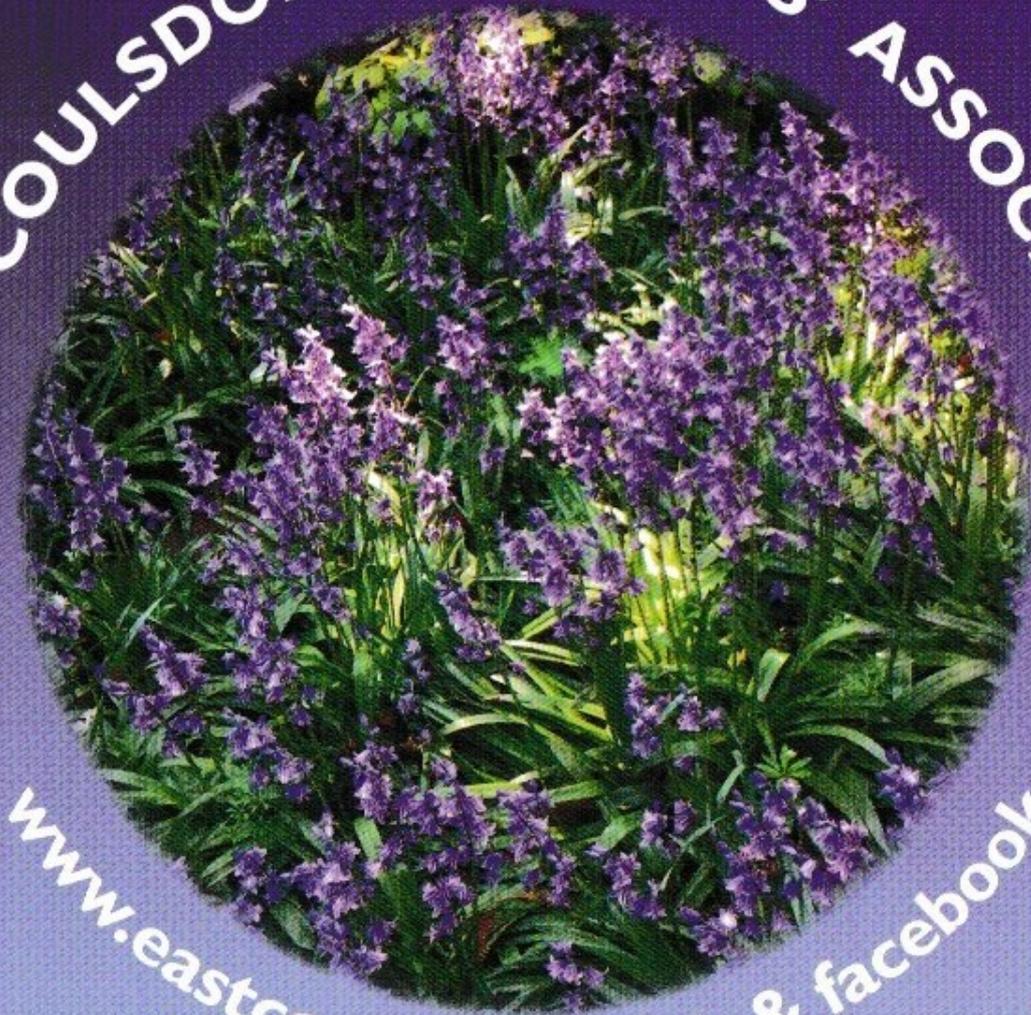


THE REVIEW



EAST COULSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk & facebook

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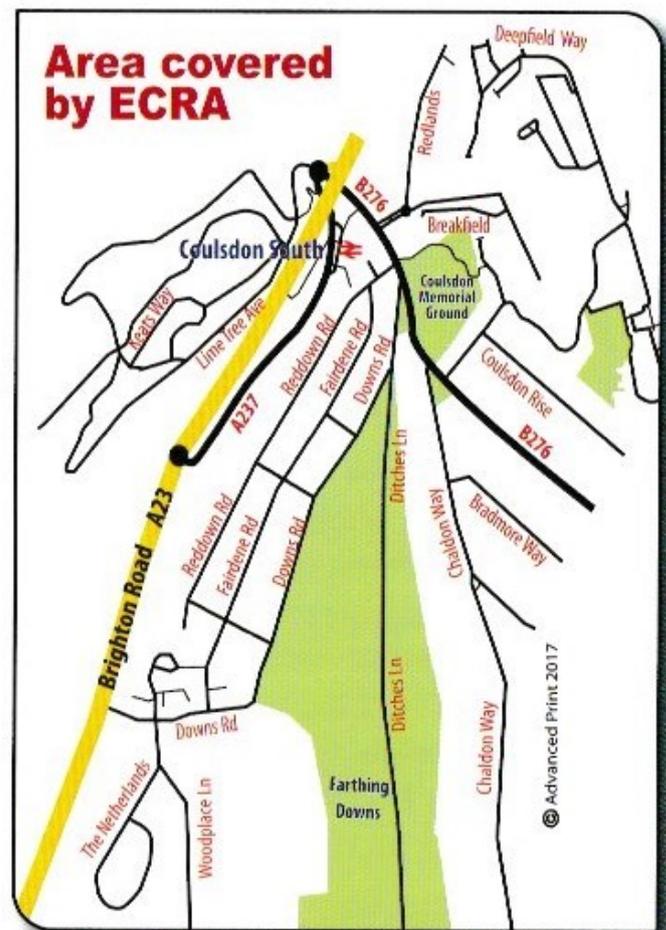
We are looking for volunteers to act as road stewards – delivering The Review four times a year and collecting subscriptions.

We currently need road stewards to cover:

Cane Hill Park, Blueberry Gardens, Chaldon Way & Downs Road.

If you would like to help, please contact us on

info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk



Editorial

by Alison Sleight



Our Vice Chair, Gill Hickson, continues to successfully collect and delivers donations to Purley Food Hub. Donations can be left in the Food Bank (*left*) located at 6 Mead Way and are gratefully received by people needing some help in these particularly challenging times. Thank you to everyone who has been so generous to date.

Gill also organises regular litter picks in parks and various other places around our area. Gill has a small team of litter pickers, including locals Carmel, Dot and



Sue (*right*). If you are interested in helping please contact Gill on 07956 666095.

Democratically Elected Mayor for Croydon. The New Leader Cllr Hamida Ali has accepted the petition by the DEMOC as valid and has agreed that a referendum will take place on 7th October 2021 If the vote is in favour of a Democratically Elected Mayor. This will be included in the next council elections in May 2022.

Croydon Council have now agreed a loan with central Government and as a result have been able to set a balanced budget for 2021-2022. However, this still requires considerable amount of saving and there are still concerns that **Purley Oaks Recycling centre** may have to close.

Bradmore Green Library is also under threat. ECRA has written and objected to all of the possible library closures. **Purley pool and leisure centre** has not reopened and it is possible that it may close. altogether There is an online petition you can sign:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/croydon-council-please-re-open-purley-leisure-centre>

Coulsdon Probus Club is Looking for New Members! Coulsdon Probus Club is the second oldest in the World, formed in 1968. Probus clubs are organisations for ex-businessmen who have retired from their profession or business and want to maintain a social network with others who have similar interests. The name Probus is an acronym for **Pro**(fessional) and **Bus**(iness).



