

# THE REVIEW



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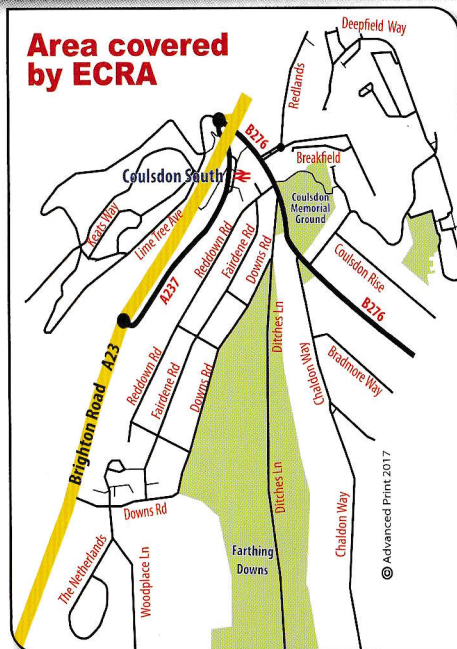
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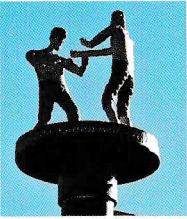
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## Editorial

by Alison Sleight



It has been a busy couple of months in Coulsdon and the local area. We have seen the opening of the Grange Park perimeter path after many months of delay, the introduction of ULEZ, a very successful Hallowe'en Trick or Treat event in the town centre and improvements to the tennis courts at Marlpit Lane Memorial Park, to name just a few! ECRA continue to campaign on local issues, including planning; see page 6 for our response to Croydon Council's latest parking proposals.

**ECRA's subscriptions are now £5.** Paying by standing order helps us and our Road Stewards. Thank you to those who have already modified their Standing Order to £5. To set up a Standing Order, or pay by bank transfer, please see details below.

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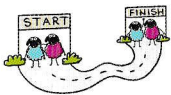
**Coulsdon Art Trail:** the vandalised Bareknuckle Boxers finial (*pictured above*) has now been repaired and returned to the finger post outside the library.

Earlier in the year Croydon Council made a temporary repair to the surface water drainage by Waitrose which reduced the flooding. They have now completed the work in October and this should resolve the problem of flooding in Malcolm Road during heavy rainfall.



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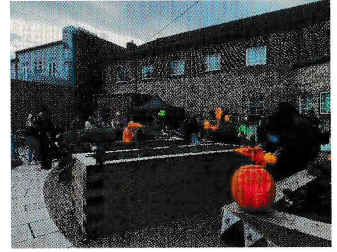




# The Hive

by Gill Hickson

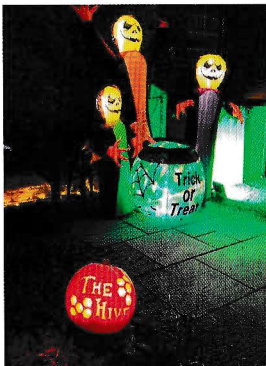
The Hive Community Garden behind Coulsdon Library is going from strength to strength. All the hard landscaping is in place and the wildlife pond has been completed and approved. We are looking forward to wildlife making it their home. Trees are expected in November, donated by the Woodland Trust, although we may want to swap a couple out for some fruit trees. These will line the fence behind the mound to give privacy and a green screen to keep it a peaceful spot in our town centre.



We are currently running Saturday morning volunteer days from 10am until 12noonish, dependent on weather and volunteer availability. We are open to suggestions of what things you would like to see happen in the garden, especially during the nicer weather in Spring and Summer. The garden area is bathed in sunshine and the plants and flowers are at their best at this time.

The library itself is open on Saturdays too, so it would be great for people to come and say hi, get involved, supporting both our local library and **The Hive**. Donations are gratefully received, either financial or plants and vegetables. Ken George was kindly able to supply many of this year's plants to great effect. You can follow us on Facebook under The Hive Coulsdon. Volunteers do need to sign up via the Croydon Libraries scheme, but all are welcome.

