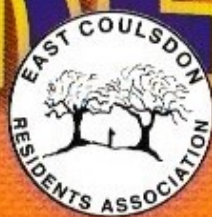
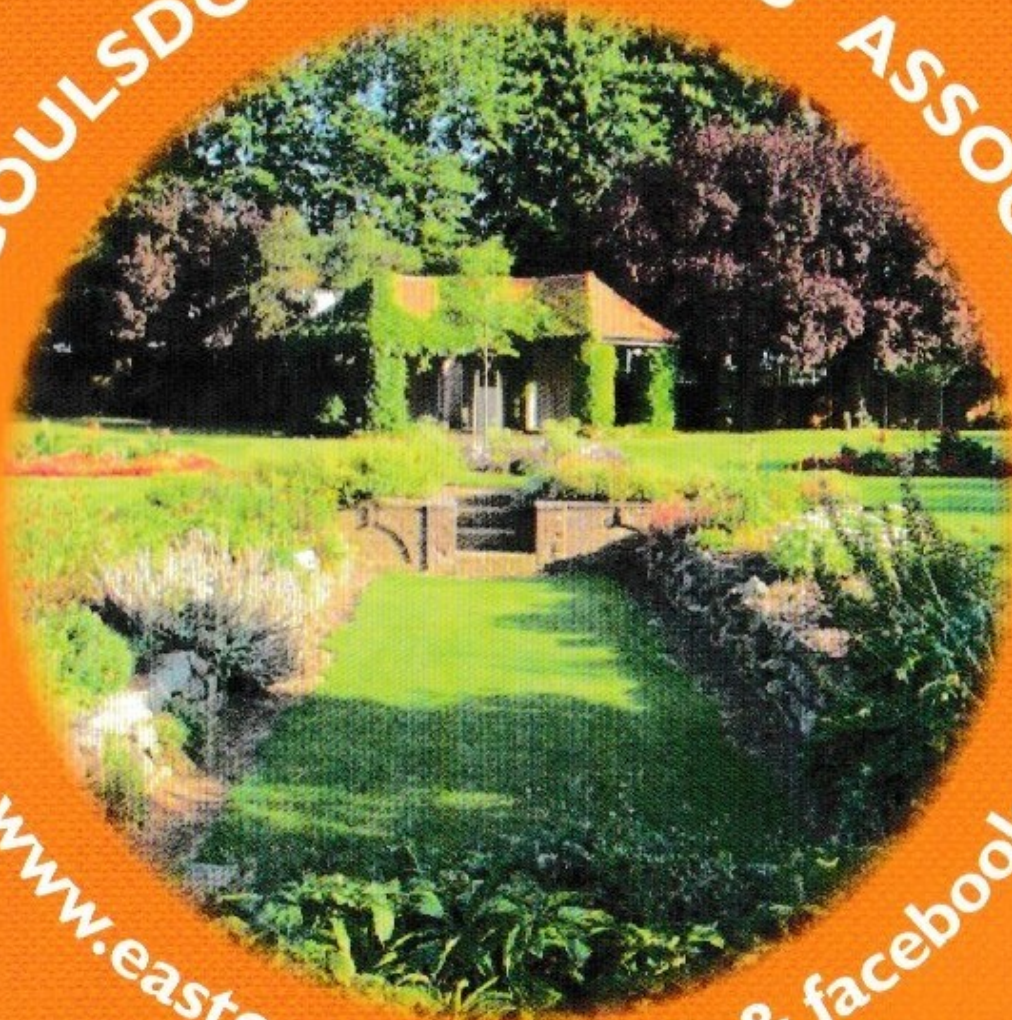


# THE REVIEW



EAST COULSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



[www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk](http://www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk) & facebook

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## THE REVIEW

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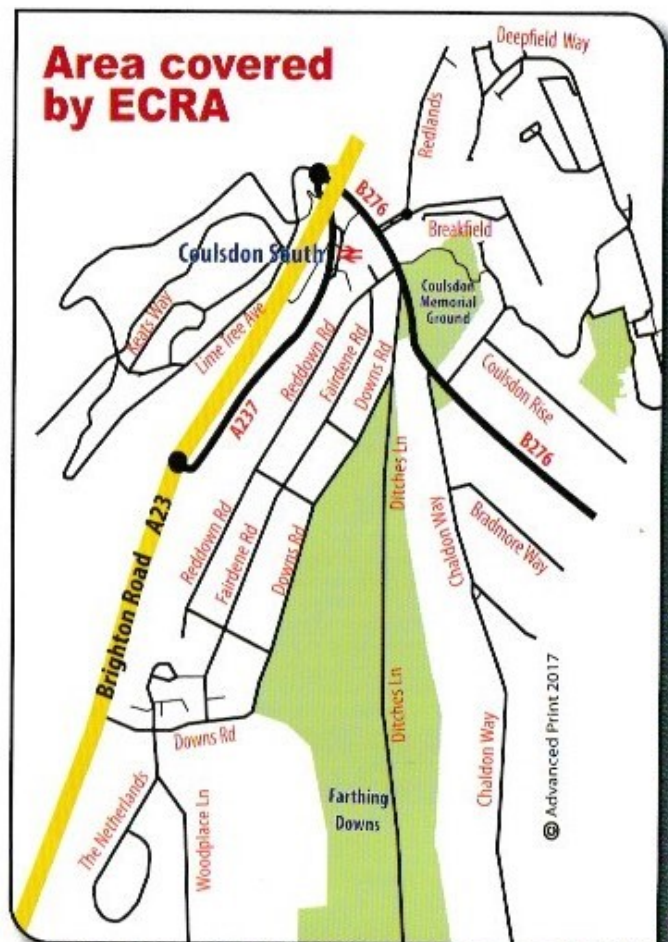
We are looking for volunteers to act as road stewards – delivering The Review four times a year and collecting subscriptions.

