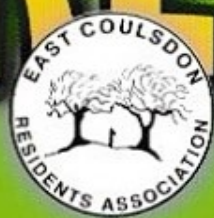
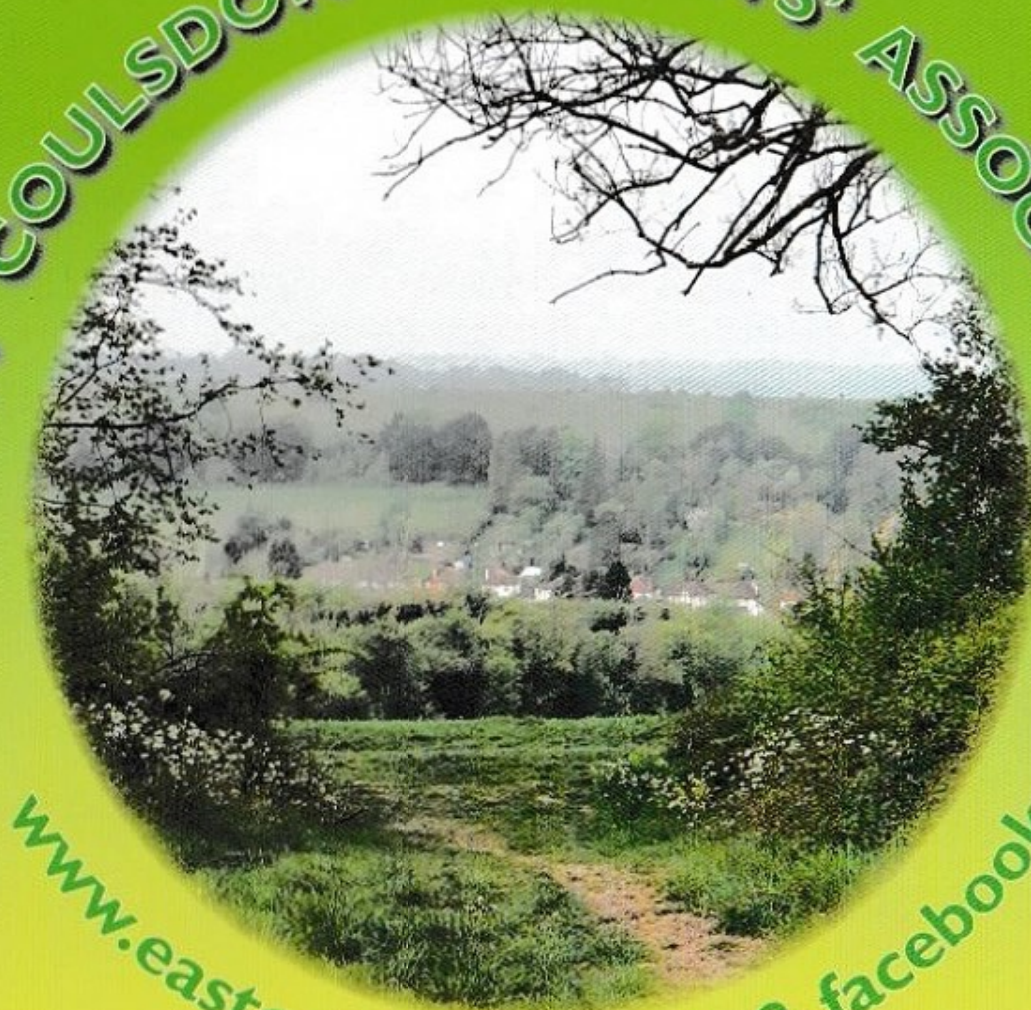


THE REVIEW



EAST COULSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk & facebook

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THE REVIEW

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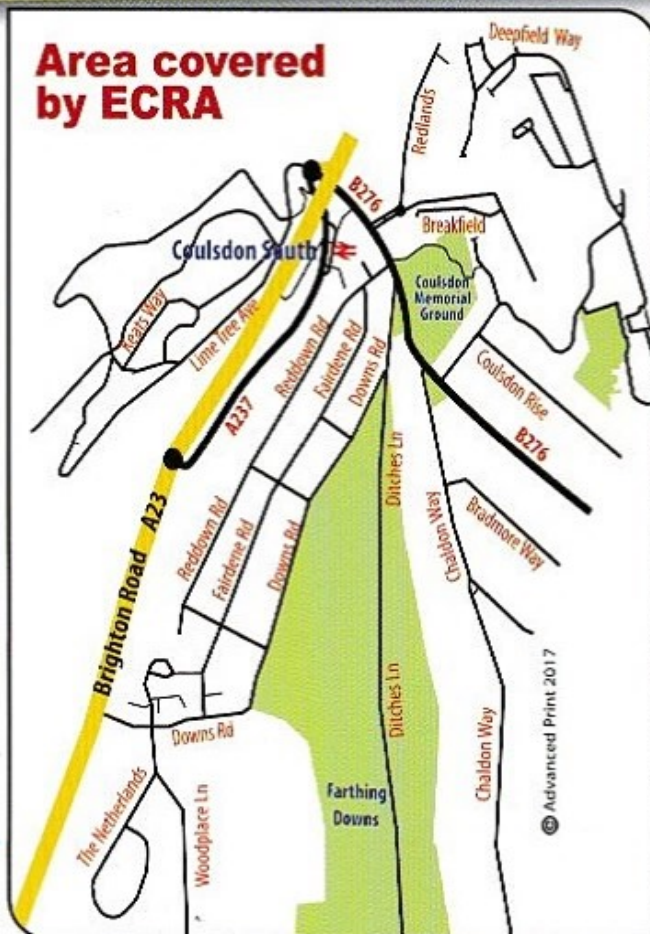
New library opening times from 1st April 2022:

