

**Spring
2025**



The Medical Centre...

Or at least a first instalment!

See the article on page 8 for the latest scheme on the old CALAT car park site.

Our AGM will be on Thursday, 3rd July

Also in this issue...

March will see the arrival of the banking hub in Coulsdon.

More on page 8.

For a veritable host of exciting things to do in or near Coulsdon in the next few months, see pages 14/15.

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Mission Statement and Membership

The aims of the CWRA are to:

- a. Advance and protect the common interests of the residents;
- b. Preserve and improve the amenities of the district;
- c. Ascertain the opinions of residents on local matters when considered desirable;
- d. Co-operate, where appropriate, with other organisations with a view to furthering the objectives of the Association;
- e. Encourage and develop Social Activities.

If you haven't already done so, why not join us?

Membership is still only £3 per household per year.

If you do not already pay by standing order, read on...

Please consider setting up a standing order, details below.

For new members, send us your money by bank transfer or standing order

Account name: Coulsdon West Residents Association

Account type: Business

Sort code: 20-24-61 **Account number:** 10293482

Reference: *house number, space, postcode like this:* 47 CR5 3DH

And then email us with your name and address: info@thecwra.co.uk

Spam, phishing and fraud

From the Covid experience we have learned that viruses mutate. Unfortunately, scamming methods have done the same at an alarming rate. In their Croydon Cyber Crime Summary for December, the police reported 198 cases with losses of over £2m.

The top five in terms of money lost were:

Dating scams, Financial Investment, Pyramid Schemes,
Share sales and Door-to-door sales.

Unfortunately, we have no magic vaccine to help us combat these threats, so we need to maintain a constant state of caution and suspicion towards all these types of schemes. Don't be taken in; remain sceptical; carry out independent checks yourself; don't be rushed; don't hand over any cash; keep records of any transactions. **If you have any doubts at all, pull out.**

We, the public, must do our part to help defeat these criminals. The crime agencies are being overwhelmed.

Report dodgy emails or other internet traffic to: **report@phishing.gov.uk**

Julian

Who's Who

Your CWRA Committee

Jennifer Sturdy
Richard Walker
Bill Kilvington
Doreen Rawlinson

Chair
Vice Chair
Treasurer
Secretary

Newsletter Editor
Planning, website
Ecology

Peter Appleford
David Rawlinson
Julian Roche
Durgesh Vyas
Keith Watkins

Committee member
Committee member
Committee member
Committee member
Committee member

Transport
Social Media,
Rickman Hill Park

Supported by
Yvonne Walker

Membership

General email:
Website:

info@thecwra.co.uk
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Our Elected Representatives

Local Councillors

Mario Creatura
Ian Parker
Luke Shortland

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ian.parker@croydon.gov.uk
luke.shortland@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

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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From the Chair

In a recent discussion it was said that we should focus on the positive aspects of Coulsdon, and indeed, it has many.

At Christmas time, the Theatre Workshop production of "It's a Wonderful Life" was a sell-out, such a talented company. The Yuletide Magic festival went ahead in a slightly reduced format because the storm prevented the outdoor activities, but the stallholders moved inside to the old Mirch Masala building. St Andrew's presentation of live sheep, donkeys, rabbits inside the church was very well received.

The library is now open every day except Wednesday, weekdays 10.00-18.00, Saturdays 9.00-17.00. In addition, there is a free shuttle bus from the Bradmore Green library every Monday at 10.30, and returning from Coulsdon at 12.00.

There are frequently moans about the parking in Coulsdon but I have discovered that many of the retailers will help out: if you park in a RingGo controlled bay, and do not have the app, you can go into the shop and they will do it for you. Cozy Glow and Roma's hairdresser are two known to me, I am sure there are others. Coulsdon is fortunate in having individual shops which other town centres do not: for example, a hardware shop and a jewellers' which have been here for over 70 years. Please do patronise the local outlets before resorting to the internet.

Did you know that there are now 10 finials in the Coulsdon Art Trail, the street furniture brainchild of Charlie King, Chair of ECRA? These are "ornaments" on the top of some of the town's sign posts commemorating events from Coulsdon's past. CWRA has recently sponsored one of Gordon Pirie. See how many you can spot. A clue for two of them: at the entrance to the Lion Green car park, and outside Aldi.

