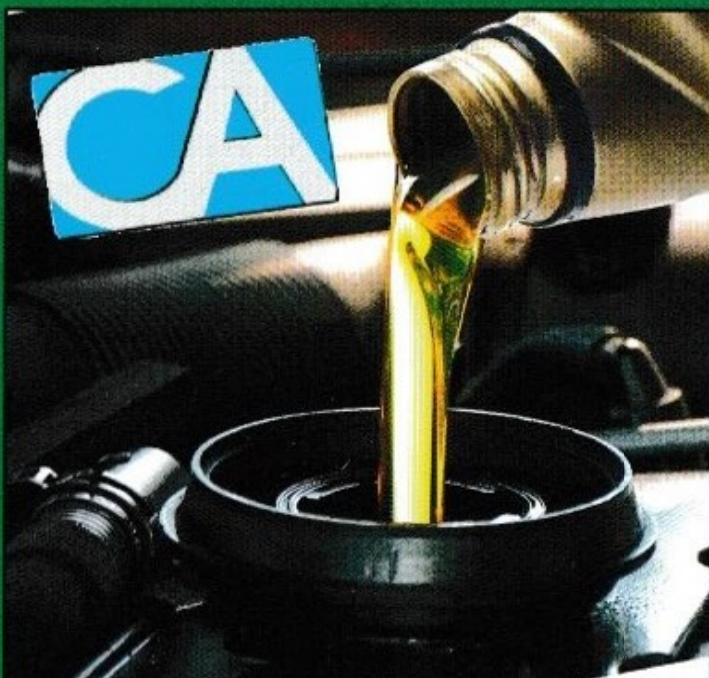
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Highway Robbery: The Story of James Cooper

by Eric Jenkinson

The last days of August had been hot and dry in the Surrey hamlet of Smitham-Bottom, the former name for Coulsdon. A body twisted awkwardly in its iron cage which hung by heavy chains from the wooden gibbet that had been erected at the northern end of Lion Green. The date was 30th August 1794. On that light Thursday evening the popular coaching inn, the Red Lion, which overlooked Lion Green where Aldi now stands, would have been busy with passengers taking a break from the uncomfortable horse-drawn coaches that plied the Brighton Road to and from London. Their numbers would have been swelled by crowds of local inhabitants attracted by the earlier spectacle of a public hanging. The sight of a public hanging was not unusual in the 17th and 18th centuries, especially in villages and towns that lay along main routes. The Brighton Road in the 18th century was a desolate, dangerous stretch at that point as it followed the bottom of the valley below the North Downs. Thick shrubs and trees which edged the rough, rutted road made it easy for ruffians to hide in wait for their victims. It was a route along which travellers ran the risk of attack and robbery by footpads (criminals on foot who generally attacked pedestrians) and highwaymen. Highwaymen were a cut above footpads. They were generally on horseback and armed with pistols, knives and swords. They plundered coaches and robbed lone travellers or small groups.

The criminal who unfortunately provided the public spectacle that Summer evening was James Cooper, a once respectable butcher from Essex. Following a period in and out of debtor prisons, Cooper had fallen in with a rough crowd and had become a habitual thief. Cooper had joined with a notorious criminal, an Irishman called William Duncalf, and a former soldier in the Guards, James Burrell. Most of the gang's crimes had been committed far from Croydon. However, on Saturday 17th March 1794 at about 8pm the three villains lay in wait in a deserted lane which ran between the Croydon turnpike and Sanderstead, near Croham Hurst woods. Turnpikes were roads across which gates had been erected, often with an adjacent cottage, or Toll House, for the keepers who exacted a toll from travellers on behalf of local trusts. The non-profit trusts used the money to repair the roads which were damaged by expanding horse drawn freight and passenger traffic. The manned turnpikes also increased security on the Highways. Clearly this did not always extend to the byways such as the lane where the gang had previously waited to rob travellers.



