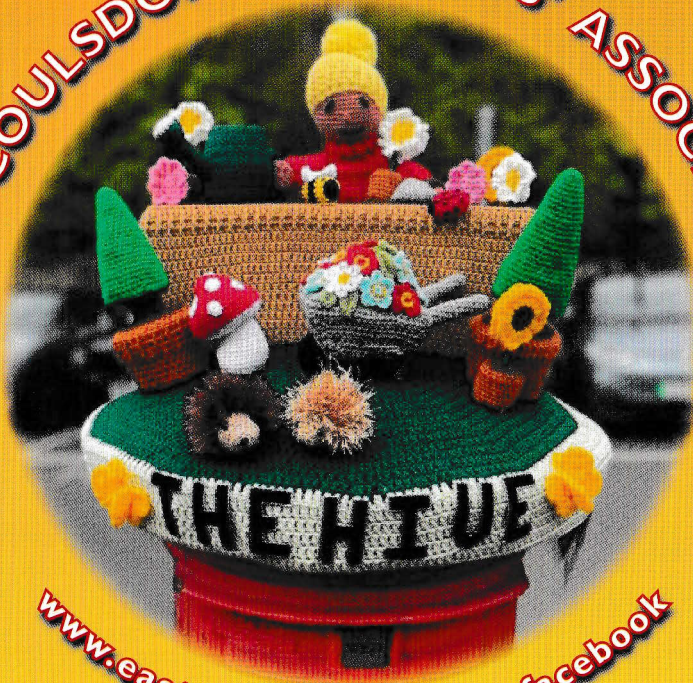


THE REVIEW



EAST COULSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk & facebook

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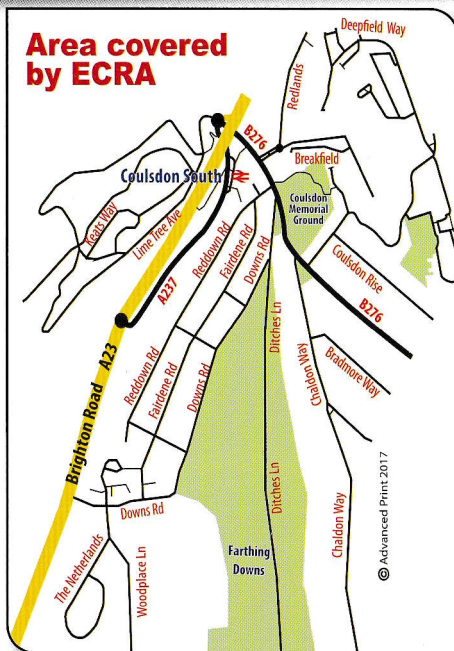
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We currently have vacancies for Road Stewards in the following Roads:

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- Fairdene Road
- Cane Hill Park
- Bradmore Way

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This is the first Review of the new financial year. Please help us and our Road Stewards by paying the £5 subscription by Bank Transfer or preferably making out a Standing Order, payable to:

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Putting up the annual subscription to £5 was the right thing to do as we did not have to dip into reserves this year and were able to make donations to the Purley Food Bank Christmas Hamper and to the CCP Yuletide event.

The **East Coulsdon Residents' Association AGM** will be at Old Coulsdon Congregational Church, Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon at 7.30pm Wednesday 12th June 2024. Please do join us to hear more about the work we do for our residents and an opportunity to meet members of the committee and raise questions or concerns. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information.

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Parking

by Charles King

During the Autumn Croydon launched a parking consultation. The aim was to move to consistency across the borough and away from parking meters and cash and card payments. All parking would be by a parking app or by phone to Ringo. The other aim was to reduce the 1-hour free parking to 30 minutes free.

ECRA submitted a response objecting to the removal of the 1-hour free parking explaining that this was important for district centres especially those like Coulsdon which were destination locations, rather than locations based on passing traffic. We also suggested that the 1-hour limit should be raised to two hours with the first hour free and the second hour paid for at a reasonable price. We are pleased to see that the Council has adopted this proposal.