There is an allotments site at Meadow Hill, a relatively new initiative, called Roots. 712 allotments over 33 acres, with a thriving community developing and a great deal of support.

Check them out on **www.rootsallotments.com**

And has anyone seen the wagtail which hangs around outside Lorimers? Coulsdon does have its rural aspect.

Good news too that from March we should have the banking hub, plans for the Health Centre on the Calat site are moving forwards, likewise the plans for the Purley Pool and Leisure Centre: more details in our planning section.

Please check our website for further information, and details of how to join us (see also page 3), for a modest £3 a year. **www.thecwra.co.uk**

Spring time greetings,
Jennifer.

From the Chair



Bourne Society plaque and Art Trail finial for Gordon Pirie
Wagtail in town; animals in St Andrew's Church



Planning

Purley Pool

You will doubtless have seen reports in the local news about the Purley Pool project. The latest plans, like the previous set, are not being supported by seven local Residents Associations (out of eight) due to an almost total lack of parking for visitors to the pool, or to Purley generally.

Yes, we do want new swimming facilities, but not at the cost of Purley becoming a dead town. There are already approved plans to build on the railway car park, and the existing pool car park has over 400 spaces, all of which would be lost.

Medical Centre

After many changes of idea, plans have been submitted for planning permission approval for a single-storey GP surgery with five consulting/treatment rooms. Apparently, this could be extended upwards or sideways, but this planning permission is only for one storey (plus a plant room on the roof).

Full details are here: <https://tinyurl.com/coulsdonGP>

It seems like quite a small return for an eight-year wait, but if that's all the NHS can afford, we had better support it; it will relieve some of the pressure on Woodcote Medical.

Banking Hub

Around a year ago, Charlie King, MBE, of East Coulsdon RA asked Cash Access UK to look into opening one of their banking hubs in Coulsdon. After some research, and suitable premises having been secured, the new hub is about to become operational in March this year, at **152 Brighton Road**.

As well as certain face to face services, basic banking for all major banks will be available in one place, including:

- paying in cash and cheques
- withdrawing cash
- checking balances
- paying utility bills
- topping-up gas and electricity accounts
- accessing change-giving services (for small businesses).

For a full description of a hub, see the Cash Access website here: <https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/>

Richard



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The Woodcote Grove Estate

After the last Carew owner was declared bankrupt, the Beddington Estate was divided into lots and sold in 1859. Lot 31, at the south-west of the estate (see the modern map from Google Maps), was known as Grove Farm and amounted to 471 acres.

It was bought by John Peter Gassiot, who had Woodcote Grove House built for his daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Thomas Broadhurst Puckle, and it still stands, just to the north of Woodcote Park Golf Club House. The Puckles made the surrounding area more fitting for a manor house, constructing driveways, landscaping gardens and introducing vineries and orchards.

The estate was bought by the Gilford family in 1900 and parts were sold for development. In 1904, the remainder was sold to a company called Woodcote Grove Estate Ltd. (WGE Ltd) This had been formed by four enormously wealthy men who had made their fortune in South Africa's diamond trade.

The company soon began to develop the land, starting at the southern end with Bramley Avenue and Julien Road, but WW1 prevented completion until the 1920s. The northern section, around Woodcote Park Avenue, was not completed until the 1950s.

Golf was an increasingly popular sport, and the company built a golf course, which opened in 1912, with the intention of attracting prospective homeowners to the area.

The tenancy of Woodcote Grove House was taken by Louis Campbell-Johnston, who bought the freehold in 1924. He and his wife were engaged in various charitable acts and, after their deaths, the house was left to the Friends of the Poor. It was converted to provide residential care for the elderly. Many additions were made but currently the house is empty and in a poor state of repair. A 2022 planning application to Sutton Council for the addition of 71 units for older persons' assisted living was refused but is awaiting the result of an appeal.

During the 1930s, WGE Ltd planned to build houses on the golf course, but this was thwarted by newly introduced Green Belt legislation and the course was sold to the golf club in 1950.

The company sold 10 acres of land to the Council to create Woodcote Grove Recreation Ground and in the 1950s more land was sold to build two schools.