Currently we meet at Purley Sports Club at 12.00pm on the first Thursday of each month for social drinks, sit down lunch and an after-dinner speaker. Each year we raise funds for charity according to the wishes of the current Chairman. We have in the past arranged outings which have included a Thames cruise, Theatre trips and outings to places of interest. We also arrange a Quiz Night to which other local Probus Clubs are invited. As with other such Clubs, meetings have been suspended during the current Pandemic, but we hope to resume our lunch meetings in July. Unfortunately, in recent years, our membership numbers have fallen and we are looking to boost our membership to enable the club to continue its programme of events, social contact, fund raising etc.

Coulsdon Probus Club offers a warm welcome to new members and visitors. If you would like to know more and to meet us, please contact our Secretary: Ian Payne on 01737 554449 or visit our Website at <http://www.coulsdonprobus.co.uk>

East Coulsdon Residents' Association and COVID-19

When the first lockdown was announced in March 2020 it was clear that the ECRA committee could no longer function as normal, like many others we soon adapted to the world of zoom and in the better summer weather we were able to meet in back gardens where we could maintain social distancing. We had to postpone our 2020 AGM and cancel our social events including the quiz nights and Christmas Dinner. Although things are improving, we are still not back to normal as yet. **We are delaying the 2021 AGM until September** when the current Vaccine programme has ended and the Congregational church should be reopened,

We have continued to act in your interest and continued to engage with the outside bodies such as Croydon council, TfL, Network Rail, the NHS, BrickbyBrick, etc. by Zoom, MS Teams, email and phone. We were able to produce all 4 Reviews over the year and also produced a special online edition at the height of the first lockdown. All can be viewed on our web site www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk

Some of our success this year have been:

- We were finally able to start Coulsdon Art Trail with the first three finishes.
- Delayed the withdrawal of 1 hour free parking in Coulsdon Town centre.
- Opening of the new Lion Green car park with 116 bays compared to the 50 proposed.
- Continued dialog with the NHS to provide a new medical centre for Coulsdon.
- Continued a dialog with Croydon on providing a new Community Centre on Calat site.
- Re-phrasing of Traffic lights at Lion Green Road.