### We currently need road stewards to cover:

Cane Hill Park, Blueberry Gardens & Chaldon Way.

If you would like to help, please contact us on

**[info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk](mailto:info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk)**



# Editorial

*by Alison Sleight*

**ECRA and COVID-19 pandemic:** The committee have continued to meet and function throughout the pandemic with a mixture of meeting on Zoom and occasionally in somebody's back garden. We have continued to engage with the council, GTR and Network Rail, TfL, Thames Water, and many other organisations on your behalf. We have continued to produce four issues of The Review per year and did a special electronic-only issue at the start of the Lockdown, keeping you informed of local issues, along with updating our website and successful Facebook page. Sadly, we had to cancel all our events for 2020 and the early part of 2021, including our AGM. Now lockdown has ended we intend to hold an **AGM on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Old Coulsdon Congregational Church**. More details to follow.

**Subscriptions:** Although we have delivered The Review, collecting our subscriptions has proved more difficult in the current situation. 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.  
Sort Code: 60-06-14 Account Number: 29423821  
Please use your name and the first line of your address as a reference.
- **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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> September thereafter. If you have already paid this year, please pay on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 and the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk)



A group of local residents have set up a gardening team. They recently worked in Chaldon Way gardens, clearing weeds and tidying. Here are some photos showing the great work they did at their first meeting. Their next meet-up is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm. All welcome to join!





## COVID-19 Latest

On the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 the COVID-19 lockdown officially ended in England. That same week, the Government recorded more than 129,000 deaths due to Coronavirus. To commemorate this tragic loss of life there is a memorial wall along the Thames Embankment between Westminster and Lambeth Bridges, where people can place purple hearts and pay tribute to a lost loved one.



Despite rising numbers of cases nearly all rules have been removed including those on: social distancing, wearing of face coverings, restriction to table service and six person limit per table in pubs and restaurants. There is no limit on attendance at theatres, cinemas, nightclubs and sporting events and no restrictions on community worship, attendance at weddings or funerals.

[www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do)

**Travel:** The wearing of masks is still required on public transport in London, Scotland and Wales and is recommended elsewhere, particularly in shops and confined places. The rules for people returning to the UK from abroad will vary and can change at any time, so please consult the DfT website:

[www.gov.uk/government/latest?departments%5B%5D=department-for-transport](https://www.gov.uk/government/latest?departments%5B%5D=department-for-transport)

The best defence we have against COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. All adults over the age of 18 can now be vaccinated. You can do this locally at St Aidan's Church Hall, Chipstead Valley Road in Coulsdon and can book in via the National NHS website, or by calling 119 NHS. At less busy times they will accept walk in patients. For other locations and walk-in centres consult the NHS SW London web site:

<https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/where-can-you-get-vaccinated/vaccination-walk-in-clinics/>

If you have symptoms, you must self-isolate and obtain a test. If you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace you must self-isolate. This may change after 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 for those that have had both doses of vaccine 20 days previous:

For more information about NHS Test and Trace visit the Government website:

[NHS Test and Trace: what to do if you are contacted - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/nhs-test-and-trace-what-to-do-if-you-are-contacted)

If you need a test, you can get a rapid lateral flow test from a local pharmacy or from the NHS online. This will produce a result within 30 minutes. *However, these tests are not accepted for international travel.*

# Friends of Marlpit Lane Bowling Green (FMLBG)

by Maureen Levy

In October 1920 Coulsdon and Purley Urban District Council purchased the Coulsdon Memorial Recreation Ground in Marlpit Lane. It was opened and dedicated in 1921. The land had originally been part of Edmund Byron's Coulsdon estate. A map from 1935 shows the Coulsdon Memorial Recreation Ground and it consists of open space with a café, toilets, a pavilion, a playground, tennis courts, putting and bowling greens around the sides. A serpentine path leads up to the memorial shelter located in the centre of the ground against a semi-circular backdrop of trees.



## *The Bowling Green Today*

In 2012 Croydon Council announced that they were closing the Bowling Green facilities at Marlpit Lane Memorial Park. The turf would be stripped and sold, and the area left to return to nature. You can image the word 'sold' brought to mind not the Green returning to nature, but the possibility of developers seeing an opportunity to build.