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-culture/libraries/volunteer-croydon-library>



We were happy to take part in the **Coulsdon Community Partnership** Trick or Treat event again for Hallowe'en on the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> October, this time making use of the internal garden by putting barriers and tape to direct people along the scary pumpkin-lit path to the gazebo to answer the quiz question and receive a treat.



A big thanks to Ashley at **CozyGlow** along with volunteers from both **The Hive** and **Coulsdon Community Partnership**. One special volunteer was our Eleanor's eight year old son, Ted. Thanks for putting in all the work, spending time carving the many pumpkins and helping with setup and take down.

This was a very successful night for the many Coulsdon families who attended and we look forward to supporting many more local events at The Hive.



# Croydon Parking Proposals and ULEZ

by Charles King

During October Croydon issued a consultation on proposed changes to parking with some public meetings in Coulsdon Library. The main changes they propose are:

- Removal of all the parking meters to be replaced with an app or phone call paying by bank card.
- Removal of the 1-hour free parking in Coulsdon and other district centres and replaced with 30 minutes free and pay for the second 30 minutes.
- Ban on all pavement parking.
- Change from emission-based parking charges

ECRA has responded that the 1- hour free parking in Coulsdon and other district centres is important as without it many people will use other district centres in other boroughs which have more friendly parking regimes.

- The 1- hour free should remain with a second hour paid for at low cost.
  - Parking should continue to be free between 5pm and 9am Monday to Saturday and free all day on Sundays and Bank holidays.
  - Parking meters should be kept with a ticket and the second hour could be paid for by bank card, phone or app, but not cash.
  - Pavement parking should continue to be allowed on the existing roads that have designated pavement parking, such as Downs Road, Rutherford Rise and Coulsdon Road.
  - Smaller shopping parades should continue to have 1-hour free parking without the need to obtain a ticket, but should be enforced to stop all day parking.
  - Better enforcement to prevent feeding the meter to ensure parking is for visitors to the town.
  - Pavement parking, especially in the town centre, needs to be stopped and enforced.
  - Car parks such as Lion Green Road car park need the correct ratio of short-term and long-term parking.
  - Lion Green Road car park should remain free between 5pm and 9am Monday to Saturday and free on Sundays.
  - Aldi and Waitrose car parks should remain free for an hour and half for shoppers in Coulsdon Town Centre as well their customers.
  - The existing local Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) around stations must remain.
- The ECRA response can be seen on the ECRA web page [www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk](http://www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk)

ULEZ was introduced at the end of August to mixed reactions. The following roads in Coulsdon are exempt: Coulsdon Road from the borough boundary to Marlpit Lane, Marlpit Lane, Brighton Road, from the borough boundary to Lion Green Road (*but not the bypass*), Lion Green Road, Chipstead Valley Road from the borough boundary to Lion Green Road, including Lion Green car park. In addition, it includes all the roads in between Coulsdon Road and Chipstead Valley Road. There is a map on the ECRA web site: <https://www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk/ecra-news/>



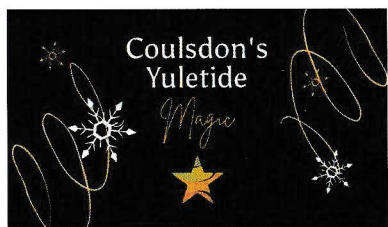
## Local Community Events



The official opening of the **Grange Park** perimeter path on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October was a beautifully sunny day – the perfect excuse for everyone to enjoy being outdoors and celebrate this wonderful achievement. With **Pistachios** café now re-opened under new ownership (see page 9), Grange Park is a great place for everyone to enjoy. We are pleased to see so many people enjoying the new path, from walkers and joggers, to young and old using a variety of wheels!

**Marlpit Lane Bowling and Putting Green** has now closed for the Winter. However, it is still in need of volunteers to help with maintenance during the winter. Please contact Maureen on 07761 926498 if you would like to get involved.

