



Winter
2024



Autumn leaf colours...

This vine leaf shows veins which are still green, while the other tissue is turning red. A note on the science of leaf colours is on page 8.

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From the Chair

The booklet celebrating 75 years of the CWRA has been very well received. It was distributed by CR5 to every household in the CWRA area, not only to members. Copies have disappeared rapidly from Coulsdon South station so we are hopefully reaching an even wider audience. There are still copies available in Coulsdon Library and I also have some if anyone would like some more. Thank you to all the contributors, and especially to Paul Ford who edited and produced a very professional finished booklet.

On 13 October we held a successful litter pick, supported by 15 people. Our hi-vis jackets labelled CWRA, produced favourable comments from passers-by. Hopefully this may encourage people to use the bins and not just drop litter on the road. The fly tipped rubbish at the side of Tesco has been cleared away. There is supposedly going to be a development on parking restrictions in the alley way there.

Parking now requires the RingGo app, or by phone, or by calling at a PayPoint. This is proving to be a challenge for some. You have to register even for a free hour of parking. The two PayPoints in central Coulsdon are: Thirsty Work (which does not open till 11am) and the convenience store opposite. There is another one at the Chipstead Valley Road Esso garage (formerly Murco), some 10 minutes walk away from the centre. I have raised this with the local councillors but Croydon Council is adamant that this is the only way forward.

Thank you to all contributors and advertisers in this issue. Please encourage friends and neighbours to join CWRA, **still only £3 a year! See overleaf.**

Any submissions for future editions, please send them to **info@thecwra.co.uk**

Seasonal greetings, Jennifer.

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What's On

Apart from the wonderful colours of the leaves turning (see over for the science), these are just some of the activities coming up in or near Coulsdon.

- **Yuletide Magic:** Saturday, December 7th, from 11am to 7pm
Details on this site: coulsdonpartnership.org/pages/events
- **"It's a Wonderful Life"**, Theatre Workshop Coulsdon's winter production runs from 7th to 15th December. Details on the back cover.
- **'Purley Lit':** Regular talks and presentations on a variety of topics at Purley Literary Society. See: purleylit.org.uk/
(Other Literary societies are available! Google Sanderstead, Shaw's Corner and St Mildred's for details)
- **Coulsdon & Purley Debating Society:**
See Facebook or email coulsdonpurleydebating@gmail.com
- **Bourne Society:** 'Considered to be the largest local history society in the UK'. Regular talks and activities.
See <https://bournesoc.org.uk/>
- **Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society:** Regular talks and activities. See <https://cnhss.co.uk/>



Autumn Leaf Colours

In case you are interested, this rather brief note explains the science behind the changing colours in leaves as autumn progresses into winter.

A leaf is green because of the presence of chlorophyll, which is used by the plant for photosynthesis, the system that uses sunlight to convert carbon dioxide into sugars and oxygen. During the growing season, the chlorophyll's green colour dominates and masks other pigments that may be present in the leaf. As photosynthesis progresses, the chlorophyll degrades into colourless substances, but the plant replaces it as fast as it is spent. As light levels fall off in autumn, veins in the leaf start to close. This action can trap unused chlorophyll-laden matter in the veins, which stays green, and replacement chlorophyll can't get through, so the rest of the leaf loses its green colour.

Carotenoids with their orange-yellow colours now have a chance to shine - they are present throughout the year, but are usually masked by the chlorophyll.

Anthocyanins provide reds and purples; they are not present in the leaf during the growing season, but are actively produced towards the end of summer. They develop in the sap of the cells of the leaf, and this is the result of complex interactions of many influences both inside and outside the plant.

Extract from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autumn_leaf_color

Richard Walker

Bramley Avenue's Oldest Resident (1)

Christopher Allen Jones, was born on 14 October 1933 in Thornton Heath. He was the youngest of three children, having two older sisters. He was apparently a "poorly baby" and his mother was hesitant about taking him out in the pram. However, having recently celebrated his 90th birthday, he clearly grew up to be robust!

