

COULSDON

WEST

Residents'
Association

Summer
2026



New maps in town!

Our AGM
Tuesday, 30th June 2026

See page 8 for details

Next Litter Pick
Sunday 5th July
Lion Green car park
11 am

From the Chair

Summertime greetings!

I hope you will have noticed the improvements to Coulsdon town centre, the cover of this newsletter shows one of three maps which have been put up. There are also new planters with benches around them near to the library, an interesting installation advertising The Hive garden, and a disc set into the pavement outside the library, showing how the plan for the shape of the building represents an open book. This is all part of a regeneration project administered by Croydon Council.



From the Chair

Following the local election, Ian Parker and Luke Shortland have been joined by Nikhil Sherine Thampi to represent the Coulsdon Town ward. We look forward to their continued support in the future.

The efforts to improve Rickman Hill Park continue, with new saplings being planted there and in Mother Kitty's Shaw. We are grateful to the volunteers who have worked so hard there. Please visit Loretta's Café which is now open, details on the What's On page.

Our next litter pick is on Sunday 5th July. Meet at 11am in the Lion Green car park. Do come and support, it takes about one hour in the town centre and then we meet for a cup of coffee at Fine Toad: many thanks to Eleanor Richardson for the hospitality.



There is a new speed limit as you drive north on the M23 to join the A23: it is 50mph on the motorway, then rapidly changes to 40mph and then 30mph. Not many people seem to have realised this, perhaps they need speed cameras.

Our AGM is on Tuesday 30th June:

7.30pm at the Coulsdon Community Centre. See page 8

Do come and support us: the residents' association exists to support you, the local people, and nowadays a feeling of community I feel is more important than ever.

Please contact us if you would like to join our committee, or could help with delivering newsletters: info@thecwra.co.uk

Jennifer

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Who's Who

Your CWRA Committee

Jennifer Sturdy	Chair	Newsletter Editor
Richard Walker	Vice Chair	Planning, website
Bill Kilvington	Treasurer	Ecology
Julian Roche	Secretary	
Peter Appleford	Committee member	
Durgesh Vyas	Committee member	Transport
Keith Watkins	Committee member	

Supported by

Yvonne Walker	Membership
Paul Ford	Social Media
Dave Mott	

General email:	info@thecwra.co.uk
Website:	www.thecwra.co.uk

Our Elected Representatives

Local Councillors

Ian Parker	ian.parker@croydon.gov.uk
Luke Shortland	luke.shortland@croydon.gov.uk
Nikhil Sherine Thampi	nikhil.sherinethampi@croydon.gov.uk

Executive Mayor of Croydon

Jason Perry	mayor@croydon.gov.uk
-------------	--

MP for Croydon South

Chris Philp	chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk
-------------	--

London Assembly Member for Sutton and Croydon

Neil Garratt	neil.garratt@london.gov.uk
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Disclaimer:

The views expressed in this newsletter are personal views of the contributors, and do not indicate endorsement, or otherwise, by any of the current CWRA committee.



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Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Coulsdon West Residents' Association will take place on Tuesday, 30th June at 7:30, at the Coulsdon Community Centre (Barrie Close, Coulsdon, off the Chipstead Valley Road).

There is ample free parking on site.

In order to make the whole evening even more interesting...

as well as providing drinks and nibbles, we have engaged a speaker from Croydon Trading Standards, Lee Ede, who will be telling us about frauds and scams, and what we can do to avoid them. This will include the opportunity to ask questions. Lee will be providing leaflets and information about how we can best protect ourselves, not only in the retail sector but also romance scams and suchlike. It promises to be very topical and interesting.

The formal part of the AGM will include a review of the previous year's activities, a formal presentation of the financial position of the Association, and the election/re-election of the officers and committee.

The agenda, the minutes of the previous AGM, and the accounts will be published on our website **thecwra.co.uk** by 16th June.

We welcome anyone interested in assisting the Association to join the committee, or to support in less formal ways, like taking part in litter picking, delivering four newsletters each year to nearby roads, or to help with the improvements to Rickman Hill Park, and its woodland area, Mother Kitty's Shaw.

If you can help in any way, please let us know via our general email: **info@thecwra.co.uk**

The final part of the evening will be your chance to ask the Association to look into any issues that are bothering you, or maybe to lobby for some change to be made locally. We are lucky to have a good set of councillors to bat for us in the town hall, and usually, they get much quicker results than us engaging with the council as individuals.