Working with East Surrey Transport Committee.

- Lifts at Coulsdon South station.
- Route 404 to Cane Hill and Tollers Estate with additional stops within Cane Hill.
- Extra 60 school bus to start at Oasis Academy

We are pleased to say that despite Covid-19 we are able to improve the number of subscriptions collected and the increase in residents paying by standing order and bank transfers and making donations which made up for the lack of events. This enabled us to donate £500 to the Coulsdon Art Trail in Coulsdon Town and £100 towards the Old Coulsdon flower baskets. We are able to keep the subscriptions at £3 for the coming year. The more people that pay by standing order the better it is for us and our road stewards in particular. If you would like to pay by standing order our bank details are :

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Sort code 60-06-14 Account 29423821 Please use your name and first line of your address as reference. If need more information, please contact us on info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk

East Coulsdon Residents' Association and COVID-19

(continued from page 5)

2019-2020	Income	2020-2021
2,154.60	Subscriptions	2,837.45
296.00	Standing Orders	810.00
37.00	Donations	388.00
3,258.00	Review Adverts	3,206.00
493.16	Quiz nights	0
	Room hire refund	120.00
£6,355.76	Total income	£7,361.45

2019-2020	Expenditure	2020-2021
4,500.00	Review Printing	5,599.80
260.00	Other Printing	40
313.06	Public Liability Ins	313.06
25.00	Remembrance Day	25.00
491.39	Committee exp	291.56
75.00	Affiliation	60.00
317.00	Donations	620
£5,981.45	Total Expenditure	£6,636.36

Extract from the end of year accounts. A copy of the full accounts will be put on the ECRA website when they have been audited.

Looking Back at the Last Year Across the Coulsdon Commons

by Thomas Oliver Information Ranger City of London

After a long winter, it seems spring has suddenly arrived – the dawn chorus of birdsong is growing louder day by day, carpets of brilliantly purple bluebells are decorating the local woodlands and the first of the year's butterflies are beginning to take flight.



If you visit Farthing Downs between now and the end of summer, chances are you will hear a skylark (pictured, left), an enigmatic little bird that has inspired countless poets throughout the years and has been described as the sound of the English summer. The rapturous, rambunctious rattle during their long song flight is unmistakable. These long and complicated song-flights can last for up to an hour and the birds can reach 300m before descending. Skylarks are found in open meadows, grasslands and fields where they like to nest

in shallow depressions in the ground from March to September. Nesting so low to the ground does make them extremely vulnerable to predators but they are also easily disturbed by people and dogs. Skylarks are becoming increasingly rare in the UK and their decline paints a very worrying picture for their future, especially at a time when visitor pressure is so high. The recent and dramatic population declines make it a Red List species. If we are to help conserve this symbol of summer, we must all take extra care not to disturb these birds: please help to prevent their further decline by sticking to footpaths, keeping dogs under close control or better still on a lead.

Looking Back at the Last Year Across the Coulsdon Commons

(continued from page 6)

Last year, the four local Coulsdon Commons (Farthing Downs, Riddlesdown and Coulsdon and Kenley Common) were busier than ever, particularly for the Downs – scenes of hundreds of cars parked nose to tail along Ditches Lane, more litter, mud entrenched paths, fly-tipping and an increase in the number of out-of-hours call outs from the Rangers were a reminder that these fragments of greenspace and rare habitat need to be properly protected for people to enjoy in the present and safeguarded for future generations too. Whilst we might not have had our amazing volunteer groups (who help with all manner of practical tasks from installing new fences, coppicing hazel or cutting back thick scrub to protect habitats) the Rangers have been hard at work carrying out our usual conservation projects and repairing some of the wear and tear across the four sites. We've also seen more and more visitors volunteering in their own way, often by litter-picking on their daily walks – thank you to everyone helping to keep these places truly special, wild and litter-free.