He attended Winterbourne Primary School, and then won a scholarship to John Ruskin Grammar School. He liked most subjects except History and Geography, and in his School Certificate gained a high grade for French. At the outbreak of WW2, aged 6, he was evacuated with his two sisters, to a farm at Eaton Bray in Bedfordshire. He had to share a double bed with his two sisters, sleeping in the middle between them, and although he enjoyed the Victoria plums, he disliked the other food, especially fish roes. He went to school there, but not for long, as like many other evacuees, he returned to London.

Back in Thornton Heath, his father became an air raid warden, and from the bedroom there was a wire hanging down from the window, with a bell push at the end so that neighbours could raise the alarm; it would wake his father when needed, but not the children. A bomb fell in Lyndhurst Road, Thornton Heath when they were sleeping downstairs, and part of the wall collapsed between the two living rooms.

At the age of 16 Chris left school, and his father took him up to Unilever to work as an office boy there. Not long after, he was summoned to do National Service for two years. He went to Padgate and then to Melksham and opted for work on radios, training as an air wireless mechanic. After a long training, he was posted to the RAF airfield at Little Rissington, but there the repair work was done by civilians, so his task was to remove the faulty radios from the planes, and then reinstall them once mended. Pretty tedious! He acquired a motor bike, but managed to have an accident, landing up in a ploughed field, not badly hurt, but the bike balance was altered.

After National Service, Unilever were obliged to take him back. Travelling up to London every day, he got to know a girl living in the same road, who was working at the National Provincial bank. He and Julie got married in July 1957, she is also 90 and still with Chris in Bramley Avenue.

Chris' house purchase, 1976

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This spacious and well planned accommodation comprises:

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DINING ROOM (Front) 17'3" into bay x 12'5". Two radiators, gas fire, serving hatch, electric points.

LOUNGE 20'8" x 11'5". This is a beautiful through room with double aspect, tiled fireplace with 'Parkray' stove, radiator, electric points. Double casement doors to Patio.

KITCHEN 14'5" x 10'10", with part tiled walls, stainless steel sink unit with cupboards and drawers under. Plumbed for washing machine. Potterton 'Diplomat' gas fired central heating boiler. Picture window with louvres. Large store cupboard. Extractor fan. Strip light. Electric points. Sliding glazed doors to LOBBY leading from which there is a large pantry and a CLOAKROOM fitted lavatory basin, low flush W.C. suite, radiator. There is also a door from the Lobby to the garden.

Panelled Staircase to:

FIRST FLOOR:

SPACIOUS LANDING with radiator, electric point, heated linen cupboard, fitted copper cylinder with immersion heater.

There are FOUR BEDROOMS:

GENERALLY:

Large secluded matured gardens at front and rear with lawns, flower borders, shrubs and fruit trees. DETACHED GARAGE 16'6" x 11'5" with strip light, up-and-over-door. Outside tap. Garden shed. Heated greenhouse. small SUN HOUSE. RATEABLE VALUE: £417.

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The property has a frontage measuring approximately 37'.

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Bramley Avenue's Oldest Resident (2)

Chris continued with Unilever, joining the transport department of United Africa Company, buying spares for repairs in Africa. In 1959 they moved from a rented flat in Streatham, to their own house in St Andrew's Road, which cost £17,850 at the time. Their son Michael was born in 1959, followed by Richard in 1963. Unilever's business in Africa took Chris there, with two stints in Sierra Leone and one in Zambia, where his family joined him. With African countries gaining independence, business there began to drop away. Chris was posted to Yorkshire, where he lived Monday to Friday, but this was far from satisfactory, and with nothing suitable in London, he took redundancy.

Seeking a potential job advertised in the Daily Telegraph, "with good opportunities for the right person," he applied half-heartedly due to its lower salary. However, it transpired that the job was in Coulsdon, with an old and small importing company, started in 1877. Run by the Quitman family, it sold oil lamp chimneys, lighting glass and lamp holders. Chris joined them, becoming the MD within 5 years, so it truly did offer good opportunities.