This closure would have saved the Council a mere £10 - 15,000, but destroy forever a public asset that was valued by the community. After a number of protests to Croydon Council and Councillors, local Councillor Terry Lenten obtained a stay of execution to see if local residents and users could form a ***"Friends of Marlpit Lane Bowling Green"*** that could take over the running of the Bowling and Putting Greens. With the help of ECRA, the Friends was formed.

With individual donations from local residents and ECRA, and a successful application to the Council's small grants fund, the Friends was formed and we set about restoring the Greens. The Friends managed to obtain a second-hand mower, ECRA funded the purchase of public liability insurance and advice on maintaining the green was obtained from Old Coulsdon Bowling Club. We were able to pay for the services of a specialist company to restore the green to playing standard, ready for the 2013 season.

At first money was tight and we raised money wherever we could through appeals including used cans, even though we received only one penny per can! However, we collected many sack loads. We were lucky to obtain the services of knowledgeable local residents and volunteers who maintain and open the green every season.

(continued on page 7)

## Friends of Marlipit Lane Bowling Green (FMLBG)

(continued from page 6)



A plaque to the late Bob Jacobs, the park keeper from 1981 to 2011, was unveiled outside the Bowling Pavilion on 7th February 2014. The unveiling was watched by members of Bob's family, colleagues, friends, local residents and bowlers. The tree was planted by Croydon Council in memory of Bob and his marvellous work. Local residents, colleagues and friends contributed towards the plaque. (*Photo: Angie Spain*).

Councillor Terry Lenton has since moved away. We would like to thank her as without her support we could have lost a valuable public asset. Our current Councillors continue to support us. We are open across the Spring and Summer for both bowling and putting. We also have group events. However, this is dependent on volunteers. The more volunteers we have the more we can open. It only requires a few hours of your time.

If you would like more information, or to volunteer, please contact me, Maureen Levy, on 01737 555231 or by email: [mcb.l@btinternet.com](mailto:mcb.l@btinternet.com)

## Purley Food Hub Still Needs You

*by Steve Hunt, Admin Team, Purley Food Hub*



Run by volunteers from *Churches Together Purley & Kenley* and the local community, the Purley Food Hub provides food to people going through hard times who are referred by agencies in the Borough of Croydon. Because of the current national shortage of haulage drivers, our **two local Food Stop partners** have both been affected and had their long-life food supplies seriously reduced in the last two weeks. "It means that unless we can give the Food Stops our support, some of our former clients who have moved on to a Food Stop may have to return to using us - and this would be a backward step to them becoming food independent again," said Louise Willmer, Acting Chair of the Management Committee.

Both Food Stops - one at **Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church, Purley**, the other at **St Francis Church, Selsdon** - have asked us for supplies of food to help them over this difficult period, and this is reflected in our July food list. The items requested this month are: *long life whole milk, tins of plain meat - corned beef & chicken, tins of tuna, packets of savoury biscuits, tinned tomatoes, jars of pasta sauce/curry sauce, children's chocolate treats, packets of microwave rice, tinned rice pudding, unisex shampoo, small washing up liquid*

(continued on page 8)

## Purley Food Hub Still Needs You

*(continued from page 7)*

Louise said: “The generosity of each one of our Food Hub donors and supporters has been truly amazing. Thank you all, and if you are able to, please continue to support us - and the Coulsdon, Purley and Selsdon Food Stops - at this time so that we can continue to support local people in food crisis.”



Food donations can be brought to Purley United Reformed Church, **preferably on Monday mornings between 9am-12 noon** when we have our full team of sorters on duty or, if Mondays are not possible, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings 10.00am-12.00noon. A list of our other 20+ food collection points in South Croydon, Purley and Coulsdon where donations can also be taken is on our website at [www.purleyfoodhub.net/how-you-can-help](http://www.purleyfoodhub.net/how-you-can-help), on Facebook and Twitter.

**During June we delivered food for 2,385 meals to 265 clients and family members in our Purley, Coulsdon, South Croydon and Waddon postcode areas. It means that since we opened in 2013, we have been able to provide a total of more than 230,000 meals to more than 25,700 people going through tough times.** We continue to operate our Wednesday and Saturday delivery service of food parcels direct to clients' homes. This will be reviewed later in 2021 with a possible return early next year to food collections by clients from our base at Purley United Reform Church.

Meanwhile, thank you to the very kind resident at **Rokewood Court care home**, Kenley, who for her 90th birthday asked for food donations to the Food Hub; to staff of the **Royal Bank of Scotland's Croydon branch** for setting up a food collection point; and to **Cumnor House Girls, Purley**, who in return for wearing pyjamas at school for the day brought in donations for the Food Hub, delivering a minibus-load of food and other items. The latest news about the Food Hub is available at [www.purleyfoodhub.net/news](http://www.purleyfoodhub.net/news) and on Facebook and Twitter.