Also, in Marlpit Lane Memorial Park, the council have replaced some of the netting and are in the process of updating the tennis courts and transferring the management to **Better** who will now charge for their use and provide a locked entrance gate. ECRA are still urging the council to restore the junior football pitch and improve the maintenance of the park and Chaldon Way Gardens.



Now that Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night are gone, we look forward to Christmas and another great community event – **Coulsdon's Yuletide Magic!**

Coulsdon's Yuletide Magic will be on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 11am to 7pm** and promises to be a truly festive celebration!

There will be a Holiday and Food Market with local artisans and vendors showcasing their unique gifts and treats as well as a Santa's Grotto, funfair rides and main stage entertainment, featuring live performances from carollers to dance troupes.

**Tickets for Santa's Grotto can be booked on the Coulsdon Community Partnership website:**

<https://coulsdonpartnership.org/pages/events/coulsdon-yuletide-magic-2023>

To book a stall, become a sponsor or advertise, please contact Ashley on :  
[ashley.baruti-cooke@coulsdonpartnership.org](mailto:ashley.baruti-cooke@coulsdonpartnership.org)



# What's Happening In and Around Coulsdon

by Charles King



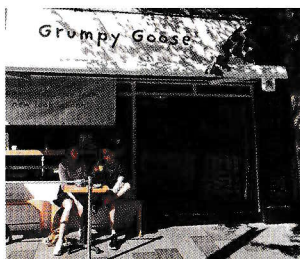
**Cane Hill:** We are pleased to say the Water Tower is now occupied, as is the admin block Henry Howell House, leaving only the Chapel to be completed. North Lodge on the corner of Portnalls Road and Tickners Way, that was due to be demolished by Barratt Homes and replaced with a new building, has now been sold to a local person who wants to restore the building. ECRA supports this.

There are still no plans for the site between Marlpit Lane and Lion Green Road which has planning permission for commercial development. ECRA has been trying to get the foliage and ivy that is growing over the footpath between Marlpit Lane Roundabout and Lion Green Road cut back as it is restricting the width of the pavement.



**Red Clover Gardens, Lion Green Road:** We understand that the council has decided to no longer sell the site to *Notting Hill Genesis* housing association. They intend to sell 85 units to *Regen Capital* who will sublease them to the *Mears Group* which calls itself "An Affordable Housing Management Company". These will be classed as affordable rented properties and tenants will come via Croydon Council. ECRA has expressed concern

that the Shared Ownership flats could be lost as there are no other shared ownership opportunities in Coulsdon. The remaining 71 units (2 blocks) will remain with *Regen Capital* who may sell or privately rent them.



**Coulsdon Town Centre:** In Chipstead Valley Road *Token Accessories* has closed but is still operating online [www.token-accessories.com](http://www.token-accessories.com)

*The Pembroke* pub closed during October for refurbishment. In the Brighton Road *Cyco Café* has been refurbished and is now the *Grumpy Goose*. The Chicken and Fish bar has been refurbished and become *Kenito's* piri piri.

*Mirch Masala* has a new owner and is now called *Mirchi Spice* taste of Lahore <https://mirchi-spice.com/>

*The India Brasserie* has re-opened after its recent closure.

Aldi has removed the covered pedestrian way and the checkout shields.

*Sentinel House* is being renovated by Galgo Group Office Principle, who will move their staff from other offices and the building will also provide office space for other companies.



(continued on page 9)



## What's Happening Around Coulsdon

(continued from page 8)

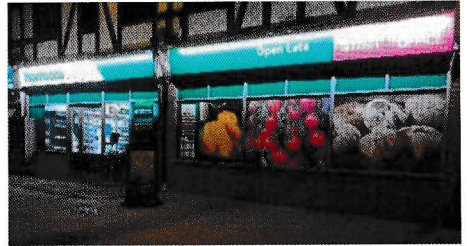


**Pistachios** in Grange Park has been transferred to a new owner Sumeet and has now reopened every day from 9am to 4.30 pm weekdays, except Tuesdays and from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Sundays

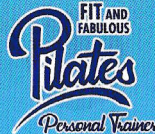


### In Tudor Parade

**McColl's** has now reopened as a **Morrisons** convenience store, while at **Lacy Green** the free cash machine has been removed.