A few words from our MP, Chris Philp

A Good News story: the building of a new M&S Food Hall in Purley Oaks, following Croydon Council's approval of the planning application last year.

Located on the site of the former United Dairies depot on Brighton Road, this development will bring three locally listed buildings back into use. The plans include light renovation works designed to retain original features such as rooflines, detailing and railings. The scheme also includes provision for 68 parking spaces.

The proposal received a high level of engagement from local residents during the planning process.

The development is expected to create around 120 jobs and will include a three-storey creative and cultural enterprise centre at the rear of the site, to be delivered after the store opens, providing space for local businesses. I have been in contact with those involved in the project, alongside Croydon Council, and I understand that construction has begun.

Chris.



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What's On

St Andrews Church: details available by phone: 0208 676 2966 or standrewscoulsdon.co.uk/

Bourne Society: local history society with a range of talks and other events. Full details on bournesoc.org.uk/whats-on/

Bowls and Putting: Marlpit Lane park: Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 2-5pm, Sunday 1-5pm weather and volunteers permitting.

Chipstead Village Flower Show: Saturday 18th July, 12-5pm:
Elmore, Chipstead, CR5 3SB

Chipstead Players: Curtain Up on Murder 6th-11th July:
chipsteadtheatre.com

Coulsdon Club: regular events on Saturday evenings: check for all events on coulsdonclub.co.uk

Coulsdon's local Police Community Support Officer will be in the library to talk to residents about any concerns you may have about the local area.

On these Tuesdays: 9th June, 14th July, 18th August from **11am-12pm**

Croydon Camera Club: croydoncameraclub.org.uk/programme/

Divers Cove: open water swimming in former sand quarry near Godstone. Picture on page 12.
Lifeguards, fee payable, beautiful setting, very safe. diverscove.co.uk

The Hive: Coulsdon's community garden behind the library. Open daily except Wednesday and Sunday 10am-5pm, subject to volunteer availability and the weather. Volunteers are on site on Saturdays from 10am-12pm. Accessible entrance off Railway Terrace.
Please respect our neighbours and take any litter away with you.

Loretta's Café: newly opened in Rickman Hill Park.
Open Tuesday-Sunday 10am – 4pm.
Knit and natter: every Wednesday 11am,
Sticker swap: every Tuesday 3-4pm All ages welcome

Old Coulsdon Village Fair: Grange Park: Saturday 4th July 12-4.30pm
90 stalls and sideshows provided by local clubs, charities and societies.

The Village Variety Fair: Saturday 6th June 1-4pm.
Tudor Rose pub and Congregational Church, both Old Coulsdon.

Events at Coulsdon Library

Opening Hours: Wednesday and Sunday CLOSED.

Otherwise Monday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 9am-5pm

Free events for children:

Rhymetime Thursdays 11am-11:30am. **Pre-bookable online only:- see below.** Customers need to book using an adult Croydon Libraries card. One adult only per booking.

Storytime Fridays 4pm-4:30pm. Listen to stories being read aloud, plus colouring sheets and stickers will be given out.

The Summer Reading Challenge, “Read to the Beat,” will start next month, from Saturday, 4th July to Saturday, 12th September!

A national initiative from to encourage children, aged 4 to 11, to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure.

There are 55 amazing titles for all reading levels, there’s a whole world of music-inspired stories waiting to be discovered!

Reading Challenge opening times **Wednesday and Sunday CLOSED.**

Otherwise Monday-Friday 10:30am-1:30pm, 2:30pm-5:30pm

Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm & 1:30pm-4:30pm.

Free events for adults:

Crime author Therese Pal will talk about her book,

“Survival of the Fittest: Genesis,” on Tuesday 9th June 10:30-11:30am.

Pre-booking online is essential...

Pre-book an event using website: libraries.croydon.gov.uk/events

Adult colouring and knit, stitch and crochet club. Mondays 10:30am-12pm and Saturdays 10am-11:30am. Colouring books and colour pens are available, but please bring in your own knitting needles, wool, crochet or stitching project.

Reading Retreat. Mondays 1:30pm-3pm. This group welcomes people to read poetry and stories aloud. Everyone has the opportunity to share their thoughts on what is read. Listening to different perspectives and life experiences creates powerful moments of connection and results in a deeper enjoyment of reading for pleasure.

Monthly adult reading group. Second Thursday of the month 2-3pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th June when **“Mothering Sunday” by Graham Swift** will be discussed. There are currently copies available from the reading group set at the library. Next meetings are 9th July and 13th August.