The Woodcote Grove Estate

WW2 forced part of the recreation ground as well as three holes on the golf course to be used to grow crops.

Currently, only 66 acres of horticultural land is owned by the company which believes that there is the potential for further housing development should current planning regulations be relaxed.

A more detailed report can be found in the Bourne Society Local History Records, numbers 113, 114 and 115.

Brian Quattrucci (A member of CWRA and of the Bourne Society)



Hello,

My name is Toby Bassett, and I'm the Director at Walter & Mair Estate Agents.

We've created a guide to selling your home in Spring using our many years of experience helping Coulsdon homeowners navigate the property market.

It's a must-read for anyone considering selling their home this season to ensure your home makes the best possible impression for the maximum price.

With its longer days and sense of things coming back to life, Spring offers a great window of opportunity for people looking to sell.

In the guide, we look into the following:

- The pros and cons of Spring selling
- The importance of accurate pricing
- Insights on achieving the right price to attract serious buyers
- Seven steps to a successful Springtime sale
- How to maximise your property's potential using tested strategies

We'd be delighted to answer any questions about selling this Spring or at any other time of the year – so please do get in touch.

If you would like a copy of the guide emailed or posted to you, please let me know by calling 020 8660 6674 or by emailing me at toby@walterandmair.co.uk.

Thanks for reading

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Toby Bassett'.

Toby Bassett
Managing Director
Walter & Mair



An invitation from our MP, Chris Philp

It is always a pleasure to take Croydon South residents around Parliament for a personal tour. Not only does this offer an opportunity to learn more about our 'mother of parliaments', but gives me a chance to answer any questions you might have, and helps keep that vital democratic link between constituents and your local MP alive.

A typical tour lasts approximately 60-90 minutes, including plenty of time for questions, and would usually be on a Thursday evening. Over 1,400 local residents have joined me on a (free!) tour since 2017, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you, your family or your community group would like to visit too.

If you're interested, do fill in my form at <https://surveymonkey.com/r/ChrisPhilpTour> and provide me with the expected size of your group, and a name, residential address and phone number for your group's lead contact. A strict Parliamentary convention states that MPs may only organise tours for their own constituents, so do make sure your address is included.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Chris



A couple of views of a Chris-led tour in Westminster Hall with its majestic hammer-beam roof

What's On

Save the Date... our AGM will be on Thursday, 3rd July, starting at 7:30 at the Coulsdon Community Centre.

Regular litter picking:

CWRA, together with ECRA and the Coulsdon Community Partnership will be holding regular litter picks on Sunday mornings, meeting at Lion Green car park (free on Sundays) at 11 am. The first date is **Sunday 9th March**.

Other dates will be advised on the CWRA website: **www.thecwra.co.uk**

Theatre Workshop Coulsdon

The Easter performance is the "Accidental death of an anarchist", from April 5th – 12th. See their advert on the back page, or visit their website:

<https://twcoulsdon.org.uk/>

For other theatrical events in the local area, why not visit the Courtyard Theatre, where there are regular performances by the Chipstead Players.

Full details on their website: **<http://www.chipsteadplayers.org/>**

Purley Literary Society

Illustrated talks are held fortnightly at 8 pm at Christchurch, Purley.

The last meetings of the current season are:

6th March: "Writing and publishing a tale of adventure" by the Misra Brothers.

20th March: AGM and "Across India on an Enfield" by Antonia Gallop.

See **Purleylit.org.uk** for full details.

Coulsdon Easter Fair, Egg Hunt and Street Market

19th April 10am - 6pm, egg hunt starts at Cozy Glow, Brighton Road

The Historic Commercial Vehicle Society (HCVS) will be holding their annual London to Brighton run on Sunday, **this year starting at Brooklands** on Sunday, 11th May. They will join the usual route in Redhill. Details here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2025route>

Councillors Street Stand outside Aldi, 11am - noon

Meet your most local representatives at their regular spot in Coulsdon.

The next dates are: 15th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June

Some Useful Apps

Love Clean Streets

This is a mobile phone app for reporting litter and potholes to a central place. The phone is used to take a picture of the offending rubbish or hole, and based on the phone's location, the report, with photo, is sent to the relevant authority. Results are usually quite fast.