On smaller shopping parades such as: Tudor Parade, Lacy Green and Rickman Hill that are more based on passing trade we suggested that the 1 hour free parking should remain with a second hour paid for at a reasonable price. The ECRA submission can be seen on our website:

www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Croydon-Parking-proposals-Oct-2023.pdf



We are pleased that the Council have decided to implement the ECRA suggestion of policy of 1-hour free and 1-hour paid at a reasonable rate. Again, this would require you to register your car and location by App or by phoning Ringo. For those that do not have a smart phone the council will identify some pay points in local shops. However, the council have decided to implement this borough-wide and it would now include smaller shopping parades as well. ECRA have responded asking for a 15 minute grace period for people who just want to drop off or pick something or somebody up, or need to locate the pay point shop, pay and register their vehicle.

Car parks: We understand that there will be a price increase for both short and long-term parking and Lion Green Road car park will no longer remain free in the evening with a new overnight charge. It will remain free on Sundays.

Emission Based Parking will still be the bases of parking charges and to obtain a discount you have to register your vehicle with Ringo

www.croydon.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/parking/emission-based-parking-charges

Local Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ): There are a number of CPZs in Coulsdon operating between 11am and 12noon. The council have now clarified the rules on Public Holiday parking. The council will not enforce parking in the zones on the following three days:

Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

This applies only on the 25th and 26th December and 1st January when they fall on a Saturday or Sunday. It will not apply on any substitute holidays on Monday to Friday.



Libraries

by Charles King



At the beginning of the year Croydon Council published a proposal for Libraries: in which it proposed to close Bradmore Green, Broad Green, Sanderstead and Shirley Libraries. It also proposed to make improvements to Coulsdon Library.

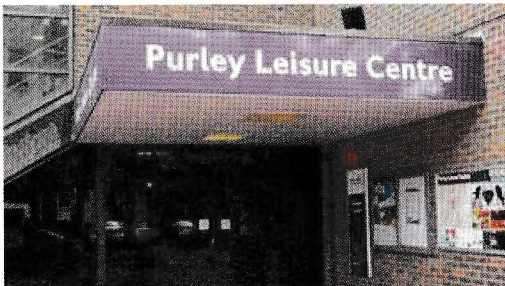
ECRA responded to the consultation supporting improvements to Coulsdon Library which is the 5th busiest library in the Borough. We also opposed the closure of Bradmore Green which is 8th busiest of the 14 libraries in the borough.

We are of the view that Bradmore Green provides an important service to the community and schools of Old Coulsdon. ECRA was represented at a number of the public meetings and also attended the protests outside the library. The full ECRA response is available on the ECRA website: www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk/2024/04/ecra-response-to-libraries-consultation-and-proposed-closure-of-bradmore-green-library/



Purley Pool

In April the Council published its proposal for the Purley Pool and car park site. A number of public meetings were held where the proposals were presented. The proposals by **Polaska** the developer is for a six lane 25 metre swimming pool and leisure centre, with shops and restaurants in a town square. It will also include a number of accommodation blocks for 345 flats, of which two will be eight and 11 stories high. The blocks will also include accommodation for people with reduced mobility. **Polaska** have agreed to build the leisure centre first.



Although there is strong support for a swimming pool in Purley, which was the busiest swimming pool in the borough prior to its closure. There is strong concern that this development will mean the loss of the multi-storey car park, which is the main car park for Purley town centre. The new leisure centre would have around 26 places, but none for the town centre. There

is also concern over the height of the 11-storey building. The Residents' Associations in the southern part of the borough have made these points to the Council.

More information on the development is available on the Polaska website: <https://purleypool.co.uk/>

Coulsdon Community Partnership

by Eleanor Richardson

Coulsdon Community Partnership is an umbrella organisation for residents and businesses in Coulsdon. Our aim is to bring business and the community together to make Coulsdon the best place it can be and promote all of the good things that happen in our town.