There is a considerable amount of work that goes on (often behind the scenes) to look after the nationally-important downland sites, none more so than keeping our herd of conservation-grazing Sussex cows and Jacob sheep healthy and cared for throughout the winter. The majority of the cows spend the winter in our barn at the Merlewood Estate Yard just off from Coulsdon Common. Each day there is a long list of jobs; feeding two-three bails of fresh haylage (taken off our chalk grassland fields in summer for the benefit of rare wildflowers), mucking out the barns, layering new



straw bedding, and emptying trailers – it takes a lot of time but is a small price to pay for the good work they do in grazing the four Coulsdon Commons each year. We've also had a number of newborn calves this year - now a couple of months old, they are out with the cows and joined by our resident Sussex bull, Wilf (*left*), currently grazing the slopes of Lower Woodplace to the West of Farthing Downs.

With the gradual return to normal life from lockdown, volunteers are starting to return (albeit in smaller groups of six) and our attention is turning to summer tasks, warmer weather and wildlife to be seen.

To hear more about what the Rangers have been up to and how to get involved, you can find us on Facebook (@citycommonsofficial) or by visiting www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/greenspaces

What's Happening in and Around Coulsdon

by Charles King

Coronavirus (Covid-19) continues to be one of the main issues in Coulsdon as the third lockdown ended on 12th April 2021 with non-essential shops reopening. It is nice to see that the majority of Coulsdon shops have reopened and the weather was nice enough to be able to sit outside one of Coulsdon's many cafes. However, during the course of the lockdown a number of changes have taken place. In the town centre the following businesses have closed: **CSL Carpets** have consolidated their operation at their South Croydon shop, **Selsdon Windows** and **Marble Marble** have not reopened. **Coulsdon Cars** have closed their office and are operating remotely by phone 020 8660 6666 or 020 8668 0666, **Sichuan Garden** has closed and worse still, **Santander Bank** have announced their closure on the 29th July 2021 leaving Coulsdon with only Barclays bank which is only open 4 days per week. *Some 15 years ago Coulsdon had 5 banks and 3 building societies.* **The Singapore Orchid** is being refurbished



and **Desperados**, which is still open for takeaways, intends to reopen as Mediterranean café. Morley's chicken shop, which never opened, is now **Fireaway Italian Pizza** (www.fireaway.co.uk) **Roomuim** (*right*) Home and Lifestyle store (07453 578583) has opened in



Chipstead Valley Road. **Coulsdon News** has applied for an alcohol licence.

Lion Green Road car park: The old car park closed on 9th March 2021. Unfortunately, the new car park did not open due to the proposed road closure of Lion Green Road being cancelled after objections from Highways England and Surrey CC due to road works taking place in Chipstead and Hooley. After representation by ECRA and others the new car park opened on Monday 15th March 2021 and was made free until Monday 19th April 2021 (*work is still needed to complete the exit*) There is a mixture of short-term (two hours) and long-term (all day) parking which has to be booked by phone. Parking is still free after 6pm and on Sundays, but not on public holidays.



BrickbyBrick's contractor C Field has erected the Tower Crane and work has started on the flats on the old car park.

Piling and foundations of three blocks have started. The other two blocks will start when the remaining archaeological studies have been completed. The last dig exposed some Roman Graves of children with a number of artefacts.



(continued on page 9)

What's Happening in and Around Coulsdon

(continued from page 8)

Cane Hill Park: although nearing the end of the Barratt Homes and Haxted building programme, they are still running a little behind due to Covid restrictions of social distancing and staff self-isolating. They should now be complete by early Summer. The occupiers of the first block of flats in Iron Railway Close have moved out to allow remedial work to take place. 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.

Coulsdon Medical Centre: As work had not started on the old CALAT site, this is no longer a BrickbyBrick project and the project has been handed back to Croydon who have agreed to progress the medical centre with the Southwest London NHS who have now completed their preliminary designs based the NHS study of future medical needs of Coulsdon. Unfortunately planning permission was not renewed and a new planning application will have to be submitted this will delay the project by a few months. **Coulsdon Community Centre:** The council have also agreed to continue with this project of moving Coulsdon Community Centre to the Malcolm Road side of the CALAT centre, but again the existing planning has expired and a new planning application will have to be submitted, this again will delay the project.

