

COULSDON

EST
1885

RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION

SUMMER
2022



ONCE YOU'VE
READ ME,
DON'T
THROW ME
AWAY, PASS
ME ON TO A
FRIEND OR
NEIGHBOUR



Mayor of Coulsdon



GETTING THE POINT ACROSS

73,000 REASONS WHY THE
ST AIDAN'S VACCINATION TEAM
IS BEING RECOGNISED

SEE PAGE 3

WWW.THECWRA.CO.UK

WHO'S WHO

YOUR CWRA COMMITTEE

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VICE CHAIR

HEALTH & COMMUNITY SAFETY

KEITH EDWARDS

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YVONNE WALKER

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PETER APPLEFORD

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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JEANNINE NEWHAM

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ENVIRONMENT

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FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

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FOR MORE
INFORMATION.

HOW TO CONTACT US

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM OR QUERY FOR ANY
OF OUR COMMITTEE JUST EMAIL US AT :

INFO@THECWRA.CO.UK

AND WE'LL RESPOND AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN.

Featured on the cover photograph
are, from L to R, Ketan Patel,
Jean Duke, Helen Flook,
Sharon Pereira and Sue Carr.

COULSDON PHOTOGRAPHY / PAUL M FORD

GETTING THE POINT ACROSS

St. Aidan's Vaccination Centre, provided by Valley Pharmacy, has been offering vaccinations to those in the community and surrounding areas since February 2021. Since then, over 73,000 vaccinations have been administered, which for such a relatively small site is a remarkable achievement.

On Monday 16th May, a group of representatives from St Aidan's Vaccination Centre were invited to Croydon Town Hall, to attend a presentation ceremony. A certificate was awarded to the Centre and its volunteers by the Civic Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Sherwan Chowdhury in recognition of the "incredible work carried out over the Covid-19 pandemic and for going above and beyond for patients".

Ketan Patel of the Valley Pharmacy, who helps co-ordinate the project, had this to say. 'The Centre and everyone involved are incredibly humbled and proud to be acknowledged in this way, it is only because of the wonderful people who come to volunteer. It is only with their commitment, selflessness, and enthusiasm that the centre is able to continue with



the vaccination programme. A huge heartfelt thank you to everybody that has contributed to the success of the vaccination centre.'

Although the worst of the pandemic has passed, St. Aidan's Vaccination Centre continues to operate. They open now just two days a week due to reduced demand, but still vaccinate more than any other community pharmacy operated site in South West London.

They vaccinate 5-11's, 12-15's and adults (16+) too.

HAND TO MOUTH

You may have heard of the Purley Food Hub. It's a volunteer organization dedicated to ensuring that those who have found themselves unable to adequately feed themselves or their family have somewhere to turn. It's not the only one. Across the country there are now thousands of Food Banks. More Food Banks than there are branches of McDonalds and Dominos combined. Of course, in a relatively affluent suburban area like Coulsdon there's no real need for one, is there? Sadly, yes there is. Twelve years of central government enforced cuts to local services have decimated the ability of local councils to help the poorest in society. Even if they'd been run properly. The long austerity years of George Osborne's tenure as Chancellor impacted most on those least capable of withstanding them. The economic impacts of Brexit and the Pandemic have been the icing on a cake many can no longer afford. Latest figures (to April) show that in the CR5 area, the Purley Food Hub provided during 2022 alone, food for over 400 adults and children which is nearly twice as many as they did in the whole of 2019. And it's going to get worse. Energy costs and the

price of food are increasing almost on a daily basis. And we're approaching summer. For many, it's going to be a long, cold, hungry winter. It may not be you who's affected, but it just might be a friend, or a neighbour. Let's be honest, it's not something they're likely to drop idly into conversation. So please help. There are two local drop-off points in CR5, large yellow bins outside houses where you can place the foodstuffs and other items you'd like to donate, and they're picked up on a daily basis.

They're at :-

**4 Twinners Road, Cane Hill
CR5 3LS**

**6 Mead Way, Coulsdon
CR5 1PG**

If you go to:

www.purleyfoodhub.net

You can find out what they need most this month. Thank you.



PLANNING



Objections were raised to the following developments since our last newsletter

In the aftermath of the election, the Council's Planning Committee has significantly changed. Now composed of five Conservative councillors and five Labour, with a Conservative chair, decisions are likely to be judged differently. The Meadow Rise development has now been declined. We wait to see if this is an indication of a real shift in policy regarding development in the area. New Mayor Jason Perry (and the other main party Mayoral candidates) vowed to scrap the 'focussed intensification' in Coulsdon that was threatened in the much derided Local Plan; and he has already scrapped the dreaded SPD2 guide which encouraged many of the out of character/out of scale developments that have been imposed on Coulsdon. We must hope this outbreak of common sense continues beyond

22/01464/FUL:

31 Hollymeoak Road.

Demolition of large family house, replacement with four storey apartment block with 8 flats between 1 and 3 bedrooms.