Day	Coulsdon	Bradmore Green
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Tuesday	Closed	10am – 6pm
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	10am – 6pm	Closed
Friday	Closed	10am – 6pm
Saturday	9am – 5pm	Closed

For more information about opening times across the borough and services available visit:

www.croydon.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-culture/libraries

Area covered by ECRA



Editorial

THIS IS THE FIRST REVIEW OF THE NEW ECRA FINANCIAL YEAR.

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Please use your name and first line of your address as reference, or email info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk for a reference. Or pay your road steward by cash or cheque (made payable to ECRA). **Your subscriptions really help us** to continue producing the Review four times a year and make contributions to improving Coulsdon. Last year we contributed to: Coulsdon Christmas lights and tree, Old Coulsdon Christmas Lights, Coulsdon Art Trail and replacing damaged trees in the town centre. Please help us to keep Coulsdon a nice and interesting place to live and shop. We are also looking for road stewards to deliver The Review in: **Woodplace Lane, Bluebell Gardens** and various roads on **Cane Hill**. Contact us on info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk if you can help.

ECRA AGM: We look forward to welcoming our residents to the East Coulsdon Residents' Association AGM **7.30pm on Wednesday 15th June 2022**

Old Coulsdon Congregational Church, Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon CR5 1EH
www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk Buses 60, 404 & 466

New Directly Elected Mayor for Croydon: On Thursday 5th May 2022 the local elections took place. This was the first election where we were able to vote for a Directly Elected Mayor using the supplementary vote system, along with our local councillors in Coulsdon Town and Old Coulsdon wards. ECRA arranged to meet individually with the three leading candidates: Richard Howard (LibDem), Jason Perry (CON) and Val Shawcross (LAB). Issues discussed included concerns with the Croydon local plan and its proposals for intensification of our area. We explained that we believe there are now sufficient flats in Coulsdon. It was pleasing that all three of them accepted our arguments as set out in the joint Coulsdon RA's submission to the master plan which is available to view on the ECRA website

www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk/2022/04/coulsdon-ras-submission-to-croydon-local-plan/

We also arranged a public Hustings at Coulsdon Methodist Church on Monday 11th April with the addition of the independent candidates Andrew Pelling and Gavin Palmer. This was attended by 66 local residents.

The following were elected:

Mayor	Candidate	1st vote	2nd vote	Turnout
	Jason Perry (CON)	33,413	38,612	35%
	Val Shawcross (LAB)	31,352	38,023	
Local Councillors				
Coulsdon Town	Ian Parker	2,215	Conservative	39.33%
	Mario Creatura	2,141	Conservative	
	Luke Shortland	2,013	Conservative	
Old Coulsdon	Margaret Bird	1,999	Conservative	45.79%
	Nikhil Sherine Thampi	1,555	Conservative	

FOUL PLAY ON THE RAILWAY – PART 2

Murder in The Merstham Tunnel on The Brighton Line

by Eric Jenkinson

This is Part 2 of an account of the earliest murders of passengers on railway trains in Britain. Part 1 was published in the last issue of The Review (No 225).

As early railway travel in the 19th century became popular with the travelling public, thefts from the rudimentary wooden carriages were common and violent robberies occurred from time to time. Trains in those early days had no corridors connecting the individual compartments. Men could be robbed and women assaulted while the assailants escaped at the next station. Carriages were unlit at night.



The Merstham Tunnel Mystery: On a light summer evening on Sunday 24th September 1905, Mary Sophia Money, aged 22 (*pictured, left*), a bookkeeper at Bridger's Dairy, Clapham Junction, left work at about 7pm telling a friend that she wanted to take a little walk. Earlier, Mary had been seen looking through a railway timetable. A few minutes after leaving work Mary called at Frances Golding's sweet shop in Station Approach, where she bought some chocolates. She told Frances Golding that she was going to Victoria. She appeared happy and left the shop laughing. Mary was wearing a hat and a white silk scarf.