Wild Swimming and Wildlife



Divers cove,



deer in the back garden,



fox in front garden,



badgers in the back garden.

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Basic Life Support Training

In April, CWRA sponsored twelve people to attend a training session in Basic Life Support. The three hour course was delivered by Trainaid and was well received. It was conducted at a friendly, gentle pace. Everyone was encouraged to be 'hands on' with both adult and child manikins, as well becoming acquainted with the advisory guidance for using a defibrillator.

I thought that the instructor pitched the course at a sensible level – what to do if you come across a casualty and you are on your own. How/when to summon professional help and to delegate tasks to bystanders. Since it is likely that the 'first responder' would have a mobile phone with them, the current advice is to leave it on speaker and that the ambulance service call-handler will talk you through the procedure if you need help. We were also told to look for signs of anaphylaxis and to check if the casualty had an epi pen.

The subject matter (like their manual) was progressive, beginning with the signs and symptoms of (a) heart attack and (b) cardiac arrest, together with an explanation of what was happening to the casualty in each case. We moved on to CPR technique, followed by the 'recovery' position for adults/children, infants and pregnant women. We also dealt with someone choking and there was a quiz at the end.

In relation to the defibrillator, I was left with mixed thoughts as to the value of these being available in a public place. Given the advice about using one ASAP if available, the instructor did say that unless it was close by, trying to locate one while administering CPR was an impossible task with typical circumstances, and the tight timeframe for the application to be effective. He also emphasised the need for defibrillator installations to be checked regularly to make sure they were ready for use (not least the battery charge). He said that even defibs located in schools are probably not checked frequently enough.

Perhaps we should all be aware of where the defibrillators are located in Coulsdon. CWRA sponsored the one located outside the Smugglers Inn in Chipstead Valley Road, and there is one at each of Woodmansterne, Coulsdon South and Coulsdon Town stations. Anyway, the emergency 999 operator will tell you where the nearest one is – so you don't have to remember!

Julian

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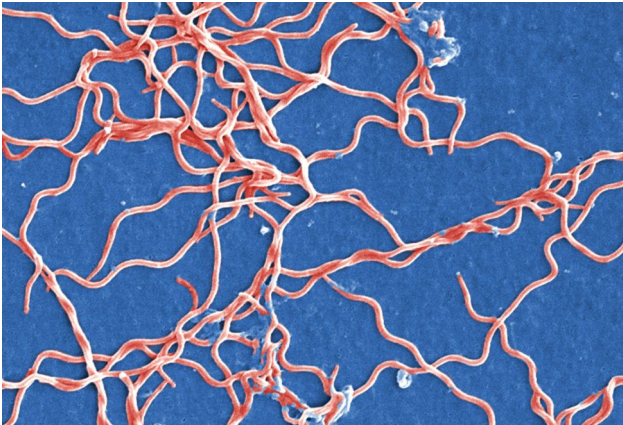
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The Danger of Ticks in the UK

Rather than look at historical medical matters this edition I thought a heads up about a little talked about risk that comes with some wildlife. This was prompted by some lovely photographs of deer seen in neighbours' gardens.

Ticks are small, blood-sucking parasites commonly found in the UK countryside, parks, gardens, and urban green spaces. The species of tick we are concerned with is the Sheep tick, also known as the Deer tick

Although tiny and often hard to spot, ticks can pose significant health risks to humans and animals alike. One of the most serious risks posed by ticks is their ability to transmit diseases. The most well-known tick-borne illness in the UK is Lyme disease, caused by the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacterium.



Borrelia burgdorferi under a microscope, tick sizes against a 1p coin.

Lyme disease can lead to a range of symptoms, from mild flu-like feelings to more severe complications such as joint pain, neurological issues, and even heart problems if left untreated.

Early symptoms typically include a circular rash, often described as a 'bull's-eye', fever, headache, and general fatigue.



"Bulls-eye" rash

The Danger of Ticks in the UK

Not everyone develops the rash, and so Lyme disease can be difficult to diagnose.

Besides Lyme disease, ticks can carry other pathogens, though these are less common in the UK. Pets, especially dogs, are also vulnerable to tick-borne diseases. In addition, ticks can cause allergic reactions or secondary infections at the bite site.

Ticks thrive in areas with tall grass, dense vegetation, and woodland. They do not jump or fly; instead, they wait on the tips of leaves or grass blades for a host to brush past.