Awaiting decision

21/01498/FUL:

29 Hollymeoak Road.

Demolition of existing large family house, replacement with four semi-detached, two-storey, four bedroom houses.

Awaiting decision

21/06097/FUL:

1a Meadow Rise.

Demolition of existing family home and outbuilding to replace with an apartment block of 9 flats. Original application refused in May 2021, resubmitted January 2022.

Application refused

<https://publicaccess3.croydon.gov.uk/online-applications/>

CROYDON

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an idox  solution

the honeymoon period of his early days in office.

Whether it's due to a policy change or lack of funds, Croydon Council aren't sending out notifications to neighbours in as wide an area as they used to when a planning application is submitted. As the CWRA become aware of plans, we will post details on our Facebook page. However, if you want to take a more active local interest we suggest looking at the council's planning website on a regular basis using the website address above.

The search function can use a road name, a post code, a part address or a reference number (if you have it) to search out development applications.

If you see something that concerns you, let us know as quickly as you can. It can take time to assemble an objection, and the more time we have, the more likely it will be an effective one.

REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE!



The first Caterham Repair Café opened its doors at 10.30am on 12th January 2019 at St Lawrence's Ancient Church, Caterham on the Hill. But what is a Repair Café? Well, The Repair Café Foundation was started in Amsterdam in 2009, by Martina Postma, who was fed up of useful stuff being thrown away because of a small rip, break or chip. Martina's idea was to 'help create a society where everyone can find a place, where repair expertise is cherished and passed on and where valuable raw materials are used in a responsible way'. Having been a volunteer at Repair Café in Dorking, I felt that there was a place for one in Caterham. St Lawrence's offered to host us and the majority of our donations go to the restoration of this ancient community building. People come to get all manner of things repaired - we've mended shoes, pans and colanders, a pink fan, hairdryers, lots of vacuum cleaners, an office chair, jeans, bag handles and zips, a sausage dog's tummy and ears (don't worry, it was just a draught excluder!), and a dragon's armpit amongst other things. Although we are not The Repair Shop, we do often mend precious things for people - jumpers belonging to deceased relatives,

vintage dolls, wooden boxes. We can't always mend things so we advise people which parts they may need so they could come back next month, or refer to local businesses who can do alterations or more complicated repairs if items cannot be repaired in the two and a half hours of the Café. Our fantastic team of volunteers include several electricians, with a PAT testing kit (essential to ensure electrical items are safe when they leave us), textile repairs - hand sewing, machine sewing and darning, computer repairs, woodwork repairs and 'Jack of all trades' stickers and gluers. They are truly generous with their time and skills and it's an amazing team to be part of. People don't only come to get their stuff repaired - the Repair Café is a great place to come and sample Gail's wonderful tea and cake. Which is great for those who have to wait to be seen as well as meeting up with friends. Caterham Repair Café meets at St Lawrence's Church, Church Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill, on the second Saturday of each month from 10:30 - 13:00 (last items brought in by 12:30 please). Volunteers are enthusiastically received!

Anne Burke

TRANSPORT REPORT



The East Surrey Transport Committee, with which the CWRA is involved, is consistently lobbying for improvement and restoration of train services to the levels we used to have before the pandemic hit. However, GoVia, the company who operate the network in our area, have been handed a very sound reason why they're not going to do so any time soon. A new study by the Policy Institute and King's College London has clearly indicated that the majority of Londoners have no intention of returning to regular commuting. Working from home is for many the new and more productive normal, whatever Messrs Johnson and Rees-Mogg might say, and the majority of businesses are adapting to this. So please, the CWRA and ESTC will continue to push for upgrades, but don't expect

massive changes while usage remains so much lower than pre-Covid levels.

The RMT union called a strike for the 21, 23 and 25 June with the intent of shutting down the rail network on those days. In addition, a further tube strike was set for the 21 June. With the threat of job losses and a proposed wages increase that didn't even match inflation, the members voted for industrial action even if that did mean a loss of income at a time when they could ill afford it. However, the service providers are under pressure from both central government and shareholders to meet targets, so this struggle may continue over the summer and more strikes seem likely. Keep an eye out for news updates.

FROM THE CHAIR

TALKING ABOUT MAYORS OLD & NEW, THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE...

Well, it hasn't been long since my last epistle, but there have been some major changes.

The biggest of these is that we now have a democratically-elected executive mayor, the Conservative Jason Perry, in charge at the Town Hall.

I hope it's a real change. Croydon needs to find a way out of its perilous financial state, and regain the trust of the people it's supposed to protect. It won't be easy.