Later that Sunday night, shortly before 11pm, in the mile long tunnel just north of Merstham Station between what is now Coulsdon South and Redhill, Sub-Inspector William Peacock, supervisor of a gang of railway workers, came across the mutilated body of a young woman about 400 yards into the tunnel. The body was still warm. Peacock and his men took the young woman back to Merstham station and reported to the stationmaster. The police were called to the scene and when they examined the area, they initially decided that the death was a suicide. They thought that the young woman might have wandered into the tunnel and been hit by a passing train.



The body was removed to The Feathers Hotel in the High Street where a local doctor, Henry Crickett, examined it. Dr Crickett's examination revealed severe injuries to the head, a broken nose, fractures to both thighs and one leg had been severed. There were also bruises and scratches to body, arms and face which he considered may have been caused during a struggle, prior to her being thrown from the carriage.

Dr Cricket also found that a white silk scarf had been forced into the girl's mouth. It became obvious that she had been pushed from the train and had not jumped

No means of identification was found on the body. As the body was still warm when discovered it was estimated that she must have fallen from the train within an hour of her being found. The position of the body showed that she had come out of a southbound train. When the police examined the tunnel wall next to where the body had lain, a number of marks were found where the soot had been rubbed off. The highest of these marks was at about the level of a person standing up in a railway carriage.

(continued on page 6)

FOUL PLAY ON THE RAILWAY – PART 2 (CONTINUED)

(continued from page 5)

On the afternoon of the following day, Monday 25th September, the mystery of the girl's identity was solved, when Robert Henry Money, a dairy farmer from Kingston Hill, identified the body as that of his sister, Mary Sophia Money. He claimed to have last seen his sister on Sunday, but there seemed no question that he was involved in the crime. Emma Hone, another employee at Bridger's Dairy, said that Mary had taken her black knitted cotton purse which Emma thought had money in it, because Mary had just been paid. The purse was not found with the body and never recovered.

Emma Hone said she had no knowledge of any male friends that Mary might have been going to meet. Nevertheless, suspicion fell on a number of possible admirers named by Mary's brother, Robert. The police were convinced that Mary had every intention of keeping a rendezvous with someone, presumably of the opposite sex, at Victoria that Sunday evening. A ticket collector at Clapham Junction identified Mary as a woman he had seen on the platform at 7.20pm. A signalman who was in the Purley Oaks Signal Box north of Merstham Tunnel recalled that as the London Bridge train passed, he remembered seeing a couple standing up in a first-class compartment. They appeared to be struggling. The police speculated that this could have been Mary and that during this struggle, Mary began to scream. Her attacker then pushed the scarf into her mouth to silence her and, when the train was in the tunnel, he opened the door and threw her out into the darkness where she died from her injuries. The guard on the 9.33pm train remembered seeing a young man and a woman who answered Mary's description in a first-class carriage at East Croydon. He saw them again sitting closer together at South Croydon. His description of the women fitted that of Mary Money. At Redhill, the guard noticed that the couple had gone. The guard thought he saw the man leaving the station without the woman. The man was described as thin, with a moustache and wearing a bowler hat. He was never traced. During a major investigation, over one hundred interviews were conducted by the police and many railway carriages examined. A similar train was also recreated and taken through Merstham Tunnel. The police noted that the space between the carriage door and the walls of the tunnel was only 21 inches at the top and 25 inches at the bottom which only allowed the door to be opened 11 inches. Allowing for the carriage door, that only left 8ins for the body to have passed through and the door would have been touching the tunnel wall which would have damaged it. The Chief of the London and Brighton Railway Company's police said that he thought that it would have been impossible for a body to have been got out through the door and he speculated that Mary had been pushed through the door window. No arrest was ever made, and the mystery of Mary Money's death remains unsolved to this day.

The inquest into Mary's death took place at the Feathers Inn in Merstham in the coffee room which was full. The Coroner and the jury visited Merstham tunnel to view the soot marks on the wall. The Home Office pathologist, Dr William Henry Willcox, described Mary's injuries to the jury and explained that some of the scratches and bruises may have been caused by the train, but others had not. It was his opinion that Mary was alive before she left the train. The autopsy showed that Mary had eaten a meal about 3 hours before her death. There was no sign of any sexual attack.

(continued on page 7)

Foul Play on the Railway – Part 2 (continued)

(continued from page 6)

When the Coroner summed up, he said that there was no evidence of suicide or of accident. The jury spent an hour and ten minutes considering their verdict and returned the following open verdict: "The jury are unanimously of the opinion that the deceased met her death through injuries brought about by a train, but the evidence is insufficient to show whether she was thrown from a train or fell from a train accidentally." On Monday 2nd October Mary's body was transported by train from Merstham accompanied by her brother George and taken to George's home in Watford. There was considerable interest in the funeral the following day and crowds lined the route. Among the mourners were Mary's five brothers, three sisters and a couple of friends from Bridger's Dairy. Mary was buried with her father, who had died 19 years previously.