In July 1976 the family moved to their present house in Bramley Avenue, costing £24,950. They bought it from William Tharp Mellows, well known in Wallington (cf Mellows Park), and Chris believes he brought the gardeners from the park to make the big garden look particularly splendid prior to the sale. Chris was always practical and keen on technical things, and he did the wiring in the house, put in a boiler, and maintained the garden. It was an excellent family home, with good neighbours the Wilsons and the Calders. All four were from Yorkshire, and Chris remembers them playing practical jokes on each other: fake dog poo, and a 'For Sale' notice in the front garden! June Garland living opposite, was a foster mother, and Chris recalls a father coming to snatch back his baby. In 1981 Bramley Avenue had a street party for the wedding of Charles and Diana, organised by the Molyneux family and everyone came. In 1987 the hurricane blew down several trees in the road, including one outside Chris' house.

Chris and Julie have spent more than half their long lives in Coulsdon and I have so much enjoyed Chris' reminiscences. I feel they are vital threads in our community and give a sense of perspective.

Jennifer Sturdy 27 November 2023

(Bedroom details removed, so that the house description would fit.)



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Semmelweis and childbed fever

Ignaz Semmelweis was a Hungarian studying law in Vienna; he transferred to medicine after watching autopsies performed by Professor Rokitansky at the city hospital. Semmelweis eventually became an assistant at the Vienna Obstetric Clinic in 1846.

Obstetrics was organised into two divisions: the first was for training medical students, where Semmelweis worked, and the second was run by midwives, which students did not visit. He noticed that more than ten per cent of women who gave birth in the first division were dying of childbed, or puerperal fever, whereas the mortality in the second division was less than one percent.

Semmelweis and his students strove to understand this difference and he began to routinely perform autopsies. Sadly, rather than increase his understanding, it was the death rate that increased. In 1847, Semmelweis learned that a friend, Professor Kolletschka had died of a condition suspiciously like the fever afflicting the women in the first division. An investigation revealed that a few days before his death, the professor had been nicked on the arm during an autopsy that he was conducting.

Semmelweis began to realise that some infectious agent was to blame, and that his habit of performing autopsies before attending women on the ward, could be the cause of the increased mortality. Such was his distress, he contemplated suicide and later wrote 'Only God knows the number of women who descended prematurely into the grave because of me'.

Rather than end his life he began a cleanliness campaign. On the 15th May 1847 he posted a notice that every doctor or student who came from the dissecting room was required, before entering the maternity wards, to wash his hands thoroughly with a chlorine-based cleanser. So alien was this concept, that he had to stand and police those entering the ward to ensure his regime was followed by all.

He had no idea that micro-organisms were the cause (this wouldn't be discovered until thirty years later), but the rate of deaths dropped from twelve percent to only three percent in the following three months. Ultimately, he reduced this to one percent, comparable to the second division.

I am writing this on the 16th October, which happens to be World Anaesthesia Day. Perhaps if there is interest, I will write in future about the triumph over pain in surgery?

Bill Kilvington

Patient Safety Lead, College of Operating Department Practitioners

Coulsdon Town Ward Councillors



From left to right: Mario Creatura, Ian Parker and Luke Shortland. Look out for their street surgery stall outside Aldi between 11 and 12 noon. They will have a stand at the Yuletide Magic event, 7th December.

See our Who's who on page 5 for contact details.

Neighbourhood Watch

If you are not a member of neighbourhood watch, you should be!