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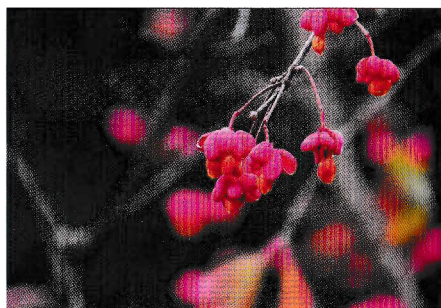


## Berry Nice! On Coulsdon Common

by Tom Oliver

The start of Autumn might bring about colder nights and shorter days, but also a delightful treasure trove of wild berries. October is a month when our landscapes become adorned with many different types of berries, offering a feast for the eyes and a treat for wildlife.

One of the most iconic and common sights this season is the vibrant red of the hawthorn berries, also known as "haws." For centuries these have been used for treating various ailments as 'food for the heart'. If you walk by a hedgerow, you might also easily spot the bright pink and orange fruit of Spindle, often adored by gathering flocks of starling. Similarly, bright rowan with its orange/red berries regularly attracts birds including mistle thrush, blackbirds, and winter migrants.



*(L-R) Red of the Hawthorn berries, bright pink and orange fruit of Spindle, bright, Rowan with its orange/red berries. Photo credits left to right: Natural England, Lotus Johnson, and Scott Barron*

### Keep up to date with what is happening on the Coulsdon Commons

Each month we send out a digital round-up of what's been happening across the four Coulsdon Commons (Farthing Downs, Coulsdon Common, Kenley Common and Riddlesdown).

This features news from your local commons, upcoming events, volunteering opportunities and things to see and do.

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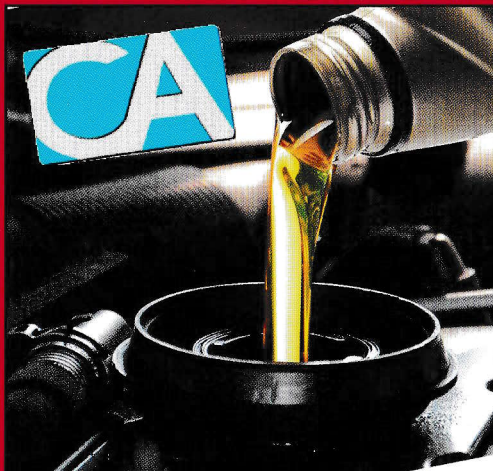
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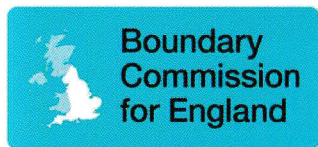
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# Constituency Changes for the next General Election

by Charles King



The date of the next General Election is still not known, although it is predicted to take place somewhere between May and November 2024. What we do know is the Boundary Commission's third proposals to reduce the number of constituencies from 650 to 600 will not now be

used. It has revised the boundaries based on 650 constituencies. England gains ten new seats, Scotland loses two and Wales loses eight. Northern Ireland remains the same. London gains two more seats, making 75 in total, and now has the same number as that of Scotland (57) and Wales (18) combined

This was approved by an 'Order in Council' which requires the consent of the monarch, but not a vote in parliament.

The new constituencies should consist of 73,393 electors, plus or minus 5%. The means that Croydon is too large for the existing three constituencies of Croydon Central, Croydon North, and Croydon South. However, it is too small for four constituencies. This has resulted in four new constituencies which take in wards from adjacent boroughs.

## The new Croydon constituencies:

- *Croydon North* becomes ***Streatham and Croydon North***.
- *Croydon Central* becomes ***Croydon East*** (adding Selsdon).
- ***Croydon South*** loses Selsdon to the new Croydon East, and Waddon to Croydon West and South Norwood. It gains Park Hill and Whitgift from Croydon Central.
- ***Croydon West and South Norwood*** (a new constituency).