*Mary Money Funeral Watford, 3rd
October 1905 ©Downer Photo/West
Watford History Group*

There is a sad and macabre postscript. Seven years after Mary's murder, one night in September 1912 in Eastbourne, the bodies of a man, his wife and their child were found in a burning house together with the bodies of two other children. They had all been shot. The mother of the two children survived being shot twice in the neck having escaped the burning house. The man, Robert Hicks Murray, had shot the others and then killed himself. The police eventually discovered Murray was Robert Money, the brother of the unfortunate Mary Money. Robert had been close to Mary, and it is not hard to understand the trauma of having to identify her mutilated body and deal with the aftermath. Things started going wrong for Robert from this point. Having a reputation as a pleasant, steady man. Soon after Mary's murder he gave up his secure job in the dairy business. He met a young woman from Wandsworth, Florence Elizabeth Paler who was approximately the same age as his dead sister and started a relationship with her. They did not marry though they had two children – Stanley, born in 1909, and Frances Winifred, born in 1911. At some point, Robert also started a relationship with Florence's younger sister, Edith Matilda. Unlike with Florence, he married Edith on 26 September 1910. Amazingly, the two sisters appear not to have known about the other relationship. Robert then split his time between the two sisters, spending half the week with one, and half with the other.

When Florence found out about Edith, the two sisters became estranged though both continued to have a relationship with Robert. Edith gave birth to a baby by him, Peggy. Robert's complex personal life began to take a financial and emotional toll on him. His older sister Charlotte became concerned about his erratic behaviour and Florence Paler started to worry about his periods of anger. He was also in debt. In a fit of depression, he once said to Florence that he would "kill us rather than we should starve." That September night in 1912, it all seems to have become too much for Robert and he carried out his threat. Before he committed the final act of suicide, he scribbled a note which was found after his death. The note read: "Am absolutely ruined and have killed all those who are dependent on me. Should like them to be buried all in one grave. God forgive me." The mysterious case of the unsolved murder of Mary Sophia Money in Merstham Tunnel had claimed its last victims.

TOKEN

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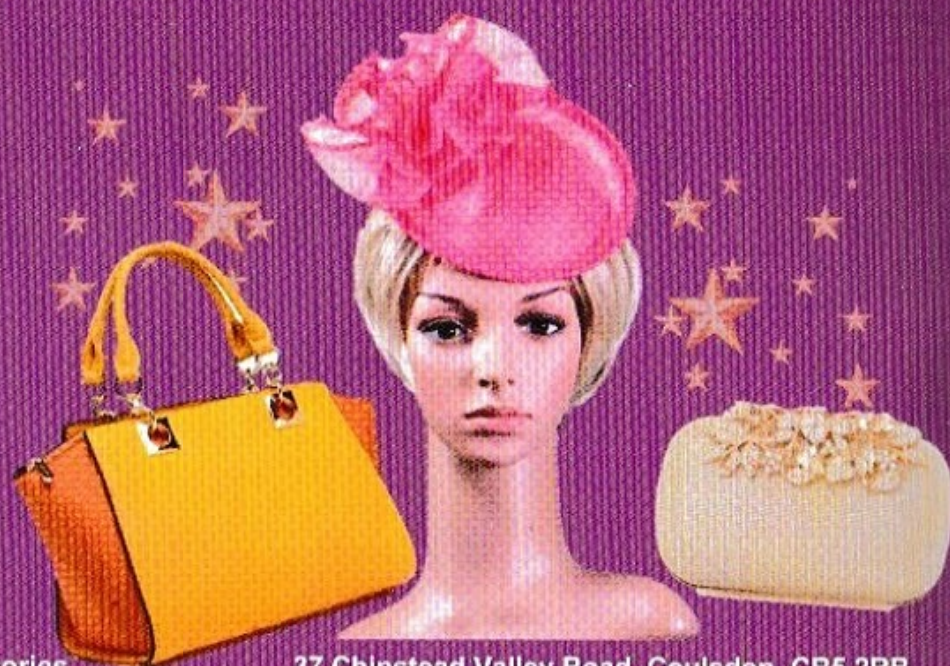
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Visit their website: www.lantivetduo.com to find out more about their repertoire and to read reviews from people who have enjoyed concerts of their own at home. You can also listen to some of their performances via their Soundcloud:

<https://soundcloud.com/lantivetduo>

If you would like more information you can email: lantivetduo@gmail.com or call Anna on 07951 610184

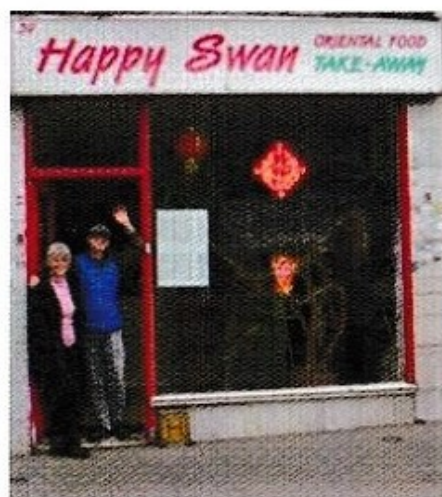
What's Happening in and Around Coulsdon

by Charles King

Coulsdon Town Centre: The William Hill betting shop has now been converted into offices for **Streeter Marshall Solicitors and Notaries**.