*The Tollgate at Kingswood in 1877 ©
Kingswood Residents' Association*



Croham Hurst Woods © Maraton

Highway Robbery: The Story of James Cooper

(continued from page 15)

That Saturday evening, the three villains attempted to stop two gentlemen on horseback riding from Croydon. The two gentlemen were Robert Saxby, a groom, and his acquaintance, Robert Boyd, who was a gamekeeper. Duncalf grabbed hold of the bridle of Boyd's horse and managed to pull Boyd to the ground. Saxby spurred his horse and broke free of the ambush. Cooper joined Duncalf who was struggling with Boyd on the ground. The men beat Boyd senseless and robbed him of his watch and money. In the meantime, Saxby had stopped further along the lane and tied his horse to a gate while he bravely returned on foot to give assistance to his friend. Saxby attacked Cooper and the two struggled until Duncalf managed to pull Saxby off Cooper. Duncalf then shot Saxby as he lay defenceless on the ground. The three villains then rifled the pockets of the dead man. Fearing that the noise of the fight might have attracted attention the thieves made their way quickly back to London.

The noise had indeed attracted the attention of a man who knew Duncalf and immediately suspected his involvement. Duncalf was arrested at his London lodgings a day or two later. Cooper was detained soon after. Burrell appears to have given himself up and turned King's evidence because he did not trust Duncalf not to do likewise to save his own neck. The prisoners were held in Newgate Prison until Cooper and Duncalf were tried at Kingston Assizes in mid-August 1794. They were sentenced to death. Duncalf avoided hanging because he died in prison of gangrene in his leg.

Prior to 1834 Magistrates could determine additional punishments post-mortem such as gibbeting which was known colloquially as hanging in chains. Hanging in chains was considered morally appropriate because it meant that after death the condemned was not buried. Instead, the body was kept suspended between earth and heaven in order to punish the soul. Often criminals were hanged until dead on gallows in one location then the body was taken to a public place, such as a crossroads, near the scene of the crime and hung from a wooden gibbet in chains. The body could be left on a gibbet for days or even weeks as a grim deterrent to other would-be criminals. The practice involved the body of the hanged criminal being taken down from the scaffold after death. The body, or at least the external parts such as the hands, arms and head, were covered in molten pitch or tar then placed in a cage which supported the head, torso and upper legs.



Gibbeting was not universally popular in Britain. The diarist and MP Samuel Pepys (1633-1703), for example, expressed disgust at the practice. Gibbeting fell out of use during the late 18th and 19th centuries and the last person to suffer this punishment in Britain was in Leicester in 1832. That hanging attracted a crowd which contemporary estimates put as large as 40,000. The practice was formally abolished by the Hanging in Chains Act of 1834. James Cooper had the ignominious distinction of being the last man to have been in hanged in chains on Lion Green at Smitham Bottom

Replica of the gibbet of James Cooper, the last man gibbeted in Britain.
©Patrick Low

Brexit and Changes That Might Affect You

by Charles King



A Brexit Free Trade deal was agreed between the UK and the European Union on 24th December 2020 and came into force on 1st January 2021.

A number of issues could affect you, especially if you travel to Europe or intend to when Covid restrictions are lifted. These are the main changes that could affect you. For full details visit: www.gov.uk/visit-europe-1-january-2021

- You will need to have 6 months remaining on your passport.
- You are only allowed to stay within the EU for 90 days out of 180 (this means, for example, you can't spend 90 days in France and another 90 days in Spain). If you want to stay longer you will need a visa.
- You may have to show that you have a return ticket on departure.
- If you drive in the EU, you will need a Green insurance card and a GB sticker on the rear of the car.
- You don't need an international driving licence if you have a UK photo driving licence, but you do if you only have a paper licence (there are two types and if were driving to Spain through France you would need both).
- Your existing UK European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) will remain valid until it expires. If it has already expired, you can now obtain a new UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). However, it is not valid in Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland:

<https://www.ghic.org.uk/Internet/startApplication.do>

- You should consider travel insurance as well as a EHIC or GHIC card.
- If you buy online goods from an EU country, you may be liable to pay UK VAT on delivery and on more expensive items you may also have to pay Import Duty.
- You can no longer take meat or dairy products to the EU (This has included packed lunches which have been confiscated in some countries).