Coulsdon Art Trail: The first three finials: **Cūthræd, Lion Green Cricket and the Greater Yellow Rattle** have had a good reception by both businesses and residents. We are on the way to raising sufficient funds to complete the next one Emmeline Pankhurst who spoke at Smitham Parish Hall on Votes for Women in 1911. If you would like to make a donation please contact us on info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk



In and Around Coulsdon: In Old Coulsdon **DJ Hairdressers** has closed. **Marlpit Lane Bowling Green (left)** opened for the Bowling and Putting Summer season in April for weekends and will be open from Tuesday to Sundays and bank holidays from May 2021. For more information check on Facebook or call 01737 555234.

The Bourne Water (right) behind Coulsdon South Station started flowing again on the 23rd January 2021 and stopped flowing on 13th April 2021 flowing for 73 days. It is not uncommon for it to flow in consecutive years especially after heavy rainfall. It will be interesting to see if it flows again next year or remains dormant for a few years.

Traffic signals at Lion Green Road: TfL have agreed to alter the traffic signals at Lion Green Road to allow more vehicles from the Brighton Road to turn right into the town centre at busy times.



Survey of Leisure Activities in Coulsdon Parks for 11-18-year olds

by Alex Martin

In the last Review we reported that 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 ranged from Climbing wall. Cycle track, Skatepark and a youth club with indoor facilities. As this was a very small sample, we decided that we should consult the wider community including local schools. We are pleased to say we had 169 respondents by or on behalf of local children between the ages of 11 to 18 years old

It was pleasing to see that all the local parks and open spaces were used by them some 20% daily and 54% weekly. The most popular by a long way were Grange 73% and Marlpit Lane 69% parks followed by Farthing Downs/Happy Valley 61%.

The top six requests were:

Skate park area	54%
Youth club	46%
Climbing wall	42%
Cycle track	42%
All weather table tennis	34%
All weather Football pitch	30%



A few of the comments that were submitted :

- 11-16yr olds seem to be the forgotten children! Too big for the play equipment in the park and not all of them like football so that leaves them with pretty much nothing to do.
- Children of this age have nothing to do and not much in the way of sporting / recreational facilities that are geared to their age group.
- Keep them out of trouble. Won't need to sit in child swings through boredom.
- There are no facilities which can house beginner skateboarders, everywhere around is very hard to skate.
- Safe place for kids to be kids, counter act antisocial behaviour. Give people a chance to learn a sport that is fresh to the Olympic stage.

The full results will be on the ECRA web site and we discuss the finding with Croydon Council youth officers.

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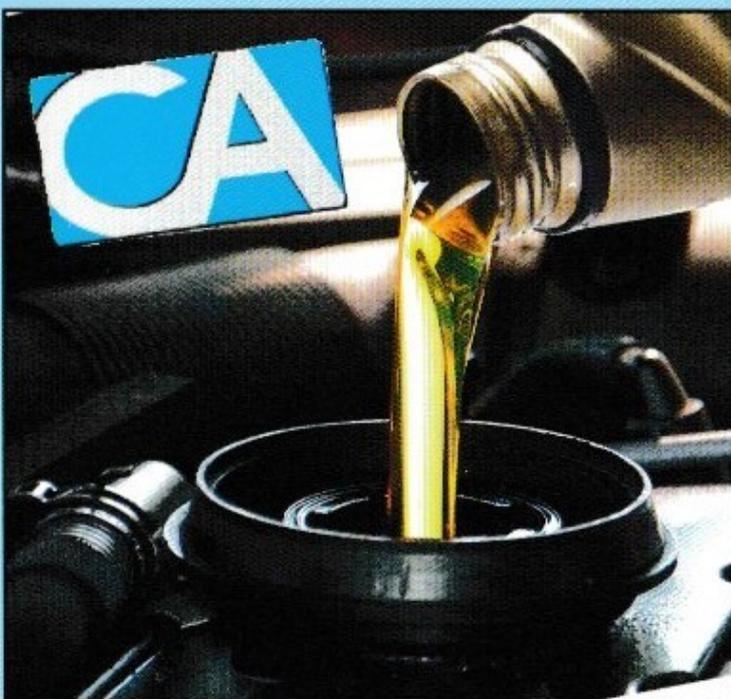
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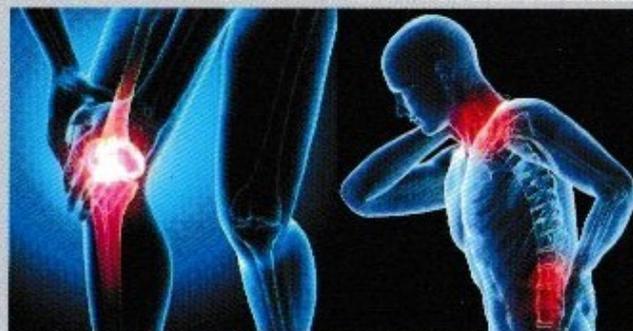
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Cūthræd – Coulsdon's Noble Namesake