Urban Fuse in Victoria Road closed and has become **Barone Pizza & Pasta Restaurant**

www.thefork.co.uk/restaurant/barone-r729848



In Chipstead Valley Road one of Coulsdon's favourite takeaways, **Happy Swan**, has changed hands. After 21 years of running **Happy Swan** Evelyn and Steve Chang have decided to retire. Steve came to the UK in 1966 from Hong Kong and was brought up in Horsham. He first started work in a Chinese restaurant in central London where he met Evelyn, who had grown up in Malaysia. They then ventured to the Republic of Ireland and managed a Chinese restaurant there. On their return to the UK they decided to look for somewhere to open a Chinese takeaway and came across the present location in Chipstead Valley Road in 200, the same year their lovely daughter Emily was born, who is now studying at Southampton University.

ECRA would like to thank them for their help and the pleasant manner in which they have served us in Coulsdon over the last 21 years. We would like to wish them all the best in their retirement. We look forward to being served by the new owners Zhou and Yin Lin.

Cane Hill Park is nearing completion. The area at the bottom of the site, between Marlpit Lane and Lion Green Road which has been used as a compound, is still being cleared. The site is reserved for commercial development, but no plans have yet been submitted. Work on Henry Howell House is now complete and is soon to be fully occupied. Work on the Chapel and Tower are still in progress. Charles Hancock Way (Footpath 744) has been reinstated to its original route and is now open. This includes steps up to Henry Howell House. In Iron Railway Close the residents have been moved out of the remaining blocks while they are repaired. The Give Way sign at the end of Lime Tree Avenue was replaced by an island and Stop sign to improve road safety, but within two weeks it was knocked down.



(continued on page 10)

What's Happening in and Around Coulsdon

(continued from page 9)

In and around Coulsdon: *Marlpit Lane Bowling and Putting Greens* opened for the Summer season on Easter Weekend. More volunteers are needed! If you can help, please call Maureen on 07761 926498.



Farthing Downs – Protecting Skylarks: Skylarks are small brown birds that nest on the ground. Unfortunately, their population has declined by 61% in the UK over the last 40 years. Skylarks advertise their territories by a spectacular song-flight, during which the bird rises almost vertically with rapid wingbeats, hovering for several minutes and then parachuting down. Skylarks have populated and bred on Farthing Downs for many years.

Sadly, repeated disturbances, especially from dogs, cause the birds to abandon their nests, with any unprotected eggs left available to be eaten by predators. This year the Corporation of London has erected an electric fence around the area on the Downs, which is one of the few places where they breed in south London, to keep out predators. It is hoped that this will improve the numbers breeding on the Downs this year. See 'Bird's Eye View', Page 21 for more information about these projects from the RSPB.



Postage Stamps to change: *Royal Mail* have announced that the existing red 1st class and blue 2nd prepaid stamps will no longer be valid after the end of 2022.

Royal Mail have produced new 1st and 2nd class stamps with a barcode and only these will be valid after 31st January 2023. If you believe that you have too many of the old stamps and won't be able to use them by 31st January 2023 Royal Mail have introduced a "Swapping Them Out" scheme. Visit www.royalmail.com/sending/barcoded-stamps for more information.

Covid Update: People over the age 75 and those with immune deficiencies are now able to have a 4th Covid Booster Vaccination. To check if you are eligible and to book an appointment you need to go to the NHS web site www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination or you can phone 119.

The Vaccination Centre at St Aidan's in Chipstead Valley Road, run by **Valley Pharmacy** (020 8939 7926), is open on a number of days per week. We would like to thank **Valley Pharmacy** for setting up this local facility and excellent work they have done on our behalf. In the 18 months to April 2022 they have administered over 70,000 vaccine injections.

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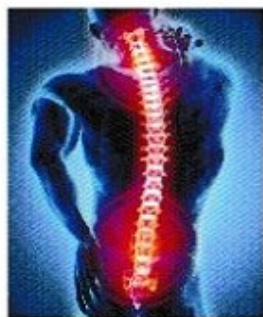
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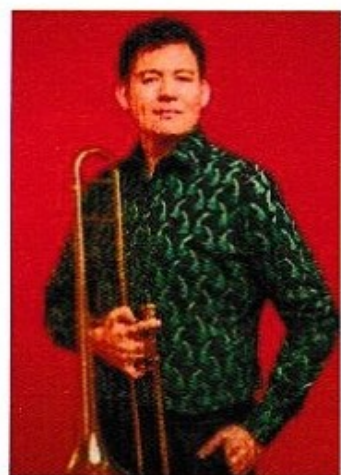


General
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Council

Musicians and Music Come to Coulsdon

by Charles King

ECRA is always interested to find out what interesting things the people of Coulsdon do. For this edition we discovered two very talented musicians residing here in Coulsdon; Callum Au and Kay Stephen, who moved to Coulsdon from Brixton during the Covid pandemic.



