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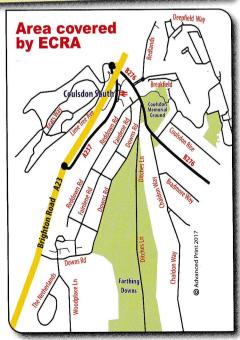
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Hallowe'en saw another successful town centre event, thanks to CozyGlow and the Coulsdon Community Partnership.

The Hive hosted part of the Hallowe'en trail and continues to be a very popular addition to the town centre. They have recently installed some donated bird feeders, encouraging more

wildlife to the garden. With the prospect of Coulsdon library opening more often (see page 10) we look forward to The Hive being available to enjoy more often.







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#### Yuletide - Saturday 7th December

by Alison Sleight



Following on from another successful and muchenjoyed Hallowe'en, brought to the town centre by the Coulsdon Community CozvGlow and Partnership, we now look forward to Yuletide on Saturday 7th December from 11am to 7pm

The festive event takes place on the Brighton Road, which will be closed to traffic for the day. As in previous years, it will feature a holiday market with local artisans and vendors, Santa's Grotto at the Coulsdon Club, Main Stage entertainment from carollers to dance troupes, Food Market and Funfair - this year featuring a Helter Skelter!

Please visit the Coulsdon Community Partnership website for full details of this popular and lively event. You can also book tickets for Santa's Grotto (highly recommended!):

https://coulsdonpartnership.org/pages/events/coulsdonvuletide-magic-2024



And don't forget – you can get your real Christmas Tree from the 285 (Coulsdon & Purley) Air Training Corps who will be selling real trees again this year at the TA Centre on Marlpit Lane. For full details see 'What's On' (page 22).

The proceeds of all sales are reinvested in activities for the 285 Air Training Corp, based in Old Coulsdon.

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These days with the cuts to public expenditure and services provided by local authorities volunteering has become an important way of life to local communities. We are very lucky in Coulsdon to have active Residents' Associations working for our community, none more so than *East Coulsdon Residents' Association* (*ECRA*), ably led by our chair. Charlie King and Secretary and planning guru Maureen Levy. The committee meets monthly to discuss everything that affects our residents, businesses, transport, NHS and green spaces etc. and actions to be taken.

ECRA has a Facebook page, a webpage and we produce the quarterly Review newsletter which we are told are valued sources of information and interest. For just £5 a year we have a team of valued road stewards who deliver and collect subs. If you are missed in these endeavours, please try to pay by standing order or dropping the £5 to your steward or any committee members mentioned inside The Review.

With local news and information, business interviews by our roving reporter, Maxine, **The Review** is partly supported by business adverts which helps keep everything working. Thanks to our Editor Alison and to all our road stewards. Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer as one.



In 2012 when the council decided to close the Bowling and Putting Greens at Marlpit Lane ECRA was able to step in and raise sufficient funds to restore these marvellous facilities to public use. This is now run by the *Friends of Marlpit Lane Bowling & Putting Greens* led by Maureen

and her colleagues. More volunteers are always needed to join the team. We have Rita

from Nine Acres who regularly litter picks Marlpit Park and the *Poppy Cafe* that always needs your support. ECRA and the friends have regular meetings with the council to urge them to restore the junior football pitch and keep the park maintained.





Chaldon Way Garden is that latest victim of Council cuts. This marvellous green space and garden has been allowed to go to rack and ruin. Fortunately, another group of volunteers led by Jigs, Michelle and John have worked hard to restore the gardens to their former glory, cutting back everything above chest height.

ECRA also assists Purley Food Bank and people can donate food to our food bin outside 6 Mead Way which takes to Purley

Food Bank on a regular basis. Gill also arranges litter picks in and around the town. Please let us know any areas you think need doing.



We have ECRA committee members Eleanor Richardson and Gill Hickson as trustees at *Coulsdon Community Partnership* (CCP) which is now a registered charity, to help support local businesses. It supports events in and around the town centre at Easter, Big Lunch in the summer, Hallowe'en and Yuletide. These are led by Ashley in *Cozy Glow* and Eleanor. The Partnership purchased the town centre Christmas lights when the Council decided to no longer fund them. Last year they purchased additional lights which are now switched on for Diwali in October. *CCP* have also been able to subsidise local art, yoga and guitar classes to help with well-being and

cohesion in the community.