The ECRA food stop point run by Gill our Vice Chair is still available at **6 Mead Way Coulsdon**

~~~~~

## NHS Update Purley GP Hub/Urgent Care centre

Just a reminder that the Purley GP Hub based in Purley Hospital is still open and available. However, during the pandemic it is recommended that you contact NHS 111 who will provide you with an appointment at a suitable location to obtain your treatment. This could include the Purley GP Hub/ Urgent Care in Purley Hospital or Caterham Dene. It may also be your GP or A&E at Croydon University Hospital, St Helier, St George's or East Surrey Hospital. They may even arrange a home visit from a medical practitioner. However, in very serious cases they will send an ambulance. **In cases of emergency always dial 999.**



# What's Happening in and Around Coulsdon

by Charles King

Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to be one of the main issues in Coulsdon, even though restrictions were relaxed on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021, with people no longer advised to work from home and mask-wearing no longer mandatory. However, we are still advised to wear them in shops, on public transport and in confined spaces. There have not been many changes in Coulsdon since the easing of lockdown in April.



**Lion Green Road car park:** At present, the new car park has been marked out with 96 spaces. There are ongoing discussions with UK Power to establish what access they require to the substation, and how many additional bays can be marked out. Construction of the new flats on Lion Green Road are progressing and are now up to their sixth floor of seven.



**Cane Hill Park** is now almost complete with the Barratt Homes and Haxted building programme. The first people have moved into the Haxted House (the old admin block). The occupiers of the first block of flats in Iron Railway Close have now moved back and the second 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:** The Southwest London NHS have now completed their final designs for the medical centre on the CALAT centre site and this is with board for approval. This design is based on the NHS study of future medical needs of Coulsdon. The moving of the Coulsdon Community Centre to the Malcolm Road side of the CALAT centre is still on hold.



Photo: Croydon Conservatives

**What's Happening around Coulsdon:** Sewage problems in Coulsdon have been prominent over the last few months. The main problem has been several bursts on a number of occasion due to overloading of the main sewer in Chipstead Valley Road. The latest incident in June caused raw sewage to enter gardens, cover cars and disrupt traffic along its entire length. A high-level meeting took place on the 18th June 2021 with Chris Philp MP, Crispin Blunt MP, local Coulsdon, and Chipstead councillors, Croydon Council and Thames Water. At present Thames Water is unable to explain the cause other than confirming that the main sewer became

severely overloaded. Thames Water are still investigating, and our local councillors have agreed to keep us informed. A fuller report can be found on their web site:

[www.croydonconservatives.com/news/unforgivable-thames-water-apologise-coulsdon-sewage-leak](http://www.croydonconservatives.com/news/unforgivable-thames-water-apologise-coulsdon-sewage-leak)

(continued on page 10)

# What's Happening in and Around Coulsdon

*(continued from page 9)*

The second problem has been blockages and leaking of sewage water from the sewage system between Marlpit Lane roundabout and Lion Green Road, which causes sewage water to flow into the town centre. ECRA met again with Barratt Homes and Thames Water on 17th June 2021. This on-going fault has been traced to a bend inside a manhole behind the fence near Marlpit Lane roundabout. The problem in the past has been to establish who is responsible for this manhole – Barratts or Thames Water.

The meeting has now resulted in an agreed programme of repairs to be carried out jointly.



**Marlpit Lane Memorial Ground:** Due to the council cuts the grass is no longer cut on a regular basis and the long grass has made playing football and other ball games more difficult. It also makes it more difficult to see dog mess and broken glass. ECRA have managed to get the grass cut more often to resolve this problem. We are also trying to get the junior football pitch reinstated. If you would like to use the junior football pitch please contact

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-culture/sports-and-physical-activity/a-to-z-activities/football>

**Bowling Green** opened for Bowling and Putting and is open over the summer holidays from Thursday to Sundays. For more information check on Facebook or call 01737 555234 (see pages 6 and 7).

**Croydon Council's financial problems continue**, with more cuts are in the pipeline. The latest announcement includes selling off their properties. These would include: Coulsdon Manor Hotel Coulsdon Court Golf Course, the former CALAT centre and leasing Heathfield House to a Special School.

**The Referendum for a Directly Elected Mayor** will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021. For more information visit the web site <https://www.democ.org.uk/> To vote in the referendum you must be on the electoral register [www.croydon.gov.uk/council-and-elections/voting-and-elections/voting/register-vote](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/council-and-elections/voting-and-elections/voting/register-vote)





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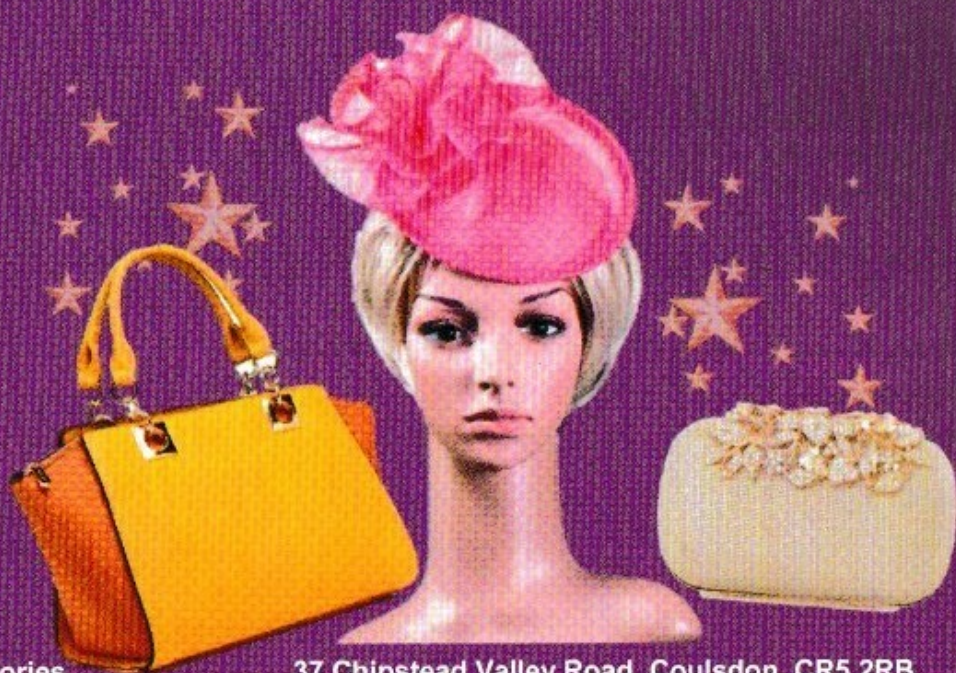