What 3 Words

Have you ever been somewhere when you need to ask for help, but there isn't a street name or house number to identify your precise location? This app uses the phone's inbuilt GPS facility to work out where you are exactly (to within a 3-metre square). Each square on the planet has a label of – you've probably already guessed it – three words. When providing a delivery service, or maybe the emergency services, with your location, just use the **What 3 Words** app, and then report the three words to them.

If you have an event coming up, or some other contribution for our newsletter, please let us know, and we will include it if at all possible.

Richard



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Transport

Our petition to restore the 166 to Purley Town centre and Purley Hospital now has over 750 signatures and will be presented to TfL (Transport for London) in the near future. If you have not already done so, use this link to sign: www.change.org/Restore_166_to_Purley_Hospital

There are no planned changes to buses in our area.

TfL have re-awarded the contracts for routes 60, 166, 405 & 466 to Arriva and will move to electric buses during the contract. The contract for the 434 route with London General/Metrobus has been extended for 2 years with existing buses.



Bus shelters TfL are now replacing the bus shelters that were removed by J C Decaux when their contract with Croydon ended. The first to be replaced was Lion Green Road. The northbound 405 stop at Coulsdon South and the one by Harwoods Garage are also on the list. In addition, all the small bus shelters in Coulsdon town centre and at the Tudor Rose have been replaced with new larger ones.

The Countdown screen at the Coulsdon Town stop is now working after four months.

Fares Train Fares will rise by RPI Plus 1% in March 2025. TfL Bus fares will remain at £1.75.

Admiral Cars have reopened the cab kiosk at Coulsdon South Station after EVO moved out several months ago. Their existing office next to Waitrose remains open.



Usage for local buses and trains

current passenger numbers shown as a percentage of pre-Covid levels

Buses: 404: **238%** 466: **112%** 60: **110%** 463: **98%**
166: **93%** 405: **85%** 434: **84%**

Route 404 was extended to Caterham, and along with the 60 and 466, is now carrying more passengers than before.

Trains: Coulsdon South, **94%** Woodmansterne, **45%**
Coulsdon Town, **44%** Reedham, **41%**

Coulsdon South is expected to exceed pre-Covid levels this year, but, sadly, the Tattenham Corner line is only running at half the historic level of usage.

It is 200 years since passenger railway services began in Britain. Look out for special events here: <https://railway200.co.uk/>

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Robert Liston – the fastest knife in surgery

Liston was one of the first European surgeons to embrace anaesthesia during operations. However, this is not what he was most famous (or infamous) for.

Born in Scotland in 1794, his early surgical career took place in Edinburgh, before he was appointed Professor of Surgery at University College Hospital London in 1835. He was noted for being arrogant and difficult to work with, but also a skilled and pioneering operator.

Liston is now chiefly remembered for the speed with which he could amputate a diseased limb. Liston was 6 feet 2 inches tall and powerfully built; he would stride confidently into the operating theatre and declare 'time me gentlemen' before proceeding to amputate, cutting through skin and muscle, sawing through the bone and then inserting a few stitches in, almost unbelievably, around thirty seconds!

While this may sound barbaric today, we must remember that the poor unfortunate patient did not have the benefit of anaesthesia, being pinned down by several handlers or medical students while the operation took place. Liston's speed was a mercy.

Liston practised antiseptic surgery, washing his hands BEFORE operating. His success rate was remarkably high, with 'only' one in six of his patients dying from the surgery, whilst contemporaries at Bart's were losing one in four of theirs. However...

He 'won' the dubious reputation for the highest mortality for a single operation with an amputation: his knife removed three of his assistant's fingers, who died of gangrene; then he slashed through the coat tails of an unfortunate observer, who, convinced Liston had pierced his vital organs, died of shock; and the unlucky patient also died of gangrene!

A 300% mortality for a single operation.

I have assisted in many amputations, and anaesthesia and asepsis now make this a safe procedure. Not only that, but time and care is taken to preserve muscle and skin, to fashion a limb best suited to supporting a modern prosthesis.

Bill Kilvington

Patient Safety Lead,
College of Operating
Department Practitioners.

Image: artist unknown.

Mid 18th century amputation, about 50 years earlier than when Liston was operating.



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