In the town centre we also now have the wonderful *Hive Community Garden* behind Coulsdon library created by volunteers under the *CCP* umbrella. Our vice chair Gill is on the executive committee with stalwarts Wendy, Nikki, Sarah, Hanna and Fiona. A beautiful green space that is proving an amazing asset to our town centre. An oasis of peace and tranquillity loved by all who visit and very much by the library staff





One of the other projects in the Town Centre is the *Coulsdon Art Trail* led by our chair Charles King. This project places small finials on top of the fingerposts which represent the fascinating history of Coulsdon (formally Smitham Bottom). At present there are eight finials spread around the town centre. The first one was Cuthræd the Saxon warrior whom the town is named after. Another is Emmeline Pankhurst who spoke on votes for women at Smitham Parish Hall in 1911. The next will be a tribute to the Coulsdon athlete Gordon Pirie who won five world records and a silver medal. *Coulsdon Community Partnership* are working on a map providing details of all the finial toppers around Coulsdon.

Other volunteer organisations are *Friends of Farthing Downs and Happy Valley* and *CLOC*s who provide the Christmas Lights and Flower baskets at Old Coulsdon.

However, we all do need more volunteers and funding for other equality important projects and causes. Please let us know and contact Gill our vice chair 07956 666095 or email <a href="mailto:info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk">info@eastcoulsdon.co.uk</a> who will point you in the right direction.

#### What's Happening In and Around Coulsdon

by Charles King

Cane Hill: No further news on the Chapel. 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. We are still waiting for *Barratt Homes* to repair the streetlight on the steps on Charles Hancock Way.

Parking Restrictions will be introduced to Cane Hill from November 2024. On Cane Hill Drive and Lime Tree Avenue there will be a parking ban on Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm and the rest of the estate will be from 8am until 12noon. Visitors will require a visitor permit from a resident. It will be administered and enforced by UK Parking Controls.



**Red Clover Gardens** on Lion Green Road: More people have moved into the privately rented flats. To date nobody has moved into the three blocks for social housing owned by *Mears Group*.



In Coulsdon Town centre a number of changes have taken place since the last Review. In Chipstead Valley Road *Peach Bubble Tea Dessert* has opened, *Puzzle Kitchens and Bedrooms* has moved into larger premises next door and the Gun shop has closed. In the Brighton Road *Notorious Ink*, the tattoo shop, has moved to the former *Light Bar* premises and *Bella Art* has closed.

Cash Access say they have identified a suitable premise for a Community Banking facility in Coulsdon town centre and are in negotiations with the landlord. They aim to have it in place by March 2025.



At the northern end of the town a lorry dislodged the "Welcome to Coulsdon" sign causing it to fall to the bottom of the pole. The following day it was removed altogether and has disappeared. Croydon Council confirmed that they did not remove it.

**Parking**: The *RingGo* system was introduced in September. The Council decided to grant *Aldi* planning permission to convert their car park to customers-only despite 300 objections. Following objections by *ECRA* the Council agreed to reverse the decision to introduce overnight parking charges and *Lion Green Road car park* remains free over night and on Sundays.

#### What's Happening In and Around Coulsdon

(continued from page 8)



What's Happening around Coulsdon: At Rickman Hill *Rolling on Cycles* has closed, *Londis* will now stock small items such as puncture repair kits.

A New Reverend for St John's Church: The Institution and Induction of the Reverend Jonathan Simpson as the new Rector of the Parish took place at 7pm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 at John's Church, Old Coulsdon.



Marlpit Lane Memorial Park: ECRA and the Friends of Marlpit Lane Bowling Green have been speaking with Croydon Council to improve maintenance of the park. This includes more regular cutting of the grass in the park and the putting green, refreshing the junior football pitch markings, repair fencing between the park and bowling green, repairing seats around the bowling green, cut back branches that were over hanging and sweep the leaves up from the tennis courts, cut back the foliage covering the seats, clean mud from the perimeter path and to repair the disabled toilets.

In September a car crashed through the railings of Marlpit Lane Memorial Park Fortunately nobody was hurt. It was pleasing that the Council was able to replace the railings within a couple of weeks.