by Eric Jenkinson



It is generally accepted among local historians that Coulsdon derives its name from Cūthrædesdone which is Old English meaning Cūthræd's hill. It was the name of a hamlet which was first recorded in the Middle Ages. Traditionally the name is attributed to an Anglo-Saxon warrior, Cūthræd. Cūthræd is now recognised in Coulsdon by a finial atop a signpost outside Pizza Express. Who was the man behind the name?

In the early Middle Ages, between the end of the Roman occupation in AD410 and the Norman invasion of 1066, Britain was an everchanging mosaic of small kingdoms which were vying for supremacy against each other. Britain suffered frequent invasions by tribes from the near European continent and Scandinavia each of whom attempted to establish their own territory. By the 6th century, what was to become England was dominated by the Kingdom of Northumbria, which had been established by the Vikings in the North-East, and by Celtic Britons in the West stretching all the way from Cornwall, throughout Wales and the North West as far north as Strathclyde. The Midlands, East Anglia and all Southern England was a patchwork of smaller Kingdoms occupied by Germanic invaders. These were predominately the Angles, Saxons and Jutes who had invaded from the Jutland Peninsular of what today is Schleswig-Holstein in north Germany and Denmark.

The religion of the Roman occupiers of ancient Britain was based on Christianity. After the Romans withdrew in the 5th century, Britain reverted to a form of Germanic polytheistic Paganism. The late 6th and early 7th centuries were a period of great religious change. Kent was one of the first of Kingdoms to convert to Christianity. Pope Gregory the Great sent a group of 40 missionaries under the leadership of the monk Augustine which landed at Ebbsfleet in 597AD.

Aethelbert, who was the Saxon King of Kent at that time, was married to a Princess of the mainly Christian Frankish region of Gaul (now France). The Pope's missionaries were therefore welcomed on arrival and King Aethelbert was later baptised by Augustine. Augustine eventually became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

In 686 Kent was conquered by Caedwalla of Wessex. Thereafter, although progress was slow, Christianity spread through Kingdoms in a process that was largely complete by the end of the 7th century.

Cūthræd – Coulsdon's Noble Namesake

(continued from page 15)



By 600 the Kingdom growing in importance was Wessex whose King was Cenwalh (c.642-c.645 and then c.648-c.672). During his first reign, c.642-c.645, Cenwalh fell out with the more powerful King of Mercia which was a Kingdom further north. According to the writings of The Venerable Bede, who was an English monk and scholar in the Kingdom of Northumbria and author of the [Ecclesiastical History of the English People](#) (c.731), Cenwalh had married a sister of Penda, the King of Mercia. For reasons unknown, Cenwalh decided to reject Penda's sister and he took another wife in her

place. Penda was less than impressed. He picked a fight with Cenwalh and defeated him in battle. Driven into exile, Cenwalh took refuge with the Christian King Anna of the East Angles. During his three-year exile, Cenwalh was baptised a Christian by Saint Felix of Burgundy, the first Bishop of East Anglia who is credited with introducing Christianity to the Kingdom.

Cenwalh resumed the throne of Wessex in 648 and reigned there as King until his death c.672.. The circumstances of his return to Wessex are unclear. Cenwalh is said to have had help from his nephew, Cūthræd. Cūthræd was the son of Cwichelm, King of the Gewisse in North Wessex who died in c.636. Cenwalh is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles as awarding Cūthræd 3000 hides of land near Ashdown, which was probably in present day Berkshire, in AD648. A hide was a measurement of land which varied in size according to location.



The history of England in the Early Middle Ages is not an exact science, but it is probably safe to assume that this is the Cūthræd who as the influence of Wessex expanded, gave his name to Cūthrædsdone and he could be said to have been of Royal blood through the House of Wessex. It was not until AD927 that King Alfred the Great's Grandson, Aethelstan, a distant relative of Cūthræd, also from the Saxon House of Wessex, ousted the Vikings to become the first King of all England.