As an accomplished trombone player Callum has worked with most of the top big bands and jazz ensembles in the UK, for multiple West End musicals and at the BBC proms. Callum has been a member of the Ronnie Scott's Jazz Orchestra since 2012, which is one of the UK's premier large jazz ensembles, with a performance schedule to match. He has also composed or arranged a substantial proportion of the band's current working repertoire. Over the past ten years, Callum has established himself as one of the busiest arrangers and orchestrators in the country. He has had the privilege of writing music for many international artists, including Michael Bublé, Quincy Jones, Jamie Cullen and Randy Brecker. In 2019, he was commissioned to arrange

the big band numbers in the Hollywood movie adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Cats'. During Lockdown with few live music performances Callum has concentrated on arranging and composing. He was also privileged to be asked to conduct a recording session for the BBC's *Sunday Night is Music Night* (us older ones will remember it as Friday night). To find out more about Callum's work, visit his website: <https://callumaumusic.com>



Kay Stephen, violist and violinist, is passionate about ensemble playing in all of its forms. She loves the spontaneity and communication of making music with others. As a chamber musician, she has been a recipient of numerous awards including the Royal Overseas League Chamber Music Prize and the Audience Engagement Prize at the Franz Schubert and Modern Music Competition. During her career she has worked with many famous orchestras including The City of London Sinfonia, The Halle Orchestra, The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. One of her other activities over the last ten years has been the Jacquin Trio which

takes its name from the Von Jacquin Family, the original dedicatees of Mozart's famous Kegelsatt Trio. This consists of Jessie Grimes – Clarinets, Charis Hanning – Piano and Kay Stephen – Viola/Violin. www.jacquintrio.com

During their short time in Coulsdon they have gained a new member of the family, young Alfred. This means Kay spends a lot more time at home where she can concentrate on one of her other abilities – teaching, as an experienced teacher ranging from individual lesson to chamber music coaching and string sectionals. Kay believes in a tailored approach and is happy to work with complete beginners of all ages, players coming to or returning to music later in life. <https://kaystephen.com/>

ECRA would like to welcome Callum, Kay and Alfred to Coulsdon and wish them every success in the future.

The Hive Coulsdon Library Community Garden Update

by Gill Hickson



Community garden
in Coulsdon

Emily and friends obtained the use of a digger and driver. This was used to lift a lot of surface turf which was full of weeds (some of which have been kept as obviously they're good for the bees!) and to make the ground more even. This unearthed the remains of an air raid shelter. More donations have come in. They also successfully applied to the RHS 'It's

Your Neighbourhood' initiative which will get them on track to apply to 'Coulsdon in Bloom' when the time comes.

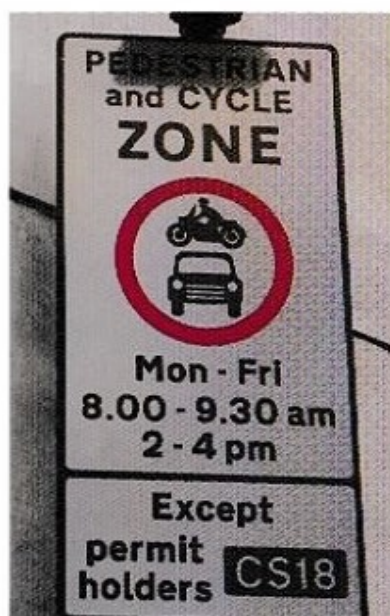
Water butts are also needed - water supply is a major issue as they don't have an outdoor tap (and there's a limit to the amount people can bring from their homes in bottles/watering cans!). If you have one spare or know someone who does, please get in touch. **The Hive** is looking for further volunteers over the coming weeks. If you would like to help, contact Emily Harris thehivecoulsdon@gmail.com.

One volunteer applied through **Dobbies Community Growth scheme**. **Dobbies Garden Centres** want to help make their local landscape a little bit greener, benefit people living in the local area and help boost wellbeing with green spaces and gardening projects. **The Hive** has now been shortlisted. The winners will receive plants, gardening equipment, sustainable products and support from their local store. The project with the most votes overall will be the national winner and receive an extra £500 worth of support. **The Hive** would absolutely love your support. To vote for **The Hive** follow this link:

www.dobbies.com/helping-your-community-grow.

Please choose the Woodcote Green branch.