Hooley, Merstham and Netherne will move to join Caterham and Chaldon in a revised ***East Surrey*** constituency. They will still remain part of Reigate and Banstead Council.

For more information about the review, please visit:

[www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk](http://www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk)

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<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need>



## Bus route 405 is 100 years old in January 2024

*by Charles King*

In January 2024 local bus 405 is 100 years old, as will be the route 403 in December 2024. They are not quite the oldest bus routes in Croydon with the same number. This belongs to route 75, which started in December 1912 running from Woolwich to Croydon, extended to Caterham for a while, now running Lewisham to Croydon, while the first bus through Coulsdon in 1913 was the 116 from Stockwell to Reigate, run on Sundays by the London General Omnibus Company (LGOC).

The origin of route 405 begins with the East Surrey Bus company which was formed by Arthur Henry Hawkins in 1911. Their first service ran between Redhill and Reigate. By the beginning of WWI the company was running services to Sevenoaks and Caterham in a blue livery. After WWI East Surrey expanded the number of routes as far north as Merstham, while LGOC ran the 160 and 59B from Camden Town to Reigate via Coulsdon. Unhappy with the competition Arthur Hawkins did a deal with the LGOC that they would run as far as Coulsdon and East Surrey Buses would run buses south of Croydon in LGOC red livery, but badged as East Surrey.



In 1921 East Surrey operated the following routes using the S prefix: S3 West Croydon to Sevenoaks: S5 West Croydon to Handcross/Horsham : S6 Redhill to Kingston : S9 West Croydon to Uckfield via Old Coulsdon and East Grinstead : S25 West Croydon to Horsham via Dorking. At that time London was facing problems of congestion and confusion over buses and bus number mainly due to "Pirate buses" that turned up on busy popular routes using the same route numbers to lure passenger on to their bus.

**In 1924 the new London Traffic Act** put the Met Police in charge of introducing a new system for bus numbers. The system was named the Bassom Scheme after Chief Constable of the Met Police A E Bassom. All routes had to have an individual number and be allocated to areas; East Surrey Buses would all be number in the 400s. The S3 became the 403; S5 became the 405; S9 became the 409 and the S25 became the 414. In 1932 East Surrey was transferred to the London General Country service. Then in 1933 The London Passenger Transport Board was formed and took over all bus services in London and as far out as Horsham. London Transport ran red buses in central and outer London and green buses from outer London to the out counties. This continued in various forms until London Country services were transferred to the National Bus Company in 1970. After WWII all the buses on local routes were operated by London Transport RTs buses until the end of the 1960s when London Country introduced ex-Green Line Routemaster buses on routes 405 and 414. New Routemaster buses operated on routes 409 and 411 routes

## Bus route 405 is 100 years old in January 2024

*(continued from page 16)*



In the early 1990s, London Country buses in this area were privatised and sold to Arriva who withdrew route 414, took over the 405 and reduced the service to a single-decker and at much reduced frequency, but in a blue livery. In 2001 Arriva gave notice that it was withdrawing from operating buses in Surrey and was giving up the 405. As a result, London Buses stepped in with an emergency service operated by Connex, but only between Croydon and Redhill with single-decker buses, but at a much-improved frequency, and passenger usage was much increased. Connex withdrew from UK bus service in 2003 and the route was taken over by London General/Metrobus, initially with single-decker buses and the route was diverted from Brighton Road to Pampisford Road in South Croydon.