The latest event we were involved in was our collaboration with *Cozy-Glow* and *The Hive* Library garden for the Easter Egg trail and market. We were very lucky with the weather and the Easter Bunny was very popular with all ! We distributed free tickets to all of the schools in Coulsdon to hand out to those families that would not otherwise have been able to take part and donated any leftover Easter Eggs to the food bank. Thank you to all the volunteers and to Jo Hall from Hallways who sponsored the eggs for the main trail and helped the Easter Bunny on the day.

Our next event will be the **Big Lunch** in Marlpit Lane Memorial park on Sunday 2nd June 2024 from midday. We will have a bring and share table, and *Marlpit Lane Bowling Green and Putting* will open early on the day. *Poppy Café* will be providing Thai Street food.

Please do come along and share a picnic, support our park's café and find out a bit more about your neighbours!

We have been registered as a charity for a year and are looking at ways of helping other groups. We have been helping the Tollers Estate Community Centre providing them with some furniture and equipment to enable them to provide free yoga classes and stay and play facilities for residents. We also incorporate The Hive community garden which opens funding opportunities for them.

We will be sponsoring some additional finials for the Coulsdon Art Trail along with a digital guide for the trail. We will be participating in Cozy Glow's Halloween trail and organising the Coulsdon Yuletide event. If you are interested in a stall for either event please contact team@coulsdonpartnership.org

We always welcome new ideas and new volunteers. If you have an idea to make Coulsdon a better place to live and work and some time to implement it we would love to hear from you! Please contact team@coulsdonpartnership.org

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What's Happening In and Around Coulsdon

by Charles King

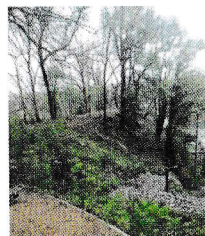


Cane Hill: No further news on the chapel and there are still no plans for the site at the bottom between Marlpit Lane and Lion Green Road which has planning permission for commercial development. At the end of April the bottom of the footpath from Iron Railway Close to Brighton Road suffered a sewage leak from the Thames manhole. This was after heavy rainfall and happened at the same time as a water leak in the Brighton Road. This seemed to confuse

Thames and it took several visits to resolve. ECRA have persuaded Barratts to provide handrails and these have been fitted to the steps from Iron Railway Close.

Red Clover Gardens on Lion Green Road: Although we understand that the council has decided to no longer sell the site to Notting Hill Genesis housing association, two blocks (71 units) are proposed to go to Regen Capital who may sell or privately rent them. The other three blocks of 85 units will be sub leased 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 these flats have now been empty for 15 months and Shared Ownership flats would be lost as there are no other shared ownership opportunities in Coulsdon.

In the last Review we reported that information boards commemorating the Surrey Iron Railway are now in place. During April the Embankment, which is a scheduled ancient monument, was cleared of many trees and scrub so you can now clearly see it was a railway embankment where the London Loop is diverted via Lion Green car park.



A number of changes have taken place in Coulsdon Town centre since the last Review. In Chipstead Valley Road **Abulela** soft play and café 07522 761469 and **Cake Forest** (020 3754 46549) opened in April, as did **Coulsdon DIY & Essentials** (07459 05928787) in Brighton Road while the **Indian Brasserie** has now become **Bengal Bliss**. The Coulsdon branch of **Papa John's** Pizza has been identified as one of the 43 UK wide stores to close during May and June.



(continued on page 9)

What's Happening In and Around Coulsdon

(continued from page 8)

At Stoats Nest Parade **Gifts for the Senses** (020 8776 2002) has opened offering a curated collection of products to help nourish the body, mind and spirit. They are also offering candle-making workshops www.giftsforthesenses.co.uk



Londis at Lacy Green now has a new owner.



Marlpit Lane Bowling and Putting Green is now open.

More help is needed with staffing the pavilion and maintenance of the Greens.

If you can help please contact Maureen on 07761 926498

Royal Mail, with no consultation, have downgraded all the remaining postboxes in Coulsdon that had later collections to a morning only collection at 9am and 7am on Saturdays. There will be no afternoon or evening collections, other than those at Lion Green and Old Coulsdon Post Offices. ECRA has objected.