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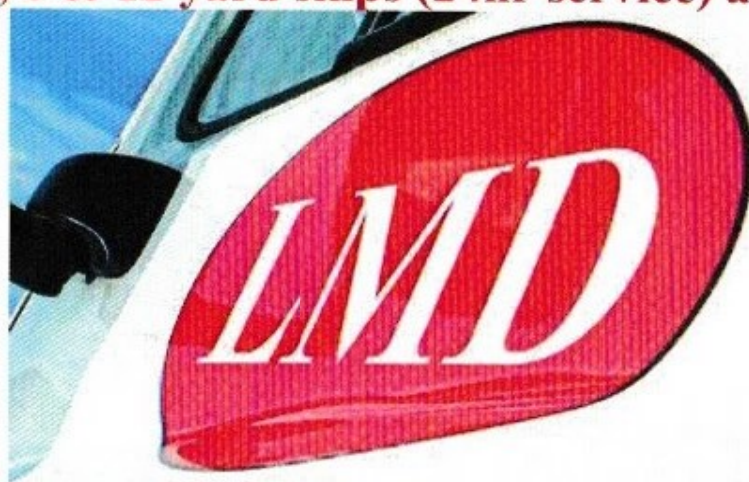
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Croydon Council: An Update

by Charles King

I am sure you are aware that Croydon Council has found itself in financial difficulties and has insufficient reserves to cover its debts. As a result, it is technically bankrupt and has had to issue a Section 114 notice. This means the council is banned from all new expenditure with the exception of statutory services for protecting vulnerable people. In the interim the council has applied to the Government for a loan to bridge some of the gap.

This has resulted in a large number of changes of senior personnel, with a number of senior managers, including the CEO, leaving and the Government appointing a new CEO. This was followed by the resignation of the leader Cllr Tony Newman and Cabinet member for Finance, Cllr Simon Hall. The new elected leader is Cllr Hamida Ali, who is a Coulsdon resident. There has also been a major reshuffle in the Cabinet. The new leader has promised a more open style of management and one that is willing to listen to residents. However, Croydon will have to make at least £64.2m of savings from their next year budget.

ECRA has concerns over how and where these saving might be made. The council have already said they will remove transport from children with special needs. It would seem at first glance a number of the cuts could affect us in Coulsdon:

- Possible closure of Purley Swimming Pool. Please sign the on line petition: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/croydon-council-please-re-open-purley-leisure-centre>
- Reducing the libraries from 13 to 8, with Bradmore Green Library under threat.
- Reduction of Recycling centres from 3 to 2, with Purley Oaks under threat
- The Councils small grant scheme to local voluntary groups which threatens organisations such as the Old Coulsdon Centre for the Retired.
- Maintenance of local parks is also under threat with a reduction in staff, longer periods between grass cutting and reducing the size and time spent on bedding plants, putting areas such as Chaldon Way Gardens under threat. More information is on the council web site: <https://news.croydon.gov.uk/croydonrenewalplan/>

Library Service: The Council is aiming to reduce the number of libraries from 13 to 8 with Bradmore Green Library one of those under threat. There is a separate consultation on Croydon's future libraries service <https://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/project/678> -

BrickbyBrick: One of the causes of Croydon's troubles is the financial drain of BrickbyBrick, its house building subsidiary which has failed to repay any of its loans or return a dividend to the Council. This has been highlighted by the Auditors and the new CEO as a major problem. The present position is that all Existing BrickbyBrick projects which have planning permission and have started will continue This applies to Tollers estate and Lion Green Car park. All others will be subject of a Review in mid- February on a case by case basis.