Editor's Note: *Saxon Burial Mounds have been found on Farthing Downs and Saxon Remains have been found on Farthing Downs and in Lion Green car park, though there is no evidence that Cūthræd is buried in those mounds so far excavated.*

We're Here for u3a

by Jacqueline Harriott

***Croydon u3a mark our 34th anniversary this year
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It all started in 1987, when Richard Branson crossed the Atlantic in a hot-air balloon and Croydon u3a was formed and took flight. We have never looked back - for 34 years we have continued to serve Croydon's diverse community and have made a real difference to the quality of so many lives.

While we at Croydon u3a mark our 34th anniversary this year, the National u3a organization, which has 1057 local groups and over 450,000 members, is also holding its first ever 'u3a Day' – and we will be celebrating that too, in June!

Anyone no longer working full-time can join the u3a - no qualifications needed; just interest, enthusiasm and willingness to explore new challenges and new experiences together. The u3a is non-religious and non-political and is open to everyone - from all backgrounds, religions and cultures.



Over the years, our members have benefitted from a varied local menu of interest groups and activities, 58 in all currently - there is something for everyone and if you don't see anything that you like, then we will help you to start a new group

Even though the past year has restricted our face-to-face activities, it has not prevented us meeting - we've learnt to use Zoom and connect on a regular basis with others. Croydon u3a is run by its members for its members and there is no stopping us.



So perhaps the *pomp and circumstance* we'd planned for our 34th Anniversary celebrations will be dialed back just a little and the invited guests and the number of dignitaries will be fewer, but the modern magic of technology will take over and allow us to share a carnival of collective memories and to party on Friday 16th

April from 7 pm till late, using Zoom. The ceremony will go ahead and the future is looking good.

To find out more about Croydon u3a: <https://u3asites.org.uk/croydon> and Facebook: Croydon u3a

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Business Interview - Amadeus

by Charles King

Now that the lockdown has ended and non-essential shops are allowed to reopen; we are able to restart our business interview with local businesses. For this Review I went to one of the bright corners of Coulsdon and interviewed Rita Marfo at Amadeus Florist. Rita's background has been in the legal field, but she took a leap of faith by quitting her job and buying Amadeus Florist some 9 years ago and has never looked back. Rita's success is in providing a personal service for everyday flowers and also for special occasions including Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Funeral etc.



Over the years, she has transformed Amadeus by offering unique, special and beautiful designs. Rita offers a delivery service for orders locally, in Surrey and part of South London. Flowers ordered in the morning can be delivered the same day. Collections are also available. She also offers arrangement for corporate clients including schools, offices, restaurants, saloons, bars, care homes, Funeral Directors and other businesses.



Rita has a fantastic team of experienced florists including Maria and Katherine. During school and college holidays, she offers work experience to young people. The flowers she uses are top quality and are delivered to her shop from nurseries in the UK and the Netherlands (You will often see a very large Dutch Lorry unloading outside the shop).

Every October and November, Amadeus sells Remembrance Day poppies and Poppy wreaths on behalf of the local British

Legion

It has been a difficult year with Covid pandemic closing the shop to walk in customers for most of the year. However, Rita has been able to accept orders by phone 020 8660 1465, email orders@amadeusflorist.co.uk and on line from her excellent website www.amadeusflorist.co.uk which shows a full range of designs available to order.

Amadeus and its predecessors have been in Coulsdon some 80 years. Some older residents may recall it as Gwenda Joy on the opposite side of the Brighton Road. Amadeus is now open from Monday to Saturday, 9am -5pm for walk-in customers.

After work Rita likes to relax and be a Mum to her three children. Rita clearly loves both her work and family.

Public Transport Report

by Charles King

Covid-19 and public transport: Buses, trains and stations are regularly cleaned and sanitised and trains with air conditioning (*all from Coulsdon South and most from Coulsdon Town*) change the air in a carriage around every 5 minutes. Studies by Imperial College and others for GTR and TfL have shown that there are no signs of the Coronavirus on hard surfaces on buses, in trains and on stations. www.imperial.ac.uk/news/213133/imperial-scientists-conduct-covid-19-testing-londons Now that the lockdown has ended and non-essential shops are open the message on travel by public transport has changed to travel with confidence, which is to travel at less busy times, wear a face covering/mask, wash your hands before and after travel, use the sanitiser and carry sanitiser. Where possible maintain social distancing and if possible open windows. On buses it is best to avoid school times if possible and TfL are operating school buses and non-school buses.