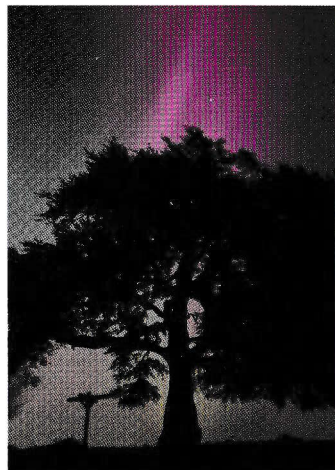


Community Banking Hubs: LiNK, the UK's cash access and ATM network, have been assessing towns that no longer have banking facilities to have some form of banking hub. To date 35 banking hubs have been set up and another 117 have been recommended. ECRA contacted the **LiNK** organisation and provided information about Coulsdon about population and the number of businesses that no longer have access to a local bank. We are pleased to say that **LiNK** have visited Coulsdon and have recommended the town for a banking hub. However, at present we do not have a timescale.

Northern Lights

On the night of Friday 10th May the Northern Lights made their way further south and were visible in Coulsdon, thanks to a geomagnetic storm. This fabulous photo shows the lights over the folly on Farthing Downs.

It was hoped to be able to see them again on the Saturday. Unfortunately the cloud cover to the north of Coulsdon was too great.



London Mayoral Election 2024

by Charles King

Sadiq Khan was returned as Mayor of London for a historic third term when the result was declared on Saturday 4th May 2024.

Turnout for this election in the Croydon & Sutton constituency was 42.27%

Candidate	Party	Total Votes	% of total	Constituency Votes	% of Constituency vote
Sadiq Kahn	Labour	1,088,225	43.8%	59,482	31%
Susan Hall	Conservative	811,518	32.7%	78,790	42%
Rob Blackie	LibDem	145,184	5.8%	14,400	7%
Zoe Garbett	Green	145,14	5.8%	9,740	5%

Constituency Member of the London Assembly Results

Neil Garratt was elected as the GLA member for Croydon and Sutton

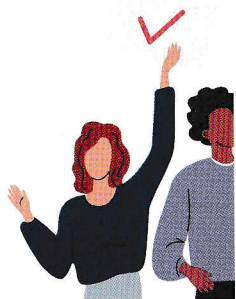
Turnout for this election in the Croydon & Sutton constituency 42.23%

Candidate	Party	Total Votes	% of total
Neil Garratt	Conservative	64,674	34.7%
Maddie Henson	Labour	54,380	29.2%
Trish Fivey	LibDem	29,160	15.7%
Peter Underwood	Green	19,434	10.4%

London-wide Member of the London Assembly Results

The eleven London-wide Assembly Member seats were allocated and filled as follows:

Seat	Candidate	Party
1	Sian Berry	Green
2	Susan Hall	Conservative
2	Alex Wilson	Reform UK
4	Caroline Russell	Green
5	Shaun Bailey	Conservative
6	Emma Dawn Best	Conservative
7	Hina Bokhari	LibDem
8	Zack Polanski	Green
9	Andrew Boff	Conservative
10	Elly Baker	Labour
11	Alessandrou Georgiou	Conservative



For all the stats from the May elections, please visit:

<https://www.londonelects.org.uk/im-voter/election-results/results-2024-0>



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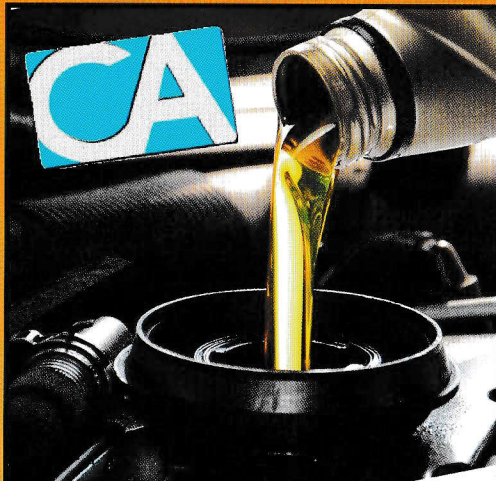
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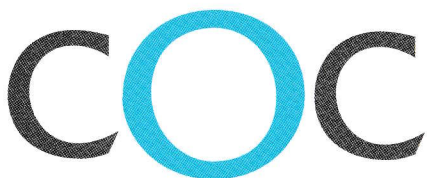
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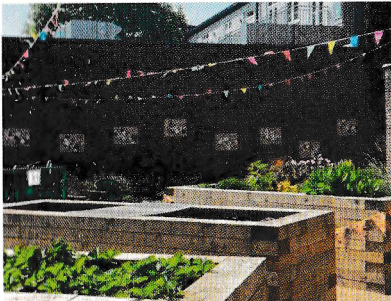
by Gill Hickson



The Hive Library Garden opened on 4th April 2024 and is now open to the public on the days when Coulsdon Library is open, which is currently Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

To commemorate The Hive opening a knitted garden postbox topper was placed on top of the Post Box at Coulsdon South Station.

The tiles painted at *Get Fired* are now up on the walls. Thanks to everyone who painted these gorgeous tiles and helped create a beautiful mosaic in our community garden.



Recycle your unwanted flower pots



Like a lot of us do you have a lot of unwanted plastic flower and plant pots in your garden shed or Greenhouse? Well, there is now a place where you can take them.

To help combat this waste, **B&Q** has installed plant pot recycling stations so people can drop off old and unwanted plastic pots which **B&Q** will then recycle and turn into new pots. *Please just wash*

them first. The aim is to help reduce plastic waste whilst also reusing the materials to be made into something useful again. The Croydon **B&Q** store will take them. **B&Q** also recycle some other materials. For a better way to part with any broken or unwanted goods, you can drop off any small electrical and electronic products in one of their stores for free - that way you can be sure they'll be recycled responsibly. They also take light bulbs, fluorescent tubes and batteries in their recycling units.

Coulsdon Common

by Tom Oliver, Information Ranger

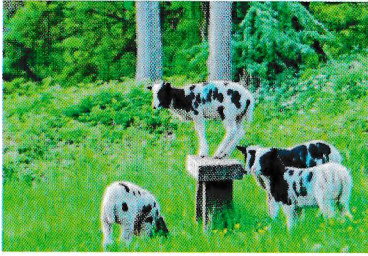


Photo by Tim Nightingale

Coulsdon Common welcomed another generation of pedigree Jacob sheep. Lambing was reintroduced to the flock in 2021 for the first time since 2012. The Jacob sheep are an important part of the conservation grazing we carry out across the four Coulsdon Commons most crucially in maintaining the short turf on the chalk grasslands that less common wildflowers need to thrive. The Jacob is a British breed of domestic sheep. One of the main characteristics is that they are piebald meaning they are dark-coloured with

areas of white wool. Their actual origins are not known. However, documentation throughout history indicates that the spotted or pied sheep may have originated in what is now Syria some three thousand years ago. Pictorial evidence traces movement of these sheep through North Africa, Sicily, Spain and on to England.

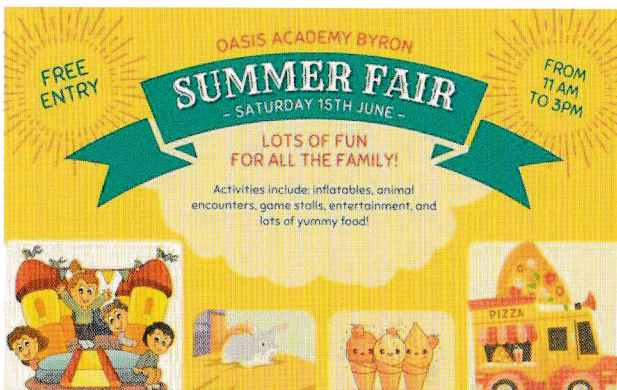
Photo by Tim Nightingale

Early risers: We were treated to a brilliant showing of birds and their songs during a guided walk on Coulsdon Common to listen to the dawn chorus with the Ranger. A total of 28 different species were observed during the morning's walk through the woodlands and grassland around the edge of the Merlewood Estate Office. Species such as nuthatch, treecreeper, whitethroat and blackcap were some of the highlights.