Our aim is to help communities support each other to reduce crime and reduce the fear of crime. Unfortunately, the threat is constant and the possibility of being a victim very real. Cybercrime can be perpetrated anonymously, from outside of the UK and the thousands of criminals can reach right into our lives without notice. Criminals have become bolder and more organised. Look no further than repeated shoplifting, burglaries, car theft and phone theft as common examples - all perpetrated in broad daylight. The police cannot be everywhere so the community must be prepared to defend itself. Make sure where you live is secure, particularly when you are not at home. Encourage the neighbours either side of you to be vigilant - "nosey" if you like. Be suspicious of anything or anyone that doesn't look right. Talk to each other. Tell them if you are going to be away for any appreciable amount of time but don't advertise the fact. Keep yourself informed about local crime.

Let's work together.

Julian Roche, Neighbourhood Watch

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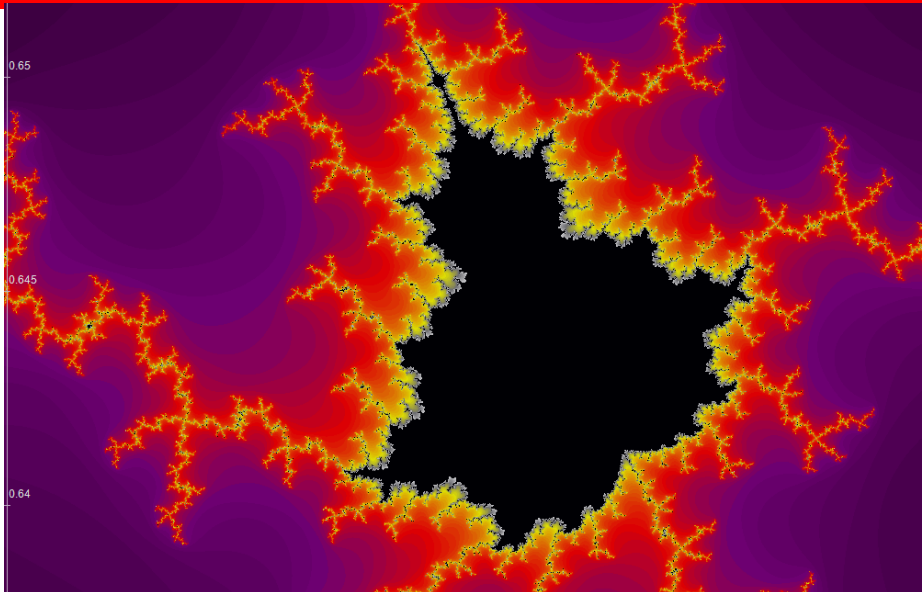


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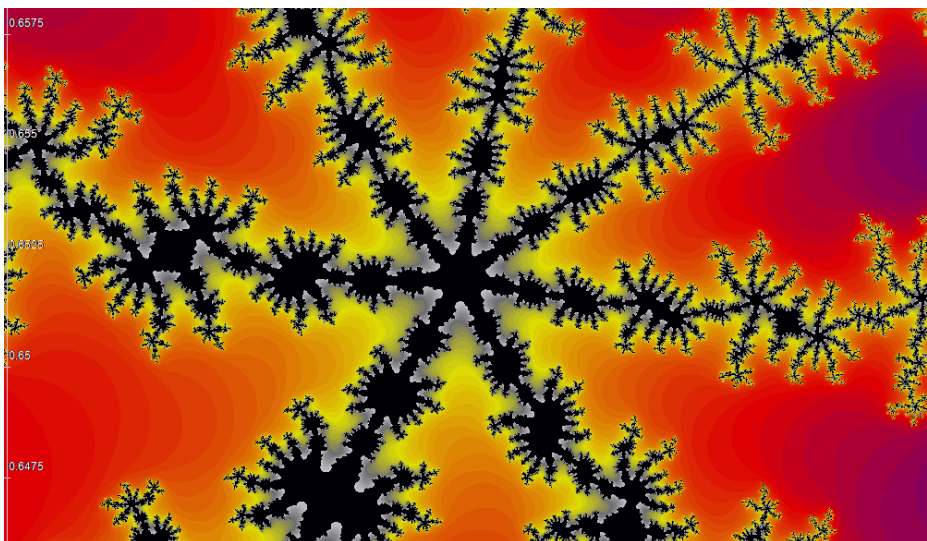
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The beauty of Mathematics



No, these festive looking images are not what happened when Santa said he could fix the Christmas lights himself, the two patterns are computer-generated mathematical images of the Mandelbrot Set, around the area $(0.36 + 0.645 i)$ above, and the seven pointed star below, around $(0.1425 + 0.65 i)$. They are fractals, where the same pattern replicates every so often.