Trains: After the decrease in service in December, usage by April had increased to about 40% of normal. This ranges from around 55% plus on inner London Metro services and around 30% further out of London. From April there is almost a full service at Coulsdon South all week and at Coulsdon Town there is a reduced half-hourly service Monday to Friday and a full service on Saturday and Sunday. *Weekend service can still be affected by engineering works so please check on National Rail Enquiries* www.nationalrail.co.uk

At **Coulsdon Town** we are still waiting for a wind shield by the ticket office. At **Coulsdon South** it is pleasing to see that there are now canopies over the ticket machines and a new waiting room with access from the platform (*this is closed at the moment due to covid restrictions*). Our local gardeners have weeded and planted the flower borders and Jaconelli coffee has reopened.



Fares: The London Mayor and the government have reached further agreement on a bailout package for TfL which lasts until June when it is reviewed. The package has kept the Freedom and the 60 plus passes, **but they are not valid before 9am on TFL services and 9.30 on other trains** Monday to Friday. The child 11-16 and 16-18 Oyster zip cards will still be valid for free fares on TfL buses. The January fare increase was delayed until March 2021 and as a result one day travelcards rose to £19.60 (peak), £13.90 (off-peak), the anytime Oyster cap to £13.50 bus fare to £1.55.

Buses: The main change to buses are the 463 and the 633 school bus have transferred to London General /Metrobus from May. The 404 now includes Cane Hill in the destination blind. We are still waiting for the 404 to be diverted via Placehouse Lane and Shirley Avenue. This is dependent on Croydon council undertaking some minor road works

The Valley Pharmacy Coulsdon Vaccination Centre

by Amish Patel



In January NHS England approached community pharmacies to open vaccination sites in areas where additional capacity was required. When Coulsdon was identified as one of these areas, **Valley Pharmacy**, a local Community pharmacy, decided to answer the call and submitted an application. On inspection, NHS London found that Valley Pharmacy would not be suitable to

accommodate the required number of vaccinations. However, we were committed and determined to find an alternate site, but were only given a few days to do this. Two members of staff from Valley Pharmacy, Ketan and Sarah, secured the Saint Aidan's Church hall. The whole team worked extremely hard to get the centre up and running within a few days. Our first vaccination was on the 4th February and we are all extremely proud to be part of this national effort.



Vaccination Centre Volunteers: Vaccination centres up and down the country rely on volunteers to help complement the professional staff and help operate the centre. When we put out a call for volunteers and as people came to know of the new centre, we had over a 150 volunteers who reached out and put themselves forward to answer the call. Since opening we have had

a constant stream of volunteers. They come from a wide range of backgrounds and age ranges. They have been highly committed, enthusiastic and extremely hard-working. They have ensured the smooth running of the site and it is humbling to see their dedication. Some of them have gone on to be trained as vaccinators.

This centre would not be possible without our volunteers and we owe them a big debt of gratitude, as with all the volunteers working up and down the country. It just shows the power of local communities during a crisis. It is incredibly inspiring to see. We thank our local heroes for their continued support.



ECRA would like to thank Amish and his staff along with all the local people who have volunteered. If you would like to volunteer please contact Amish by email pharmacy@valley-pharmacy.co.uk

St Aidan's is open Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings. To book an appointment there you have to do it via the NHS national web site www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/ If you are unable to book online you can use 119, the NHS Freephone number.

What's On

With the country slowly moving out of lockdown we are excited to see local events starting up again. Please remember that future events are subject to the easing of lockdown continuing as expected and that many events and venues will still be operating pre-booking and COVID-safe procedures. It is always worth checking details directly with the organisers.

The **RSPB Croydon** group hope to return to indoor talks in July. Their next talk in June will be online via Zoom and they hope will be the last online talk. There will be no formal charge for the online talk but, to cover costs, you are invited to make a donation of £2 to the group. To attend, it is essential that you register by contacting John Davis on 020 8640 4578 or johndaviswine1@gmail.com

Monday 7th June (Zoom at 8pm) "Birds of the Medway Estuary", Edward Towne

For further details visit: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon

ECRA would like to thank RSPB Croydon for the articles they have provided for The Review during lockdown and we hope you have enjoyed reading them.

Steam trains: At present there are very few steam trains on the network. However it is hoped that the Flying Scotsman will pass through Coulsdon on Thursday, 20th May 2021 It should pass through Coulsdon between 3.20 and 3.35pm. However, some services can be scheduled at short notice. The following web site provides information of steam services. www.railadvent.co.uk/steam-locomotives-on-the-mainline

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