Farthing Downs: After the successful fencing of the area surrounding the Skylark nesting location to reduce the interference from animals and people during the nesting season, this has been done again this year.

For more information and to subscribe to our newsletter visit:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/greenspaces



Oasis Academy Byron's Summer Fair is on **Saturday 15th June** from 11am until 3pm.
St David's, Coulsdon
Bus 404 & 466

NHS – Coulsdon Medical Centre

by Charles King

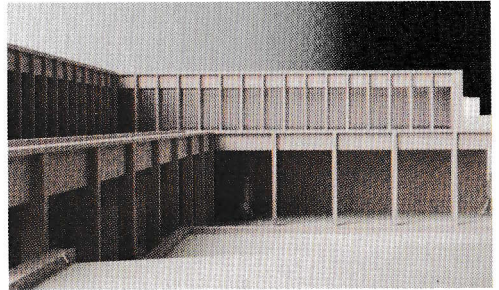
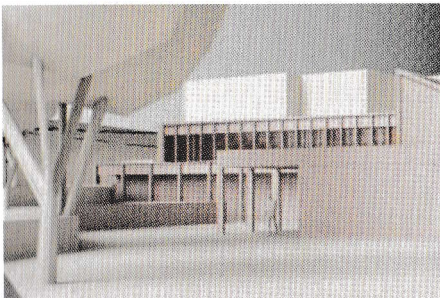
Unfortunately, over the last year we have had to report that the proposed medical centre on the CALAT site in Woodcote Grove Road has been on hold since the Council's Design and Space panel objected to the design, followed by the increase in costs of the build due to the Liz Truss Government's trashing of the economy which caused a freeze on NHS spending.

We are pleased to say that due to extensive lobbying by the local Residents Associations and the help of Chris Philp MP NHS England have released sufficient funding for the health centre to go forward.

It will be a smaller building than previously proposed, but floors could be added later. It will have a GP surgery and a number of clinical consulting rooms. Access will be from Woodcote Grove Road, Chipstead Valley Road and Malcolm Road. There will be a drop off and pick up point for people with reduced mobility along with an Ambulance access point. It is hoped to get formal planning permission by the Summer of 2024 and completion by late summer 2025.

Further information is available on the ECRA website:

www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CoulsdonHealthCentre.pdf



Proposed view South West (*left*), Proposed view North East (*right*)

NHS Purley Hospital: We are pleased to see that the NHS has opened a new diagnostic centre at Purley Hospital. This has increased the number of outpatient services that are now available at Purley. These include two operating theatres which can be used for minor procedures.

The GP Hub/Minor Injuries unit will again take walk-in patients, but they prefer you to make an appointment via 111 to reduce the waiting time. The Blood Testing Unit will also take walk-in patients, but they prefer you make an appointment 020 8401 3000.

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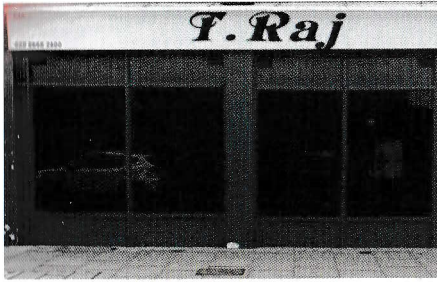
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"I am constantly learning something new and feel challenged at every class"

The Business Interview – T Raj Indian Restaurant

by Maxine Leyland



Takin Miah is the owner of T Raj restaurant on Brighton Road, which has been in business in Coulsdon for 54 years. Takin came to UK with his father in 1961. Takin and his wife have lived in Sanderstead for 27 years. However, the early part of their family life was spent in Coulsdon; their two daughters and son were educated at local schools.

His father opened a restaurant in Wales, but after four years they decided to move back to London. Takin had several trainee jobs before deciding that his future lay in the restaurant trade.