Festive greetings, Richard Walker.



Coulsdon South Garden

The railway company GTR has allocated a piece of land next to Coulsdon South station to be used as a community garden. They are funding this project, but are looking to the community to maintain it once it is established. This is the latest update from the project leader, Dean Underwood:

At this time, we have the back fence installed and painted.

Designs for the planters have been agreed as well as associated seating; this will be designated as the educational area, and placed near the new fence. The materials for the planters have been ordered and we are waiting for a maintenance team to attend the site and construct the planters, which is anticipated to happen by the first week in December.

We have been in contact with both Coulsdon Sixth Form College and Woodcote Primary School to involve students in many ways, such as the designs for the notice boards that will be hung in the area. We are also looking to see how this can assist the college students in their practical development projects within the fine arts department. This is looking very promising.



Jennifer Sturdy

Planning

Not a lot of progress on either the Medical Centre or Purley Pool - at least they aren't going backwards... or are they?

The site for the medical centre has now been leased to Kia for vehicle storage. Apparently, "this has no impact on the plans to proceed with the medical centre."

On the Purley Pool front, the Mayor of London has rejected the plans proposed by Croydon Council / Polaska. Some parking (the Mayor wants zero) and zero affordable housing (he wants lots) are cited in the rejection.

Bill Kilvington has written a short guide on ecological considerations in the planning process. Whilst the full text is on the planning page of our website: thecwra.co.uk/planning.html a synopsis is here:

If you are objecting to a planning application, check that the application includes a Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA). This is important as Coulsdon is within an ecological hotspot, as defined by Greenspace for Greater London (GiGL).

What to look for

- Claims that Coulsdon is an urban environment.
- PEAs that fail to use ecology data available from GiGL.
- PEAs that solely focus on bats and mature trees, with only scant attention given to other protected wildlife, most notably reptiles and amphibians.
- Any statement that gardens are an unsuitable habitat for reptiles is patently false; protected slow worms are both common and breeding readily in gardens in and around Coulsdon.
- False claims that there are no ponds within 500 meters of the development site.
- The timing of any field surveys at the development site: if conducted outside of April to October they would not be valid for reptiles.

Bits and pieces

Not much to report on the transport front, except that train timetables are due to change on the 15th December so look out for any changes on routes that you use.

Discussions are under way between Network Rail, who own the station properties, including Coulsdon South, and a local mini cab company. Soon, we might have a taxi service restored to this station.

The petition to restore the 166 bus route to serve the front of Purley Hospital is still open. If you have not already done so, please go online to add your name using this link.

https://www.change.org/Restore_166_to_Purley_Hospital

Due to Croydon's Planning Department's crass disregard for Coulsdon, and for the planning permission process, **Aldi have been allowed to restrict their car park to users of the store.** I understand that the maximum stay is unchanged at 90 minutes, but it will need a visit inside the store to enter your car registration index into a terminal of some description.

Both ourselves and East Coulsdon RA have entered formal complaints to the Council, and our MP and our local Councillors aren't at all happy either, because this decision has been taken by planning officers, rather than go the the Planning Committee.

There is also some discussion about modifying car access to and from the Aldi car park to ease the traffic hold-ups that it is causing.

In Memoriam...

In this period of remembrance, spare a thought for Bradmore Green, Broad Green, Sanderstead and Shirley Libraries, which are now all closed.

So much for Croydon, London Borough of Culture!

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