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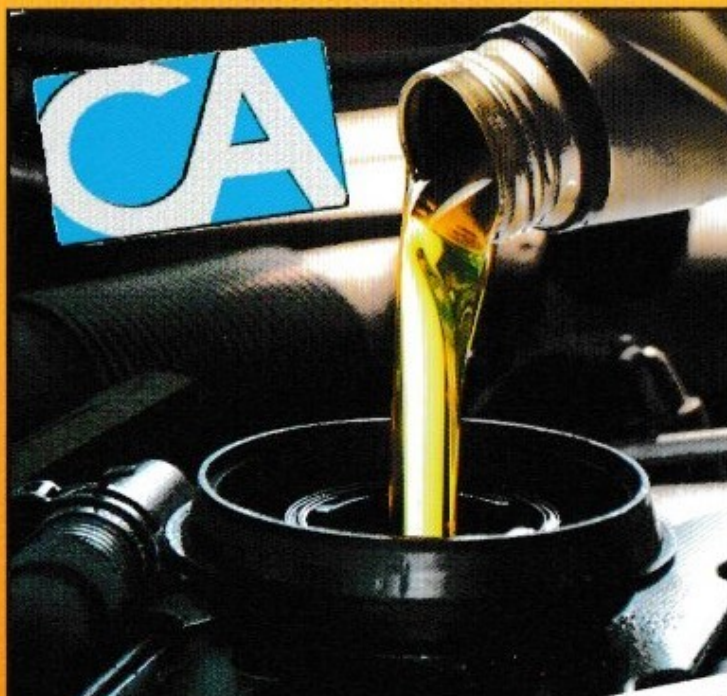
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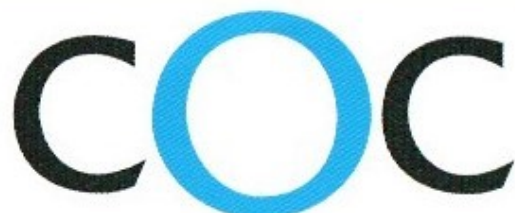
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# Bird(box) Man of Rutherford Rise

by Gill Hickson



When driving up Rutherford Rise or may be just looking out of the window of the 404 bus. You might have just noticed a range of birdboxes spread along the fence and a frenzy of activity through the opened garage door. This will be Chris and Jackie Attfield's house



where they have lived for 25 years raising 4 children. This is where Chris pursues his hobby of making wooden birdboxes, which he has done for many years, mainly small ones that can be attached to a house, tree or a fence. He also makes some larger version, and his latest creation is a large deluxe version. His creations have also included bird baths, flower boxes and a wishing well. Chris is always keen for a chat to passers-by about his creations, while Chris is working away and chatting at the front. Jackie is busy in the back of the house creating a garden to be proud of. She has created different seating areas based around a pond and a garden full of colourful and exotic plants.



Today Jackie suffers from back problems and has to use a mobility scooter to get around. She can often be seen out about on her scooter accompanied by their German Shepherd dog. This year Jackie will be donating tomato plants to the local Byron School.



## Be a Good Neighbour

Every year ECRA receives a number of complaints on two subjects.

**Bonfires :** The occasional bonfire can sometimes be the most effective way of dealing with garden rubbish, especially diseased plants. However, if you are going to have a bonfire please consider your neighbours. Please do not light it until late in the evening and ensure the neighbours are not in their garden enjoying the evenings; make sure that washing is not out and windows are closed. **Croydon Council operates a Pollution service that cover bonfire nuisance 020 8760 5483, email [pollution@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:pollution@croydon.gov.uk)**

**Overhanging Vegetation:** The hot weather combined with late rain has caused a very rapid growing season this summer and before you know it your trees, bushes and other vegetation are spilling out over the pavement. This often means people have to step into the road to pass. Please remember this can cause problems to people with disabilities, the elderly and people with prams and buggies. Please cut your vegetation back. **If you do not the council can issue an enforcement order and if you fail to comply they can undertake the work and then charge you.** Croydon also operates a green waste collection for garden waste.

# Cane Hill – Remnants of a Forgotten World

by Graham Lomas

Cane Hill Park today is a middle-income housing estate. The only evidence of its former life a 107 foot water tower, a chapel, and fragments of an admin building. Today the UK is struggling to figure out and shape a viable social care policy for an increasingly elderly population. A century and a half ago Commissioners for Lunacy were doing the equivalent – in a land without a national health service, poor social insurance, a smokey smog-laden city, no sanitation (Joseph Bazalgette was scarcely 30 years old), poor diet, shorter life-spans, rudimentary education and little birth control. Their solution: licensed lodging houses, workhouses, and asylums.

By the 1860's Surrey's two major asylums, Wandsworth and Woking, were bursting; each with over 1,000 'residents'. Croydon alone was having to send people to over 13 other places across south east England.

Cane Hill was conceived; land purchased from Edmund Byron at Coulsdon Manor, and the County Architect and Surveyor (Charles Henry Howell) given his head to devise something. His novel design was reckoned a world beater: 22 wards of very varied size radiating like spokes off a wide semi-circular corridor. Eleven acres of building in all. 300 or more labourers billeted on Lion Green to put it up. Capacity at the outset for 1,000 people, with scope for over 2,000



By the late 1890's numbers already reached 2,400, and rarely fell below that until the late 1960's. A mighty institution, with a workforce that at one stage reached 700. A clue to admissions comes from the labeling of four reception wards (four male, four female) – Infirm; epileptic; suicidal; acute mania. With discharge common, the average length of stay was a few years. Regimes were remarkably open. Boundary fencing was light. You could walk around Coulsdon; many did. The public could cross the estate to Coulsdon Station. Kids played in the grounds. Only after WW2 did security tighten. There were 'airing' courts outside the wards, you could wander the grounds, play cricket, join a band. Relatives of individuals with now famous family surnames found long-term shelter in Cane Hill: Chaplin; Bowie; Caine; Walliams.