Takin's father opened the Taj Mahal restaurant in Coulsdon in 1970. It attracted a regular clientele and was very favourably reviewed by Fay Maschler in her Evening Standard column. Takin changed the frontage of the restaurant – NatWest bank then used a photograph of Taj Mahal as part of their marketing strategy for their credit cards. The picture appeared on bus shelters and in national newspapers.

T Raj is a family business; Takin's son works in the restaurant which is open 7 days a week. The meals are freshly prepared and they blend their own spices for restaurant use. His current senior chef has been at the restaurant for 17 years. He selects staff on their skills and references. The restaurant has 7 staff, 4 of whom are chefs. Takin was approached by Sharwoods who were interested in "acquiring" some of his recipes. However, the details of the deal were not acceptable to Takin and the offer was withdrawn.

The high point in business for T Raj was the early 1990s when the economy and business seemed to be buzzing and the low point was COVID. Currently, the economy is slow and people are cutting back on entertainment.

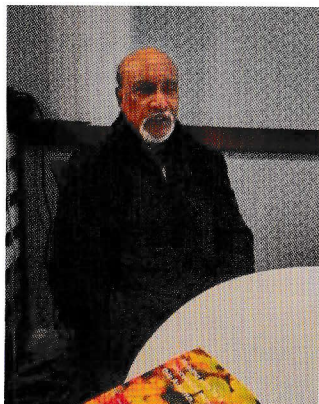
I asked Takin if Coulsdon was a good place to do business and he pointed out that he had been here for 54 years. Trade is brisk in the run up to Christmas and slower during summer when people go away on holiday. He mentioned that parking continued to be an issue.

I asked if T Raj did event catering, but they are fully committed to managing the restaurant efficiently and maintaining their standards. Some years ago, T Raj supplied meals to the Galloping Gourmet who were event caterers based in Coulsdon.

(continued on page 20)

The Business Interview – T Raj Indian Restaurant

(continued from page 19)



We discussed the number of Coulsdon restaurants that had opened and closed while his business remained constant. He thought that this was because he gave customers good value and did not reduce the quality of food or service; the secret of a successful business is to give good service and maintain those standards.

Takin shops locally, for himself and the restaurant, mentioning Waitrose and Coulsdon Hardware. We lamented the closure of Perrins (greengrocers) who supplied all his vegetables.

I asked if the restaurant trade was a good business to be in and he explained that like any other business it required a great deal of time and commitment, with the additional responsibility of maintaining good personal relationships with a wide range of people.

ECRA would like to thank Takin Miah for his time; his restaurant is a great asset to the town and you can be sure of a good night out.

T Raj 133 – 135 Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2NJ (opposite Waitrose)

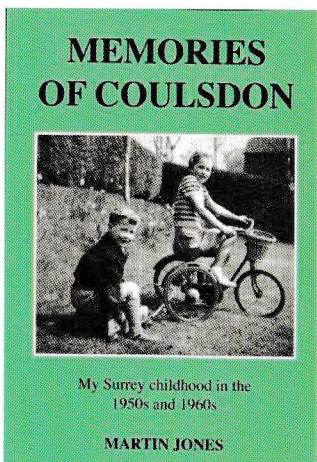
Open seven days a week 17:30 – 22:45 for eat-in or takeaway.

You can order by phone on 020 8668 2800 or online at: www.traj.uk



Memories of Coulsdon

by Martin Jones



Former resident of Cordrey Gardens on the Coulsdon Woods estate (1979-91), Martin Jones, is a published author of memories of aspects of his life.

In 2022, Martin published a book, 'Memories of Coulsdon' detailing his childhood in Coulsdon in the 1950s and 1960s, with an update to the present, which includes his time on the Coulsdon Woods estate and at Purley Grammar School in Old Coulsdon.

The book is retailing at £12.99 via Waterstones or Martin can post copies direct within the UK for £10. All proceeds from sales of the book will be donated to charity, in this case Diabetes UK and MIND in Croydon.