Chaldon Way Gardens it is pleasing to see the amount of work the volunteers have done towards restoring the gardens over the summer. Some thirty bags of waste have been removed with more to come; trees and bushes along the edges that overhung the pavements have been cut back. The council have now agreed to cut the grass when they cut the grass in the park.



#### **Coulsdon Medical Centre and Purley GP Hub**

by Charles King

NHS – Coulsdon Medical Centre: ECRA and HADRA had a meeting with Matthew Kershaw CEO and Hilary Williams from Croydon NHS to ask why the proposed planning application had not yet been submitted. They explained that NHS Croydon are still committed to moving forward with the project and good work is being done to progress it. The main issue had been funding and the ability to secure and spend this within the correct financial year, which they now believe has been resolved. In the revised plan it is still proposed to have an entrance from Woodcote Grove Road to enable people with reduced mobility to be dropped off. The building will also be capable of being expanded if need be in the future.

Purley Hospital Diagnostic centre is now fully operational, offering the following services to which you can be referred by your GP: Respiratory Pathways: Suspected Asthma, Suspected COPD, Suspected Sleep Apnoea and SOB of unknown cause (cardiac cause excluded), Echocardiogram, Ambulatory Ecocardiogram, Ambulatory Blood pressure, DEXA, Fluroscopy, Ultrasound scan- non-obstetric, CT- colon, CT with and without contrast, X-ray, Unscheduled bleeding on HRT pathway, Phlebotomy. The Purley GP Hub and minor injuries will still take walk in patients, but the preferred method is to book an appointment via NHS 111.

#### **Libraries Update Bradmore Green to Close**

by Charles King



Croydon Council consulted on their proposal to close the following four libraries: Bradmore Green, Broad Green, Sanderstead and Shirley, and to improve the opening hours of others such as Coulsdon and Purley. Despite 66% of the 3,614 responses opposing the closures (2,385) and the council also failing to answer

the points that the objectors made in the consultation, Croydon Council is going ahead with their proposal and closing all four libraries. As a result, the libraries will close on the following dates: Broad Green Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm; Bradmore Green, Sanderstead: and Shirley: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. From January 2025, opening hours will start to increase with Coulsdon library opening two additional days and Purley opening one extra day a week.

Croydon Council is now looking for community partners or residents' groups interested in taking on the library buildings to operate them as community bases at no cost to the council. This means that any community group would be responsible for the day to day running including energy costs along with any future maintenance costs. Details of the pilot outreach service, where library services will be available from other community venues (in the case of Old Coulsdon this could be the Tollers Community centre) will be announced in November 2024.





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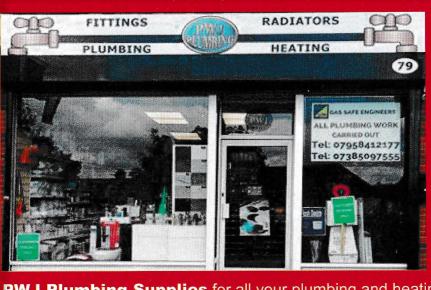
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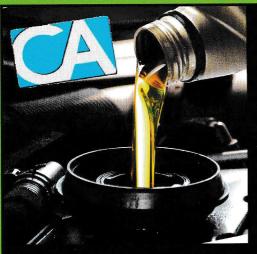






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#### John Chandler - Guitar Teacher

by Maxine Leyland

What do people in Coulsdon do? Today we interviewed John Chandler who is Coulsdon's guitar teacher and a key person on the local music scene. John grew up and went to school in Woking. He moved to London when he left school, working in a variety of jobs including a croupier in a casino.

He is a self-taught musician, having become interested in the guitar after watching a musician in a concert. He decided he would also like to learn the guitar. His first lessons were from a guitarist who he met playing in a pub. John took to the guitar naturally He practised seriously between 1973 and 1974, attending evening classes in Hammersmith. Having made excellent progress, he was asked to lead a class which was the beginning of his teaching career on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1974, some 50 years ago.



At the beginning of his career John played in a lot of pubs and wine bars while studying for a formal qualification in the guitar. Back in 1974 there were no formal qualifications for teaching non-classical music as there are today. He achieved a grade 5 in music theory and, having practised constantly, achieved Grade 8s in theory and practice, skipping some of the grades. He is now a fully accredited teacher having achieved the appropriate standards. As a registered ILEA teacher, he was soon teaching five nights a week. During his career John taught at the London Nautical School in Southwark. Their Head of Music came looking for him because he had heard about his good reputation.