School Street Vehicle Bans



After temporarily removing the school street restrictions earlier in the year, Croydon has now reintroduced them from Monday 25th April 2022. The banning vehicles in the surrounding streets around school hours with a £60 fine for driving in these streets without a permit. This affects Keston and Woodcote schools in Coulsdon. The Council have said they will improve signage around Keston something that ECRA has been campaigning for. We will be checking to see if this is done.

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Business Interview – The Comrades Club

by Charles King

The Coulsdon Comrades Club was founded in 1919 by a group of local Coulsdon people who decided that there should be a social club in Coulsdon for ex-service men returning from WW1 and their friends and families.

They formed the Coulsdon Branch of the Comrades of the Great War Club in 1919 under their president Mr Alfred Patchett. The club opened premises in Smitham Parish Hall in the Brighton Road. Ten years later it was decided to improve the facilities. The present building was opened in 1933 by Admiral Sir William Goodenough who resided in Old Coulsdon. The Comrades Club has always remained an independent club for its members offering many facilities such as TV sports, snooker, darts and live music, or just a nice place to have a drink and socialise with others. In the Summer there is often the chance to relax in the recently named Goodenough Garden at the rear of the club. More recently it has become the home of the award-winning **Tuesday Night Music Club** which is open to members and non-members.



Today the number of members who have served in the armed forces are very few, so the club has decided it is time to make a change, although it will always remember its heritage. From this year there will be a change of name to the **Coulsdon Club**, which will offer a much wider range of activities and events. This will include a variety of music during the week and at the weekend with top quality groups and musicians, quiz nights and more. Other events include Karaoke and Open-mic nights. There is a full-size screen for sports events and film nights and

four excellent match-quality snooker tables. A number of groups meet at the club, including a Readers book group and Wednesday night Poker club, who always welcome newcomers. The club has joined forces with the **House of Stand Up** which will bring top quality London comedy acts to Coulsdon. Their web site www.houseofstandup.co.uk/coulsdon allows people to buy tickets online to ensure a seat.

The Coulsdon Club not only offers a pleasant place to relax with a glass of real ale or wine; teas and coffees are also available. The Coulsdon Club offers many choices of entertainment for members and visitors alike. **Why not become a member of the Coulsdon Club? Individual or family membership is available. The club can also be hired for special events, celebrations or meetings.**

For more information on the **Coulsdon Club** visit www.coulsdonclub.co.uk or call 020 8703 9557. You will find us at 194 Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2NF and see their advert on page 13.

Public Transport Report

by Charles King

Trains: On 25th March, it was announced that *Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR)* would be contracted from 1st April 2022 to 1st April 2025 to run Thameslink and Southern rail services. This is a move away from the previous franchise model, with GTR paid a fee to run the service while the *Department for Transport (DfT)* 'look after' the ticket revenue. The contract also has a 'performance related' option for a further three years should they meet *DfT* targets. However, in the contract there will be the requirement to save money. As result there will be a number of service reductions across the Southern Network. These reductions will be monitored and if passenger numbers increase there is the possibility of restoring some of the services. The present usage is now about 80% that of pre-Covid, but varies considerably across lines and between stations on the lines. I am pleased to say that at Coulsdon South the usage is almost back to pre-covid levels, but it is still down on the Tattenham Corner line. The Gatwick Express has now been reinstated. We also expect a review of Booking Office opening hours to take place in the near future.

Coulsdon South: The full service was restored in February only to have the additional peak hour Gatwick- Bedford trains removed again. After extensive lobbying by *East Surrey Transport Committee* it will be reinstated in the May 2022 timetable changes.

Coulsdon Town: will remain at a semi-fast London Bridge train every 30 minutes all day. *East Surrey Transport Committee* will be lobbying for the restoration of Victoria peak hour services at Coulsdon Town and Woodmansterne. They will also be lobbying for the Tattenham Corner trains to call at Norwood Junction for improved interchange with the London Overground service



GTR have announced that they are to retire the Class 455 metro rolling stock (pictured, left) which is now 40 years old. This will mean some Metro trains will be reduced from 8 to 5 coaches. However, on a positive note it will mean all Metro trains will now have toilets. As a result of this decision *East Surrey Transport Committee* have requested that the 4 coach stop board at Coulsdon South is moved so that the 4 coach Reigate trains stop nearer the lift.

Buses: The Unite union has announced two more strikes on buses operated by *Arriva*. These will be on Monday 11th May and Monday 16th Tuesday 17th May 2022. This will affect the following local buses: 60, 166, 405, 412 and 466. Routes 404, 434 and 463 are not affected. At present there are no proposed changes to bus services in our area. The proposed changes to the 166 and 455 in the Sutton and Croydon Review have been put on hold until the Government and the London Mayor have agreed forward funding for *TfL*. The restriction on Freedom Passes and 60plus Oyster remain at 9am for *TfL* services and 9.30am for *National Rail* services on Monday to Friday. Further discussions between the Government are due to take place in June 2022.