Most people were put to work. Cane Hill became almost self-supporting – horses, cows, pigs, arable farming, and greenhouses. Much of Coulsdon grew up linked directly to the asylum – rows of cottages in Chipstead Valley and Lion Green housed workers, their families served by Smitham School. Coulsdon South station opened specifically to serve the site, named 'Coulsdon for Cane Hill'. Sidings at Smitham Bottom served the asylum too.

Asylum people were discouraged however from walking along particular posh roads, and the Rector at St. John's thought it undesirable that Cane Hill people be buried in his churchyard in the cemetery and were cremated at Mitcham Road. A biggish cemetery was created on Portnalls Road where modern houses now stand (the asylum's longstanding medical superintendent Dr. (now Sir) James Moody was buried there in 1915 after 33 years' service).

*(continued on page 17)*



## Cane Hill – Remnants of a Forgotten World

(continued from page 16)

WW1 saw several asylums become military hospitals. Its younger staff enlisted. Older staff had ‘reserved occupation’ status. Servicemen who died were buried in communal graves in the asylum cemetery – ‘special graves’ – separate from others. Later Bandon Hill cemetery was used. 120 servicemen remained in the asylum as patients for years. (When Cane Hill closed all bodies in the cemetery were reburied at Mitcham Road).

Changed times, and building design fashions, two world wars, pressure on places, and poor upkeep through the last century, finally unhinged Howells’ masterpiece – plus growing acceptance that individuals with mental health problems could now be helped by living in the community. With Kenley Airfield nearby, Cane Hill was part of ‘Hell fire Corner’ during WW2. Damage was light however – mostly broken windows. The deep shelters close to Brighton Road became optical lens laboratories after 1946.

The asylum’s final years were forlorn. Talk of making the site a science park came to nothing. For twenty years after 1992 the buildings were simply boarded up, subject to vandalism – and partial demolition helped along by the SAS! Pressure to lift London’s housing output finally created opportunity for Cane Hill to re-emerge.



Pam Buttrey’s book *The Tower on the Hill* relates the asylum’s history in painful detail; but with one curious omission – the chapel (now the sole intact legacy of 110 years history) gets merely a photo. A remarkable structure, described in 1887 as “cleverly designed ... moderate proportions of red cotters ... sundry other superior bricks ... Portland and Forest of Dean stone... in Early English style providing a singularly effective whole at minimum

cost”. It will now be small business premises

The water tower will become a five-storey dwelling (minus its 34,000 gallon tank). Quite the most extensive legacy is the farm estate. John and Margaret Kent and their two sons, having managed the Area Farm for many years, now own and operate from substantial new barns and livery stables, and live in Glencairn - now the Farmhouse; the much-altered dwelling of a former chaplain (three sons of Rev. Crawford when living there became famous cricketers).



The three remaining fragments of this iconic institution now stand fully restored. One chapter closed. Another opened.



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# Historic Signs – Milestones Waymarkers

by Charles King

The first evidence of measuring distance along roads can be traced back to the Romans and their famous, straight Roman roads. They marked a distance of 1618 yards or a thousand double steps (a Mille) with a round cylindrical stone. Today 117 of these stones still survive. At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, stagecoaches began to appear, running between towns across the country. At that time roads were poorly maintained with many roads little more than dirt tracks or muddied ways in Winter, and it took many days to make long journeys; London to Edinburgh could take up to 16 days.

Turnpike Trusts were set up, by Acts of Parliament, from 1706. This allowed many groups of worthies or local landowners to repair and maintain roads and collect a toll from users at a Turnpike. There were local turnpikes along the Brighton Road near Cane Hill and at Hooley. In 1767, mileposts were compulsory on all turnpikes, not only to inform travellers of direction and distances, but to help keep stagecoaches to schedule. These ‘miles stones’ were also used for charging fares on stagecoaches and for postal charges prior to the universal penny post. There was no standard for these mileposts; the only requirement was to show the distances in miles (1760 yards). Some showed local distances and others showed the distance from a location in London, while many named the local parish as well. The Milestone Society website shows over 100 types of milestones: [www.milestonesociety.co.uk/about-milestones/](http://www.milestonesociety.co.uk/about-milestones/)

Most Milestones emanating from London have a different starting location depending on direction of travel, such as Aldgate, Cornhill, Marble Arch, Whitehall, Westminster Bridge etc.