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 East Surrey Transport Committee are still lobbying for restoration of the Tattenham Corner to Victoria peak hour service and two trains per hour on Sundays. If you support this please write to GTR Public Affairs GTRPublicAffairs@gtrailway.com and Chris Philp MP chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

There are no proposed changes to local services in the June timetable changes. The main change is that the existing Service from East Croydon and Gatwick Airport to Southampton will be diverted to Brighton. In its place the service from East Croydon and Gatwick Airport to Portsmouth will be doubled and extended to Portsmouth Harbour. Passengers for Southampton should change at Chichester.

Fares: The Mayor of London has announced that for a three-month experiment Fridays would be made an off-peak day, alongside Saturday and Sunday for April. May and June, due to reduced usage. After discussions this was applied to National Rail in the Zones and to Gatwick Airport. It applies to Oyster and bank cards only, not paper tickets. It was also clarified that this would also apply to Freedom and plus 60passes and include travel on buses and trams before 9am on Fridays.



Buses: The postponed Sutton and Croydon changes took place in March. The 434 was extended to Caterham directly via the Godstone Road and not via the top of Kenley due to issues of sightlines and parking. It is hoped this will be resolved over the summer. The 166 was diverted via Pampisford Road and no longer serves Purley Town Centre and Hospital. East Surrey Transport Committee are campaigning for 166 to continue to serve Purley Town Centre and Purley Hospital and route 439 to serve Pampisford Road. **Coulsdon West Residents' Association have started a petition to restore the 166 to Purley Town centre and Purley Hospital. Please sign and support:** www.change.org/Restore_166_to_Purley_Hospital



TfL have extended the Bus Lane in Brighton Road Purley back to Purley Rise and it operates 24-hours per day every day.

Outside London: We are pleased that after lobbying by East Surrey Transport Committee for additional later buses on route 400 from Gatwick and East Surrey Hospital to Caterham to coincide with evening visiting hours at East Surrey Hospital that MetroBus, with some financial assistance from Surrey County Council, will provided later buses on Monday to Saturday evenings. They have also increased the frequency on Sundays from May 2024.



What's On

Chipstead Players, The Courtyard Theatre

Hazlewood Lane, Chipstead CR5 3QU

The Son by Florian Zeller, directed by Sheila Carr

Monday 20th to Saturday 25th May 7.30pm, Saturday matinee at 2pm.

When We Are Married by JB Priestley, directed by Chris Hearn

Monday 1st to Saturday 6th July 7.30pm, Saturday matinee at 2pm

Box Office 01737 555680 or visit www.chipsteadplayers.org



Coulsdon Theatre Workshop

Robin Hood – Open air performance Coulsdon Manor Hotel CR5 2LL Bus 404 & 466

24th – 31st July, 1st – 3rd August at 7.45pm

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



RSPB Croydon Local Group Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks

Croham Road Baptist Church Hall, 52 Croham Road, South Croydon, CR2 7BA

Monday 8th July 7.30pm “City Nature Reserve” by Ian Alexander

For details visit: <https://group.rspb.org.uk/croydon/news-blogs/news/> or contact John Davis on 020 8640 4578.

East Coulsdon Residents' Association AGM

Wednesday 12th June 7 for 7.30pm

Old Coulsdon Congregational Church, Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon CR5 1EH
Bus 60, 466 & 404

Willow Dance and Fitness

Monday to Saturday – Dance and exercise classes. Various Coulsdon venues.
07936 564938 or WhatsApp.

Old Coulsdon Village Fayre

Grange Park, Old Coulsdon Bus 60, 466 & 404

Saturday 6th July 12noon- 4.30pm

Coulsdon Club Open Air, Open Mic in the Goodenough Garden

Sunday 26th May 2 – 5pm

Perform with a supportive community or just enjoy the live music performances. All acts are welcome!

Steam Trains in Coulsdon: Orient Express Thursdays 30th May, 13th and 27th June time at Coulsdon South 3pm. Sunset Express Thursday 20th June Approximate time at Coulsdon South 9pm. Note : These 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

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

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