Once attached to skin, ticks feed on blood and can remain attached for several days. The risk increases during warmer months, from spring to autumn, when ticks are most active.

To protect yourself, wear long sleeves and trousers when walking through grassy or wooded areas. Tuck trousers into socks and use insect repellent containing DEET. After spending time outdoors, check your skin and clothing for ticks, paying particular attention to warm, moist areas like the armpits, groin, and behind the knees. Pets should also be checked regularly, especially after walks.

If you find a tick attached to your skin, remove it as soon as possible using fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick close to the skin's surface and pull upwards with steady, even pressure. Avoid twisting or crushing the tick, as this can increase the risk of infection. After removal, clean the area with soap and water or an antiseptic. Monitor for symptoms over the next few weeks and seek medical advice if you feel unwell or notice a rash.

In summary, ticks are a real danger in the UK, but with awareness and simple precautions, you can significantly reduce your risk of tick bites and the health problems associated with them. Whether you're walking, gardening, or simply enjoying the outdoors, staying vigilant is the best defence against ticks.

Bill Kilvington

Patient Safety Lead – College of Operating Department Practitioners

Transport

Train timetables changed on 17th May, so if you don't use trains regularly, check before pitching up at any station! I don't see any changes at Woodmansterne or Coulsdon South for the trains that I often use.

The big steel beams have yet to be installed as protection for the railway bridge near Coulsdon South Station.

Bus services on the 466 route to Caterham have been reduced from one every 8 minutes, to one every 12 minutes.

Services 60, 166, 466 and 405 are now using electric vehicles.

Low level floors, but watch out for big steps inside!

This is a BYD B12 single decker model, used on 166 routes.



Planning

A puzzle in Croydon's logic?

Last year we received a request to object to a planning application to turn a house into a 'House of multiple occupation', or HMO.

Imagine our surprise when it was discovered that two one-year landlord certificates have been granted by the council (which grant the landlord of the house the right to run it as an HMO), the first dating back to 2024, even though the planning application was not submitted until January 2025, and has still not been granted (as of 25/5/2026).

Interestingly, there is a 'directive' from Croydon Council stating that in this borough, a change of use from dwelling house to HMO requires a formal planning decision, and was not going to be automatic via GPDO (general permitted development order). The directive came into force in January, 2020. The reason for the directive was specifically to protect family homes.

This issuing of these landlord certificates would appear to completely undermine the wishes of the council's directive, a really perverse situation.

Exactly what kind of lunatics are running the asylum?

Richard

Why the Elephant-in-the-room has become Invisible

If we acknowledge its existence, we must accept the reality that it is probably the root cause of the problem and then do something about it which, to many, is unpalatable. It is so much easier to blame other causes or better still, hold an enquiry which takes forever; costs a fortune to undertake; delays taking any action and the list of recommendations is cause for another time-consuming debate while nothing changes. Let's look at some examples.

Young people accessing unsuitable or harmful material online. Do we prevent them from owning a mobile device? Do we ban them from certain websites? The debate goes on and on. The "elephant" is the material itself which, if serious action was taken to ensure it was banned, there wouldn't be a problem.

Despite employing "security" staff, we are powerless to apprehend people who openly shoplift. Organised crime has recognised their value and gets to them to steal to order to gain later profit elsewhere. The police cannot be everywhere so there has got to be change to the law of arrest. Fare dodging is the same scenario.

It was reported that fuel theft from garages is up 61% on this time last year. Surely the most obvious solution is the requirement to pay before you can draw fuel from the pump. Yet there are still plenty of garages that don't operate this method.

Morning TV was discussing the effect of speeding on the roads and dwelt on the "thinking and stopping" distances set out in the Highway Code. They avoided referring to the "elephant" which is the modern vehicle that is too big and far too powerful. Give a driver access to excessive power and they will use it to gain advantage over other road users.

If you make it easy to enter this country illegally, without any checks on who the people are and with the promise of beneficial (free) treatment once they are here, is it any wonder the Channel small boat crossings go up and up. There is no human right to enter our country illegally.

Avoiding the elephant is not confined to the UK. One powerful world leader embarked upon an enterprise he thought would be a push-over but his 'opponent' has outwitted him. Instead of acknowledging his failure, he seeks to blame others for what he perceives as their shortcomings. Meanwhile his enterprise causes chaos and remains unaccomplished.

Julian

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