Locally the oldest milestone can be found in the grounds of Purley Hospital, dated 1743. It is well-worn and barely readable. It shows the distance from Cornhill in Roman Numerals (XIII) on one side and on the other Westminster Bridge also in Roman numerals (XII). Two later milestones at Coulsdon South show the distance from Westminster Bridge in Roman Numeral (XIV) and the distance to Brighton in English Numerals 37½. A similar milepost can be found 1 mile to the north (just north of Stoats Nest Road) and reads

*L-R Purley Hospital, Brighton Road Coulsdon and Brighton Road Hooley.*

‘Westminster Bridge XIII’. The milestone at Hooley, being in a different parish, is a different style and contains the parish name of ‘Reigate and Merstham’ on the top and the mileage is in English Numerals: Brighton 35miles and Westminster Bridge 16 miles. More information on London Milestones can be found on:

[www.metadyne.co.uk/n-milestones.html](http://www.metadyne.co.uk/n-milestones.html)

Today “Milestone” has entered into the common English language, meaning progress or achievements along route to a goal or a stage in a project

## Business Interview – S & S Hardware

by Charles King

For the business interview in this edition, we took a trip to Old Coulsdon where you can find a real gem of a store called **S & S Hardware**. This family-run store was opened in 2009 and today the shop is run by Shanu Joseph, with the help of his brothers Stephan and Shimon, along with their assistant Leon. Shanu's family emigrated from India to the UK in early 2000s and settled in nearby Caterham, where he attended De Stafford School. His father, Sebastian, being a bit of an entrepreneur, saw an opportunity in the market for a hardware store in Old Coulsdon. This was the beginning of S & S Hardware, which is based in Lacy Green Parade, Coulsdon Road. 01737 556009 [www.sshardware.co.uk](http://www.sshardware.co.uk)

From an early age, Shanu (*right, with father Sebastian*) was very much involved in the business. Even in between studying business management & finance at Westminster University, he would regularly help at the store. With his passion for business, he took the opportunity to join the family business and apply some of his knowledge that he had gained from his university degree.



The range of stock (*left*) has expanded throughout the years and now it not only covers general hardware items, but much more, such as paints, tools, nuts & bolts, screws, electrical, plumbing fittings, ironmongery, timber and gardening equipment. In fact, there's more than 5000 items in store, which is why some of the regular customers often refer to the store as an 'Aladdin's Cave'. They also provide services such as Dulux paint mixing, key cutting and Calor gas for BBQs and heating. S & S Hardware is open 7 days a week, which is an added benefit for the local community as it's the only hardware store in Old Coulsdon.

Like many traders the Covid Pandemic has been a difficult time with lockdown being sprung on the nation's shops in March 2020. The family decided the best course of action was to shut the shop while they worked out a plan for the future. The Government decided that hardware shops were 'essential shops'. The family decided that the way forward was for Shanu to move out of the family home and that way they could reopen the shop within a week. The opening of the shop proved to be a tremendous benefit to the local community of Coulsdon and Old Coulsdon, often being the only place in the area that you could obtain materials for essential repairs and maintenance or just some friendly advice that we all needed from time to time during lockdown. S & S Hardware is a prime example of the support and personal service we can all expect from our local shops in our highstreets, especially in this era of online shopping. Shanu is considering an expansion to the current business with increased retail space and introducing additional product lines in the future. ECRA thanks all at *S & S Hardware* for their help during this difficult period and wish Shanu and his family all the best for their future.





# Public Transport Report

by Charles King

**Covid-19 and public transport:** The Government has announced that from 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 the existing restrictions are removed and people are encouraged to work normally. The transport authorities are advising users to travel confidently, but with caution and that you should still wear a face covering which is still mandatory in London (unless you are exempt), sanitise your hands and travel at quieter times. GTR and TfL have produced apps and have sections on their web sites that will show quieter times:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/status-updates/busiest-times-to-travel>  
[www.southernrailway.com/coronavirus-information/find-a-quieter-train](http://www.southernrailway.com/coronavirus-information/find-a-quieter-train)

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 five 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 or on stations:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/news/213133/imperial-scientists-conduct-covid-19-testing-london](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/213133/imperial-scientists-conduct-covid-19-testing-london)