Usage continued to increase and in 2006 it was converted to double-decker buses at an increased frequency. In 2019 the route was shortened from West Croydon to Central Croydon. London General/Metrobus Metro bus continued to operate the 405 until 2021, when it was transferred to Arriva at South Croydon Garage with Hybrid buses.



by Source: **East Surrey Bell Street**, published by H J Publications

[https://bus-routes-in-london.fandom.com/wiki/London\\_Buses\\_route\\_405#History](https://bus-routes-in-london.fandom.com/wiki/London_Buses_route_405#History)



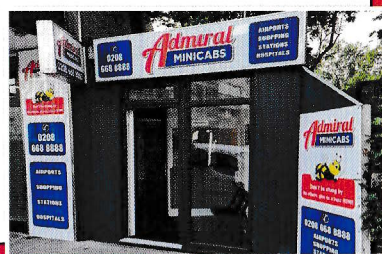
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## The Business Interview – The Photo Shop

by Maxine Leyland



Oscar Palmieri is the proprietor of *The Photo Shop* in Chipstead Valley Road. Oscar has owned the shop since 1999, taking over from the original proprietor who had owned it for many years.

Oscar, his partner Michelle and their family live in Horley. He grew up in Forest Hill and attended secondary school in Peckham. He did not attend college, but his interest in photography was developed at an early age and he taught himself the skills necessary to develop his business.

The shop, and its services, is a hidden gem. Many Coulsdon residents have walked past it without really seeing it was there. The shop carries a wide range of photo and picture frames and also carries out bespoke picture framing in a range of styles and sizes. He has a good eye and can advise on the best style of frame to suit your picture. He takes passport photographs, working with the Passport Agency's system for renewing biometric passports online. This enables The Passport Agency to action them quickly using the photo code generated by the system; the supermarket photo booth is a thing of the past.

Oscar owns another shop in Bromley which carries out a wide range of services such as T shirt printing and personalised gifts including mugs and calendars. Orders can be taken at and collected from the Chipstead Valley Road shop. The Bromley shop is managed by his colleague Ion Spoiala.



*Blue Belle*  
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Oscar has always been self-employed and has worked hard to develop his own business. During the Summer he relies on his family to work in the shop as he takes on commissions to photograph weddings and other family events.

He also owns a Ford Beauford which is available to hire for weddings. He has a picture of this very impressive car in the shop window. He has plans for future expansion which will include the wedding car and possibly a third shop to enlarge the picture framing side of the business.

The pandemic was particularly challenging because both shops were closed. During this time, he was focussed on cooking and baking for his family because his partner Michelle was working very long hours for the NHS. His signature dishes include roasts and Thai green curry. His other spare time activities include ballroom dancing and family holidays in Liguria in Italy where he has relatives.

*(continued on page 20)*



## The Business Interview – The Photo Shop

(continued from page 19)

Coulsdon is a good place to be in business, but parking is a problem. Coulsdon has a good range of shops, but more people need to use them to maintain their financial viability. Oscar uses local shops, cafes (Bella Art and Bliss) and Waitrose.

I asked Oscar what made a good photograph and it is a combination of lighting, composition and the right moment at the time the picture was taken. I also asked him if he had plans for future technological developments and he told me he was looking into the possibility of buying a drone for aerial photography and videos.

Oscar has noticed that the business world had become less trusting since he set himself up in business, telling me that he bought equipment to start the business using post-dated cheques to cover the cost. These days money has to be upfront, which makes it very difficult for people who are just beginning their business careers. ***The Photo Shop*** is a thriving business, but it has taken a great deal of work to develop the business to its current position.

ECRA would like to thank Oscar for his time and wish him well with his businesses.

***The Photo Shop (Coulsdon Photos):*** [www.coulsdonphotos.co.uk](http://www.coulsdonphotos.co.uk)  
020 8763 0570





## Public Transport Report

*by Charles King*

**Trains:** Unfortunately, the rail strikes are still ongoing. Please check on *National Rail Enquires* for dates: [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) **December timetable changes:** There are no proposed changes to local services in our area. *East Surrey Transport Committee* is still campaigning for restoration of the Tattenham Corner – Victoria peak hour service and an improved Sunday service.