Directly Elected Mayor: In the last Review we reported that the Campaign had delivered a petition of over 17,000 names asking the council to hold a referendum for a directly elected Mayor for Croydon. The previous leader of the council was opposed to this and using Covid legislation ruled it out at the present. The new Leader Hamida Ali has now agreed to this taking place.

Public Transport Report

by Charles King

Trains: After increasing the service in December the rapid rise in cases of Covid over the Christmas holiday saw a reduction in services at Coulsdon South, and the Tattenham Corner line reduced to just a shuttle service to Purley, with some additional all stations to London Bridge trains in the off-peak and evenings from 17th January 21.

Rules remain the same: Avoid busy periods, wear a face covering, wash your hands before and after a journey, try to maintain social distancing, carry a hand sanitiser. Some stations now have one-way systems - please observe them and follow any staff instructions.

The annual usage statistics for 2019/20 were released in December. These covered just a few weeks of Covid restrictions in March 20. Entries and exits at Coulsdon South were 1,850,162, the highest ever. Coulsdon Town was 212,854 and Woodmansterne 255,842.

Coulsdon South now appears on the Tube Map. During the refurbishment of Bank Underground station TfL have included Thameslink stations south of Blackfriars on the tube map for two years. This means local stations Coulsdon South, Purley, East and South Croydon now appear on the tube map



It is pleasing to see that the volunteer gardeners from Friends of Farthing Downs and ECRA have been able to start planting the flower beds at Coulsdon South again and we look forward to some spring and summer blooms.

TfL: held a consultation in the Autumn about withdrawing the cash facility at all their booking office tickets machines. As a result of the consultation, they have decided to reconsider the proposal.

Buses: No changes to TfL buses in our area. We are still waiting the results of the Sutton and Croydon consultation that finished in December 2020. The one change is on the **Surrey Council sponsored 866 school bus** to Nork School Banstead. This will no longer start from Coulsdon town centre; the first stop will be Portnalls Road/Chipstead Valley Road (*this enables the bus to avoid the Low Emission zone for large vehicles. All TfL buses comply*).

Fares: We are pleased to see that the London Mayor and the Government reached agreement on a bailout package for TfL which lasts until March when it is reviewed. The package has kept the Freedom and 60 plus passes, **but they are not valid before 9am on TfL services and 9.30am on other trains**, Monday to Friday. The 11-16 and 16-18 Oyster zip cards for children will still be valid for free fares on TfL buses. The January fare increase is delayed until March 2021. **Network Rail** have now started the work on stabilising the embankment at Hooley and work is scheduled until end of March 2021.

Ready, Steady, Census: An Introduction to the Census 2021

by Lisa Atik: Census Engagement Manager South Croydon, Office for National Statistics

Households across Croydon will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021 on Sunday 21st March. It will be the first census run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, smartphones or tablets. The census is for everyone. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, except in 1941 because of World War II. The census is unique. There is nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society within which we live. The census helps build the most complete picture and estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. The whole population has the chance to provide information that ensures all communities are represented in decisions on funding and services. It tells us what our needs are now, and what they are likely to be in the future. The census also gives a snapshot of how we live for future generations to look back on. Knowing what your community's needs are helps organisations like councils plan and fund public services in your area and across England and Wales. Information given in the census informs where billions of pounds of funding is spent on things like transport, education and health. Charities and voluntary organisations often use it as evidence to get funding. It helps businesses to understand their customers and, for example, decide where to open new shops. Those doing research, such as students, academic institutions and people looking into their family history, use the information. That is why it is so important that everyone has an opportunity to take part and that everyone completes the census accurately. The Census Act 1920 makes it compulsory by law for everyone in England and Wales to complete the census. If you do not, or if you supply false information, you could be fined up to £1,000. Some questions are clearly marked as voluntary. It is not an offence if you choose not to answer those questions.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years and kept safe for future generations. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) only ever publishes anonymous statistics from the census. The ONS does not publish anyone's name.