**Trains:** Unfortunately due to the increased need for staff to self-isolate by the NHS app a larger number of trains than normal will be subject to cancellation and alteration. After the decrease in service in December, usage has now increased to about 60% of normal in the London area. From May there has been 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. There are unlikely to be any further changes until December 2021, although weekend services can still be affected by engineering works. Please check before travelling on National Rail Enquiries [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

The Government has now published its white paper for the railways. This will create an overall company called *Great British Railways* which will take between one and two years to implement. GTR's contract has now been extended to March 2022.



At Coulsdon South a defibrillator has been installed adjacent to the entrance. New seating has been installed on the platform and in the waiting area, but we are still waiting for the new door mechanism for the waiting area. At Coulsdon Town the additional windshield and seats have now been fitted.

**Flexible Season Tickets** were introduced from 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021. This will allow travel on 8 separate occasions within a 28-day period. However, in our area you will need to have GTR



Keycard. They do not apply to journeys wholly in the London zones as Oyster and bankcards already have a daily and weekly cap. You can buy one from Coulsdon to stations outside London, such as Coulsdon South to Reigate or Coulsdon South to Crawley. However, if you travel four days or more, an ordinary season ticket will usually be better value and you can travel on other days of the week free. If you travel on different days and different times, a combination of a new flexible season and off-peak returns may also be better value. For more information and a season ticket calculator visit:

[www.southernrailway.com/tickets/the-key-smartcard/flexi-seasons](http://www.southernrailway.com/tickets/the-key-smartcard/flexi-seasons)

(continued on page 22)



## Public Transport

(continued from page 21)

**Fares:** Cash is now accepted again on London Underground. The London Mayor and the Government have reached further agreement on a bailout package for TfL which lasts until the Autumn 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 9.30am on the other train services.

**Buses:** The 166 now stops at the same stop as the 60 in Wellesley Road. Again this summer there will be additional buses on the 166 to and from the Lavender Fields at Oaks Park on Saturdays and Sundays. **Bus Shelters:** In our area there are two types of shelters – those provided directly by TfL which are usually red and grey. The other type is supplied by Croydon through a contract with a major advertising company. The company supplies a mixture of shelters across the borough (generally black) ranging from simple shelters to those with illuminated adverts which require planning permission, not for the shelter, but the advertising. For this they pay Croydon an annual sum for as long as the contract lasts. This year Croydon has changed their contractor from *J C Decaux* to new company called *Valo Smart City*. As a result, *J C Decaux* have been removing their shelters (most, but not all, of the shelters in Coulsdon are TfL owned). As a large number of the new shelters require planning permission, they will not get replaced until the autumn.

## What's On

### Old Coulsdon Village Fair - **CANCELLED**

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty about future restrictions, the decision was taken to cancel this year's Old Coulsdon Village Fair. We look forward to this being reinstated in Summer 2022.

### Coulsdon Theatre Workshop, Coulsdon Community Centre, Barrie Close, CR5 3BE **AND THEN THERE WERE NONE** by Agatha Christie

July 31, August 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 at 8pm and August 1,7 at 3pm

<https://twcoulsdon.org.uk/future-productions/>

**Steam trains:** A number of steam trains have returned to the network, although not too many on the Brighton line. There is a regular evening *Sunset Express* steam train on most Tuesday evenings heading to Victoria passing Coulsdon at 8.55pm, headed by Mayflower locomotive. However, this can be cancelled at short notice. The following web site provides information of steam services.

[www.railadvent.co.uk/steam-locomotives-on-the-mainline](http://www.railadvent.co.uk/steam-locomotives-on-the-mainline)

### ECRA and Friends of Farthing Downs and Happy Valley Quiz Night Old Coulsdon Bowling Club – 7 for 7.30 pm

All being well, the Autumn quiz night should go ahead in September (26<sup>th</sup>).

Quizmaster Mark Cooper. Tickets £12.50 for teams of up to 8 includes, fish, chicken or vegetarian supper, soft drinks, tea and coffee.

Contact: email [paulinepayne@btinternet.com](mailto:paulinepayne@btinternet.com) or phone 01737 554449 to book.



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