And I am hoping for some serious shaking up in the planning department; not least we want to see an end to the 'knock down a house and build nine flats' schemes which dominate the requests to object that arrive in my inbox.

Looking back at the history of Croydon since it became a Municipal Borough in 1883, when the position of Mayor was created, I hope that Mr Perry performs better than the first incumbent, Jabez Spencer Balfour (Mayor 1883 – 1884). Balfour was a member of the Liberal Party, and was elected MP for Tamworth (1880 – 1885) and for Burnley (1889 – 1893); from these dates, he must have been Mayor of

Croydon in his spare time.

He also set up The London and General Bank and the Liberator Building Society, but his principal activity seems to have been to liberate money from its account holders. When the bank collapsed in 1892, dragging the building society with it and owing investors in excess of £8 million, he fled to Argentina, but was eventually brought back in 1895 by Inspector Frank Froest 'of the Yard' who, seemingly tired of the interminable extradition proceedings, kidnapped Balfour and threw him on a boat home. After a trial at the Old Bailey he served 14 years of penal servitude, and his name was chiselled off the foundation plaque of the old Croydon Union Infirmary, later 'Mayday', and now 'Croydon University Hospital'. (It would have been the first name under the heading 'Ex Officio Guardians', just above the name of Edmund Byron – but the space is now a blank piece of marble. (An early example of 'cancelling' perhaps.)

Many of the Jubilee celebrations will have taken place already, with others sprinkled throughout the summer months ahead of us.

I hope that any street and garden parties, fêtes and mass picnics that you are involved with, all went (or will go) ahead as planned, and that copious quantities of Platinum Pudding have been created and consumed. Happy Jubilee Your Majesty!

We are lucky to have a choice of open spaces within easy reach of Coulsdon. My nearest park is at the top of Rickman Hill, which has a large grass area, a fenced-off children's play space, and a chunk of ancient woodland known as Mother Kitty's Shaw. Recently, under the stewardship of 'Friends of Rickman Hill Park', work got under way to improve all aspects of the site. Community Volunteer mid-week work parties have been scheduled for 3rd, 4th and 31st Aug, as well as the 1st September, in order to clear overgrowth and holly in Mother

Kitty's Shaw. If anyone would like lend a hand, please check the FoRHP Facebook page or website for more detail.

Remember that if you spot any unusual birds or animals – frogs, newts, toads, to name but a few, you can report any sightings using Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL). Their web link (which is on the links page of the CWRA website) is: **<https://www.gigl.org.uk/submit-records/>**

And if you didn't know already, there have been staffing problems at Purley Memorial Hospital, and this has affected the usually efficient blood testing service there. For the time being, testing is only by appointment.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

RICHARD



CWRA AGM 2022

This year's AGM is being held at the Coulsdon Community Centre on Barrie Close, just off the Chipstead Valley Road on 7 July at 7.30pm. *(A big thank you to the Centre for letting us use the main Jubilee Hall at no charge.)*

The details - the agenda, accounts, the proposed constitution changes and other papers, will be on the website: **<https://www.thecwra.co.uk/AGM.html>** before the event.

We're very pleased that new Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry, has agreed to be a guest speaker at the meeting. I'm sure it'll be interesting to hear his perspective on his first few weeks in charge.

We'll also be electing the committee for the next year. Like the council, a residents' association needs the right people to keep it running smoothly, and we would welcome an injection of new blood, new ideas and new skills. If you fancy changing the world, or perhaps just Coulsdon, we're a good place to start. Join us on the committee. Candidates need to be paid-up members of CWRA, and should contact us via our info@thecwra.co.uk email address as soon as possible, but some time before the 1st of July will be fine.

The changes to the constitution will also be discussed and voted on at the

meeting. If you wish, you can read through the current and the proposed versions (both on the website) prior to the meeting.

I hope that you have been enjoying our newsletters since we resumed publishing them about a year ago.

We have the editorial capacity to create about four per year, but not the financial resources to print every edition, forcing us, reluctantly, to move to a more digital solution.

We'd prefer that every copy was available in a printed format but that would mean many more people subscribing to the CWRA, both to subsidise and distribute.

We are desperately seeking to engage more with residents; encouraging them to join the Association and keeping in touch with them once they have signed up. We are using social media to reach out to more residents than before, and impress on them what we can do, but it's the personal touch that makes the difference. So we need to restore our Road Steward team. And that's proving a hard task. If you're interested – especially if you belong to a road WhatsApp group, or similar 'grapevine' mechanism – please let us know, we'd love to have you on board.



LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

THESE ARE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AT CROYDON COUNCIL,
THE LONDON ASSEMBLY AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.
THEY'RE THERE TO GIVE YOU A VOICE. MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

CHRIS PHILP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CROYDON SOUTH,
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