Hammersmith is a great place to be a musician; there are plenty of studios and music venues. He made numerous friends in the music business. These friends were willing to talk to him about sound mixing and engineering which interested him. So, he decided to acquire these skills and got a job with Mecca at the Hammersmith Palais providing sound and light services for local Mecca bands.

He became involved with the local council who put on music events in parks and community centres across the borough. He was approached by a small studio in a community centre that needed a sound engineer and John took on this job. Next, he was teaching sound mixing in an evening class.

In 1998 John and his wife Alice thought of moving to France and spent six months living near Carcassonne in the southwest. However, they came back to England and eventually moved to Coulsdon in 1999 where they had bought a house at auction which required major renovation before it became a home. The pair carried out a lot of DIY and Alice developed many skills including plumbing and tiling.

#### John Chandler - Guitar Teacher

(continued from page 15)

John started teaching again locally in and around Coulsdon, visiting students in their homes for lessons. He also got involved with the local amateur dramatic groups, providing music arrangement and composition with the *Theatre Workshop Coulsdon*, the *Chipstead Players* and the *Mitre Players*. John wrote music for and performed in several plays.

The first group he was with were 'Spotlight'. In a memorable production of Grease, unfortunately the leading actor dropped out a week before the opening night. John persuaded a young 13-year-old neighbour, Tom Black, to take on the role of Danny. Tom has gone on to a have a successful career as an actor and playwright.

The pandemic and lockdown meant that John could no longer visit students and so started teaching from home via Zoom and various other internet services. Soon he had students not only from Coulsdon, but from all over the country. This has continued after lockdown.

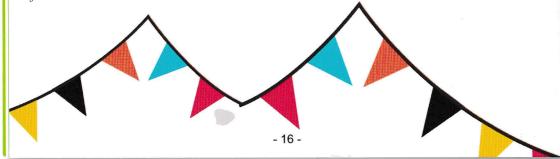


John is also heavily involved in local community projects. When the *Coulsdon Community Partnership* wanted to revive the *Yulefest* Christmas activities in Coulsdon town centre as *Yuletide*, John was approached to see if he could set up the stage with sound and lighting and organise the acts. John agreed and successfully organised the stage and performers for the event and will be doing it again this year on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

He also helps with some of the music events at the *Coulsdon Club*. John's latest venture is providing lessons at the *Tollers Community Centre* in Old Coulsdon

If you would like to know more about John and his lessons, he has an excellent website: <a href="https://www.leadingnote.co.uk">https://www.leadingnote.co.uk</a> or 07895 295500.

ECRA would like to thank John for his time and wish him and his students well for the future.



#### **European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)**

by Charles King

During the Summer the European Union (EU) announced that they would finally launch the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) for non-EU visitors to EU Schengen area. This does not include the Republic of Ireland. It would be similar to the USA ESTA requirements.

This would be two parts:

- 1) From November 2024, visitors to the EU would be required to provide their fingerprints and a facial recognition picture at the border.
- 2) From March 2025 non-EU visitors would be required to apply online for an ETIAS which would cost 7€ prior to travel.

However, again in October the EU announced that as some EU states were not ready it would be postponed. For more information visit: <a href="https://travel-europe.eu/etias\_en">https://travel-europe.eu/etias\_en</a>



#### **European Directive on Single-Use Plastics**

by Charles King



Have you wondered why the caps on single-use plastic bottles now remain attached when you unscrew them? This results from European Directive (EU) 2019/904 that came into force in July 2024, requiring that all single-use plastic bottles have caps that remain attached. The reason for this is to reduce plastic waste, as far too many bottle caps are discarded and don't get recycled in comparison to the plastic bottles themselves. There is plenty of evidence to be seen on the streets of Coulsdon to know this is true.

Although the directive does not apply to the UK, most of the bottle manufacturers have decided that it is simpler to comply with the directive rather than set two different production lines.

In much of Europe, milk is UHT treated and is sold in Tetra Paks rather than plastic bottles which have to comply with the directive. In the UK *Morrisons* are now using Tetra Paks for fresh milk. In the UK plastic milk bottles do not comply with the EU directive 1019/904. What has happened with the majority of milk sold in supermarkets is the previous blue, green and red tops have been replaced with clear plastic tops. The



reason being the previous coloured top were made from a different grade of hard plastic which had to be recycled separately to the bottles. The new tops are of the same material as the bottles so can be recycled together.