**Booking Office Closures:** At the beginning of July the Government announced that the *Rail Delivery Group* would be consulting on the closure of all station booking offices via *London Travelwatch*. Currently only 12% of passengers buy tickets at station booking offices – well 12% is still a lot of passengers! All local booking offices would close and only East Croydon would have some form of travel office. After much protest the consultation was extended to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. Over 750,000 people objected. *East Surrey Transport Committee* and ECRA both objected to the closure of local booking offices. During October, the *Parliamentary Transport Committee* expressed concerns about the proposed closures and its impact on disabled travellers and those with access needs. The Committee also expressed concerns that the proposals in the consultation go too far and too fast, and risk excluding some passengers from the railway altogether. It was pleasing to see that when *London Travelwatch / Passenger Focus* reported, they rejected the closure proposals put forward by the *Rail Delivery Group*. However, it is possible that some booking offices may be closed at a future date.



**Withdrawal of the One Day Paper Travelcard:** As reported in the last Review 231. *East Surrey Transport Committee* objected to the withdrawal of the One Day Paper Travelcard, pointing out that without it, passengers would have to obtain a single ticket for every leg of their journey at peak prices. Children without a Zip Oyster photocard would be

refused access to buses as they are cashless. It is pleasing to see that agreement has now been reached between *TfL*, the *Rail Delivery Group* and the *DfT* to keep the One Day Paper Travelcard, although Oyster and bank card fares remain cheaper.

**This Year Oyster cards are 20 years old and the Freedom Pass is 40 years old.**

**Buses:** It is hoped the changes to bus stops with new bus stops in St Georges Walk will be resolved in the near future. Outside London, *Go-ahead MetroBus* took over *Southdown Buses* and fully integrated them into MetroBus in September. Bus route **405** is 100 years old in January 2024 (*see pages 16-17*). *TfL* have announced the routing of Superloop SL5 from Croydon to Bromley will be via West Wickham, but a start date has yet to be announced.



## What's On



COURTYARD THEATRE  
CHIPSTEAD PLAYERS

### **Chipstead Players, The Courtyard Theatre**

Hazlewood Lane, Chipstead CR5 3QU

#### **Uncle Ebenezer, by Phil Willmott**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024

To book, visit: [www.chipsteadplayers.org](http://www.chipsteadplayers.org)

#### **Coulsdon Theatre Workshop**

##### **A Christmas Carol**

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.45pm. Matinees 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm

Box Office: 07709 266728 [boxoffice@twcoulsdon.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@twcoulsdon.org.uk) <https://twcoulsdon.org.uk>



#### **RSPB Croydon Local Group Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks**

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

**11th December - "Adventures in Alaska" by Barry Wright**

For details visit: [https://group.rspb.org.uk/croydon/news-blogs/news/talks-for-](https://group.rspb.org.uk/croydon/news-blogs/news/talks-for-2023/)

[2023/](https://group.rspb.org.uk/croydon/news-blogs/news/talks-for-2023/) or contact John Davis on 020 8640 4578

#### **Old Coulsdon Christmas Lights Switch On**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 4-6pm, with lights at 5pm. There will also be Santa's Grotto, carol singing, refreshments and much more!

#### **Coulsdon Yuletide – Christmas Market, Entertainment and More**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 from 11-00am to 6.00pm

Coulsdon Town centre Bus 60, 166, 404, 405, 434 & 463

#### **Downland Chorale Christmas Concert with Keston Primary School choir & congregational carols.**

St Johns Church, Cannons Hill, Old Coulsdon CR5 1HA

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> December** at 6pm

Bus 60, 404 & 466

#### **Willow Dance and Fitness**

Monday to Saturday – Dance and exercise classes. Various Coulsdon venues

07936 564938 or WhatsApp

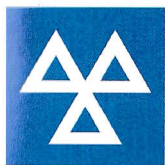
**Steam Trains in Coulsdon:** Victoria to Guildford return to Victoria via Redhill: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December. At the time of writing times are not known. Please check the following website nearer the date. Train times and routes can be altered or cancelled at short notice, even on the day. Trains may also run up to 15 mins early or late. A useful website to check these and other steam trains [www.railadvent.co.uk/railtours](http://www.railadvent.co.uk/railtours)

Contact us on [info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk](mailto:info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk) to let us know about your local events and societies.



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