Bus shelters: We are still waiting for the new *Valo-Smart City* bus shelters that were due to replace the ones supplied and removed by *JC Decaux*.

Bird's Eye View

by John Birkett, RSPB Croydon Local Group

I am writing this having just returned from a walk on Riddlesdown. That is the best place to find Skylarks in Croydon, although there are times that I despair for their future. Renowned for its aerial song flights, this species nests on the ground and relies on the large grassy areas at Riddlesdown, as well as those at Farthing Downs and Kenley Aerodrome. One big problem for them is that people see those spaces as somewhere to wander over, or into which they can throw balls and sticks for their dogs to chase. And that can cause disturbance to the nesting larks. At Riddlesdown, over the past couple of years I have noticed more paths, often 'cutting the corner', being worn through these grasslands. Whilst this may not seem to be a big deal as these new paths are quite narrow, they are reducing the undisturbed areas into smaller and smaller parcels, meaning the birds will have to nest closer to the paths. Added to that, dogs running through the larger areas will again cause problems.

There are many notices up on Riddlesdown explaining about the birds and urging people to stick to the footpaths and to keep dogs on short leads. Unfortunately, on this morning's walk not one dog was on any form of lead, let alone a short one. Since lockdowns began we claim to have become more aware and appreciative of the natural world. Ironically, with more people enjoying the countryside and exercising their dogs we are in danger of becoming agents of its destruction.

We share the world with wildlife, please don't ignore requests that are designed to help it. I want my grandchildren to grow up and appreciate the wealth of wildlife we can see on our doorsteps and everyone can play their part in helping that come to fruition – please!



While Skylarks may be in danger, another species is re-establishing itself in Croydon. For many years, Jackdaws were mainly restricted to the area around Riddlesdown, but they are now being seen more widely around the borough. And they are even using what became common nesting sites by exploring, and setting up home in, chimney pots. Having said that, they will also nest in holes in trees, which are more natural for them. In the winter, large numbers of Jackdaws roost overnight on

Mitcham Common. Research is being carried out to establish whence come those birds. If you see any flocks of Jackdaws flying over your house at dusk or dawn, we would like to know the location, time, direction of flight and roughly how many birds are involved.

We would love to know what you see in your local area by emailing johnbirkett@hotmail.co.uk. To find out what has been seen recently you can check out the Croydon Birders website. To find out more about the RSPB Croydon Local Group please visit our website www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon and hopefully you can come along to one of our meetings and meet us in person (See 'What's On', Page 22 for details).

What's On



RSPB Croydon Local Group Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks

Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road, South Croydon, CR2 7BG

No meeting on Monday 13th June; Monday 11th July 7.30pm *"Travels Across Mongolia", Barry Wright*

For details visit: ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon/events or contact John Davis on 020 8640 4578

Coulsdon Theatre Workshop

In the open air at Coulsdon Manor Hotel, Coulsdon Court Road, CR5 2LL

Twelfth Night 27-30th July, 2nd – 6th August 7.45pm

Box Office: 07709 266728 boxoffice@twcoulsdon.org.uk <https://twcoulsdon.org.uk>



COURTYARD THEATRE
CHIPSTEAD PLAYERS

Chipstead Players, The Courtyard Theatre

Hazlewood Lane, Chipstead CR5 3QU

23rd – 28th May 8pm (Saturday matinee at 2.15pm) *The Woman in White*, by Constance Cox, adapted from the novel by Wilkie Collins, directed by Eve Manghani.

4 – 9th July 8pm (Saturday matinee at 2.15pm) *The 39 Steps*, by John Buchan, adapted by Patrick Barlow, directed by Lauren Milsom & Noel Harris.

www.chipsteadplayers.org



Croydon Ramblers

Visit their website for details of walks in and around Coulsdon. April to June programme is now available to view:

<https://www.croydonramblers.org.uk/>

Giant Picnic in the Park – Saturday 4th June 2022 – Grange Park, Old Coulsdon

See poster on page 12 for more details.

Old Coulsdon Village Fair Saturday 2nd July 12 – 4.30pm

Grange Park, Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon CR5

Stalls, sideshows and arena displays by local schools and groups

Smitham Primary School Summer Fair – Saturday 9th July 1 – 4pm

Portnalls Road, Coulsdon CR5 3DE

Steam Trains: At the time of writing there are only a few steam trains advertised.

Sunset Express: every Tuesday from 10th May. Approximate time at Coulsdon South: 9pm.

The Orient Express: Saturday 11th June and Friday 22nd July. Approximate time at Coulsdon South: 3pm.

However, they can be cancelled at short notice. The following web site provides information of steam services: www.railadvent.co.uk/steam-locomotives-on-the-mainline

On the day timings can be checked on the Real Time Trains web site

www.realtimetrains.co.uk/search/detailed/gb-nr:CDS/

Contact us on info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk to let us know about your local events and societies.

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