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#### The Business Interview - Stella's Emporium

by Maxine Leyland



Stella has been the proprietor of *Stella's Greek Emporium and Gifts* on Placehouse Lane in Old Coulsdon since December 2018. Her Emporium specialises in Greek and Cypriot food and wine. Her emporium is regularly discovered by people who live in the area and never knew it was there until they were walking past or got off the **60** bus.

Her Emporium offers a good introduction to Greek food and is very popular with the Greek

community, who travel some distance to buy authentic Greek products. She reviews her stock range regularly to ensure that there is always something new to try. The shop has a licence for selling alcohol. If an item isn't in stock it can be ordered. There is a large selection of gifts at Christmas and throughout the year.

Stella has had a number of different jobs and in each of them she has enjoyed working with people. She worked as an administrator for *Harwoods Land Rover* on Brighton Road, Coulsdon and subsequently had a 20-year career at *Tesco* in Purley.

During her career at *Tesco*, Stella was the Community Champion, encouraging *Tesco* staff to participate in local events and charities. She was also the Treasurer of the *Tesco* Social club.

Stella is local to Croydon; she was born in west London and moved to Croydon in 1975 when her parents became proprietors of a fish and chip shop in Southbridge Road, South Croydon, before taking on another shop in Selsdon Road. Stella is the youngest of five siblings. Stella currently lives locally.

While working at Tesco Stella decided to look for a career change and decided that a shop/café would offer new opportunities and saw that there was a gap in the market for a Greek delicatessen. The dry cleaner shop opposite the Tudor Rose was for sale and so she bought it. Stella is at the shop from 8am to 6pm Tuesday to Saturday to prepare it for opening at 9.30am and serves customers until 5pm. All food is prepared on the day and prepared to order.

Her café offers Greek and Cypriot specialities. Her Cypriot sandwich contains grilled Halloumi cheese, grilled smoked pork loin, tomato, cucumber, lemon mayonnaise, olive oil and mint. The Cypriot breakfast contains many items including Cypriot sausage and halloumi cheese. Stella also does event catering for organisations and individuals and holds party nights at the Emporium

### 

#### The Business Interview - Stella's Emporium

(continued from page 19)



Stella is delighted that she has been awarded the highest score of 5 for food handling and hygiene and was also presented with the 2024 award for Best Catering Company in Surrey at a ceremony in Woking in August 2024. Stella thinks that she has had 6 good years since opening the Emporium despite the challenges posed by Brexit, Covid, the recession and rising energy costs. Brexit has increased costs significantly and some stock is not always available. During Covid Stella sold household staples including fruit and vegetables. She acquired new customers who found the Emporium as they walked locally during lockdown.

Stella likes the Old Coulsdon community. She finds the students from Coulsdon College very polite and friendly. She shops locally in Coulsdon and supports local charities and schools and promotes local activities including the Coulsdon Theatre Workshop productions.

Stella has regular customers who appreciate her good food and company. She celebrates Hallowe'en, Christmas, Christian Easter and Greek Orthodox Easter, matching the food to the season. She enjoys managing the shop almost as much as she enjoys the prospect of her Mediterranean cruises.

Stella is concerned about the new parking restrictions that have come into force at Old Coulsdon and business owners would have liked to have been consulted directly by the council about that and the roadworks that caused Placehouse Lane to be closed. Her Emporium is situated directly opposite the terminus for the 60 bus. She would like the buses to be electric buses because the existing buses on the route are old and noisy.

To find out more look at her website <a href="www.stellas-emporium.co.uk">www.stellas-emporium.co.uk</a> . There are reviews posted on *Google*, *TripAdvisor*, *Facebook* and *Instagram*.

Stella's Greek Emporium is a great place to visit to meet friends and make new friends. She offers a warm community atmosphere, and it has become a local favourite. It is a very successful part of the Coulsdon community and worth the walk or a trip on the 60, 404 or 466 bus routes.

**Trains**: The rail strikes have now been resolved, There are no planned changes to the local services in the December 2024 timetable change. *East Surrey Transport Committee* are still lobbying to improve the Sunday service at both Coulsdon South and on the Tattenham Corner line at Coulsdon Town.