Census day will be on 21st March, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March. Every address will get a postcard, an initial contact letter and reminder letters so there will be plenty of information arriving in the post. Census 2021 will be "digital first" meaning it will be mainly online, but there will also be paper copies of the census questionnaires available along with a host of other support services to make sure the census is as accessible and inclusive as possible. These will include paper copies on request; guidance and support in many languages and formats; help in local centres with trained staff and online access; a contact centre to give help over the phone; field staff contacting households that have not yet filled in their forms and accessible census questionnaires (for example in Large Print). Details of these centres will be announced in due course. The ONS will also automatically issue paper questionnaires in areas where residents have been identified as highly likely to need them. The last census in 2011 captured more than 94% of people in England and Wales. That census showed the population of England and Wales on Census Day was 56,075,912. The population of the London Borough of Croydon was recorded as 363,378. The gender split in Croydon was 52% female to 48% male.

Follow Census 2021 on ONS social media channels and at www.census.gov.uk

ECRA In the Community

by Gill Hickson and Alex Martin

The Covid Pandemic has shown us how important our local parks and open spaces are to us. In Coulsdon we are privileged to have so many. From Coulsdon Common, Farthing Downs and Happy Valley for walks, just observing the view or local wildlife. We have three excellent large parks: Grange Park, Marlpit Lane and Rickman Hill along with many other smaller open spaces.

It is clear that these open spaces have been a tremendous benefit to the health; adults with tennis courts, putting, bowling green and open-air gyms or just for exercise. For those under 11 years of age there is an abundance of playground equipment. What there isn't is facilities for the 11 to 18-year-old age group. There are football pitches and a basketball pitch for team sports, but nothing that 11 to 18-year olds can do on their own.



Over the summer we asked a number of 11 to 18-year olds what facilities they would like to see in Coulsdon for their age group. The answers included a climbing wall, cycle track, skatepark and a youth club with indoor facilities.



As this was a very small sample, we have decided that we should consult the wider community including local schools. To do so, we have created an online survey through Survey Monkey www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y5GYV9D

Please get your children to complete the survey, or you can complete it on behalf of an 11-18-year-old in your family. There is room to put other suggestions. We believe it is important to provide some local facilities in Coulsdon for this age group.

A local food bank donation site has been set up by Gill Hickson our vice chair at 6 Mead Way which continues to successfully collect and deliver food donations to Purley Food Hub www.purleyfoodhub.net We would like to thank everyone who has been so generous to date. This has been gratefully received by people needing some help in these particularly challenging times. *Please don't be proud and apply if you are in need.*



Laptops and Tablets for Schools: Gill has also been collecting laptops and tablets for local schools. For children who don't have one at home. Our first three were donated by our chair, vice chair and treasurer and were handed over to Mr Norris at Byron Oasis. Others will go to other local schools as we collect them. If you have an old Laptop or Tablet and would like to donate to a local school, please contact Gill 01737 555919

Local Traffic Watch: We continue to support any initiatives to slow down traffic in our community. The Marlpit Lane Group is set up and we will look at traffic watch as the weather allows and trying to get speed signs in local roads



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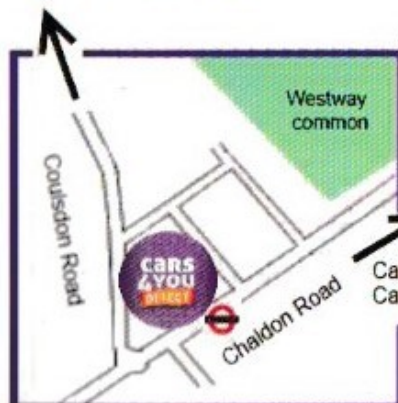
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