At Coulsdon South *GTR* intend to create an outside waiting area with tables and benches on the spare adjacent land next to the footpath to Marlpit Lane. Thornton Heath station was voted one of the best small stations in London



Buses: There are no proposed changes to local services in Coulsdon and still no update on changes to 404 routing in Old Coulsdon. However, all the local routes run by *Arriva* 60, 166, 405 and 466 are up for retendering in 2025. A number of routes have been retendered to *Arriva* using electric buses from next year. As a result, *Arriva* will reorganise where they garage different routes. As a result, Thornton Heath garage will be the first garage with an all-electric fleet in South London. The SL5 and SL7 will also be converted to electric buses in the spring of 2025. It is also believed that TfL will suggest changes to the SL5 and SL7 routes. This would be to shorten the SL7 to run only between Heathrow and Sutton. The SL5 would be extended from Croydon to Sutton to connect there with the SL7, losing the direct link to Heathrow from Croydon.

**Bus shelters**: *TfL* have agreed to replace a lot of the bus shelters in Croydon that were removed by *J C Decaux* at the end of their contract. In Coulsdon *TfL* has replaced a number of the smaller bus shelters with new larger shelters. At the moment, the countdown signs have yet to be replaced by *TfL* 

The TfL computer system: Suffered a cyber security incident (was hacked) in September – this resulted in a number of problems: It prevented several things working properly, such as countdown signs and some tube indicator boards at Underground stations

It also prevented a number of people from obtaining their Freedom or 60plus bus pass, while others have been unable to obtain refunds on their Oyster or bank cards. **Expired Passes and zip cards will be accepted until December 2024** *TfL* believe they have contacted all the individuals affected. However, if you think that you are affected you should contact *TfL* by phone: 0343 222 1234.

**Buses in Caterham**: *MetroBus* made some changes to the bus services in Caterham at the end of September. The gaps in the hourly service on route 409 to East Grinstead have been filled. The short journeys between Selsdon and Caterham on route 411 have been renumbered 409.

#### What's On

#### Chipstead Players, The Courtyard Theatre

Hazlewood Lane, Chipstead CR5 3QU

COURTYARD THEATRE

It's A Wonderful Life Directed by Paul Falconer

Wednesday 8th - Sunday 12th and Wednesday 15th - Saturday 18th January 2025

Evenings at 7.30pm Matinees at 2pm on Sat 11th, Sun 12th and Sat 18th.

Box Office 01737 555680 or visit www.chipsteadplayers.org



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

Croham Road Baptist Church Hall, 52 Croham Road, South Croydon, CR2 7BA Start 7.30pm

Monday 9th December "Wildlife on High Mountains" by Ian Rumley-Dawson

For details visit: <a href="https://group.rspb.org.uk/croydon/get-involved/">https://group.rspb.org.uk/croydon/get-involved/</a> or contact John Davis on 020 8640 4578.

#### Coulsdon Theatre Workshop, Coulsdon Community Centre

Barrie Close, Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, CR5 3BE

It's A Wonderful Life

December 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th at 7.45pm. Matinees December 8th, 14th and 15th at 3pm.

Box Office: 07709 266728 boxoffice@twcoulsdon.org.uk

https://twcoulsdon.org.uk/

### 285 (Coulsdon & Purley) Air Training Corps Charity Christmas Tree Sale TA Centre, Marlpit Lane, Old Coulsdon

Saturday 30th October, Sunday 1st, Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th December 9am to 6pm Saturdays and 9am to 4pm Sundays

#### Willow Dance and Fitness

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

#### Singing Mamas, Coulsdon

Women's singing circle providing soothing and uplifting songs to nourish and recharge Contact Annie: coulsdonsingingmamas@gmail.com or call 07447046662

#### **Live Pilates Classes**

Old Coulsdon Bowling Club, Coulsdon Road 07899 754762 www.fitandfabulouspilates.com

#### The Downland Chorale + local primary school

St John the Evangelist Church, Canon's Hill, Old Coulsdon CR5 1HA

A Christmas Cracker Saturday 14th December at 6pm

https://www.downlandchorale.org.uk/

**Steam Trains in Coulsdon**: At the time of writing there were no planned steam trains through Coulsdon. before the end of December.

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

01883 340 400

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