

COULSDON

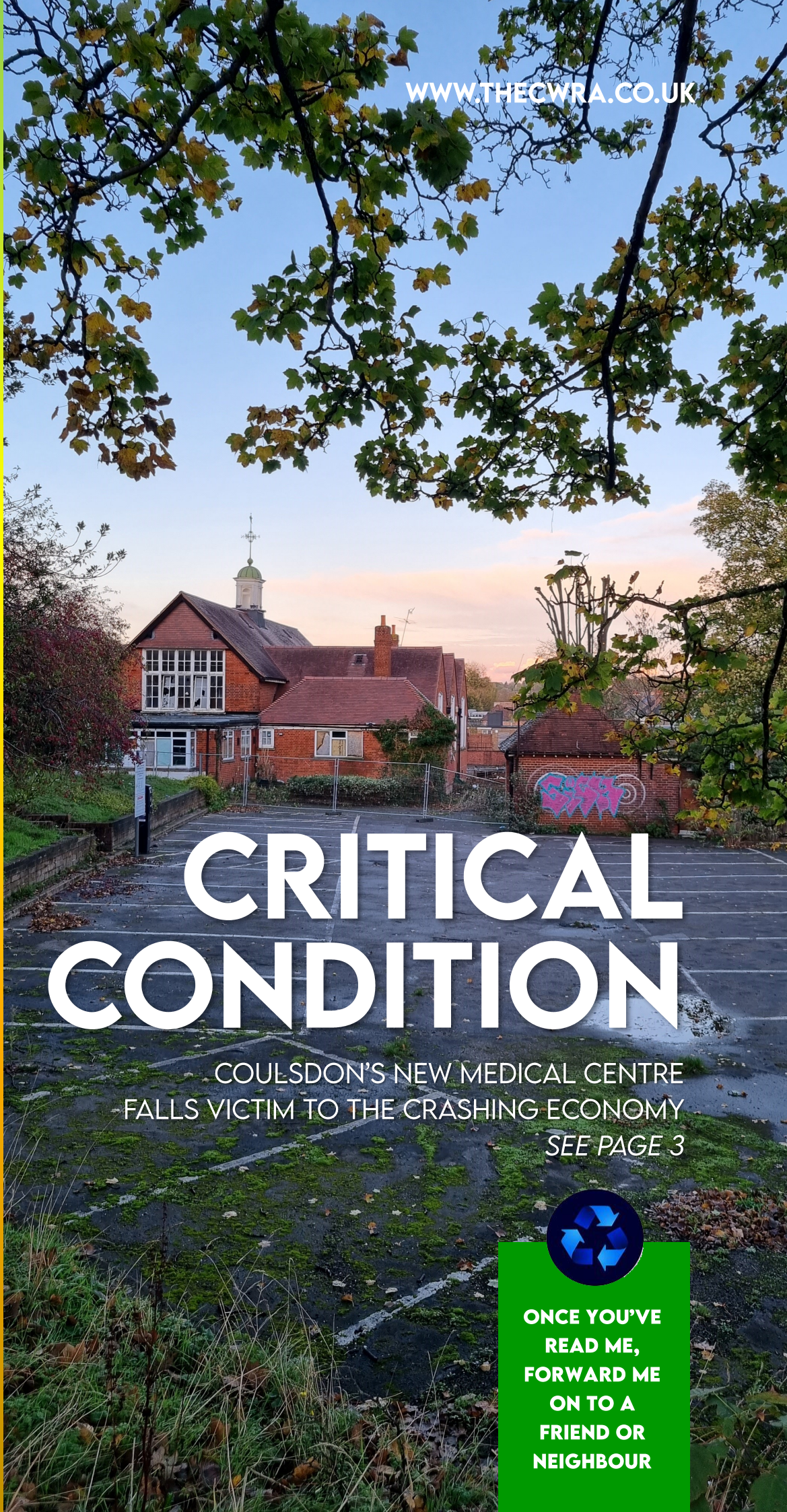
WEST

RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN
2022



WWW.THECWRA.CO.UK



CRITICAL CONDITION

COULSDON'S NEW MEDICAL CENTRE
FALLS VICTIM TO THE CRASHING ECONOMY
SEE PAGE 3



ONCE YOU'VE
READ ME,
FORWARD ME
ON TO A
FRIEND OR
NEIGHBOUR

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Where were you when you heard the news?



It hadn't been a quiet week in the run-up to our going on holiday in September. But despite everything, my wife and I managed to get our clobber together and the car packed, and a little before eleven in the morning, we left for the West Country. We wondered if we might have left it a bit late for our fortnight in Cornwall, as the forecasts suggested rain for the whole period, and we drove through some dire downpours that morning.

As we stopped at Stourhead (a National Trust property) for lunch and a stroll around the estate, the radio solemnly announced that the Queen was ill. By the time that we reached our first port of call that evening, it was official – the Queen had died that afternoon. Sad news, but my word, what a great innings.

Catching up with our friends, we were all pre-occupied, but inevitably the conversation kept returning to the Queen, and odd things came to mind – would my cub scout promise “to do my duty to God and the Queen” be out of date? Would there ever be another Platinum Jubilee?

Soon after, we drove down to Bodmin for the start of our holiday ‘proper’. And as we wandered around the town on Sunday morning, a smartly-dressed gentleman approached us and told us that the proclamation of accession would be read on the town hall steps that evening. He asked whether would we like to attend, and then introduced himself as the Deputy Mayor, saying that he would be reading the proclamation as the Mayor himself was on holiday in Norway. So along with other tourists and townsfolk, we gathered in the town square towards six o'clock. A little after the hour chimed, the Lord Lieutenant opened the proceedings, and the Deputy Mayor, the Town Crier and a supporting cast bearing maces (two) and flags (six), performed their little ceremony, just as it had been performed in large towns since... well, William the Conqueror, maybe. It concluded with a rendering of “God Save the King”, played by the Bodmin Band, and sung by the congregation. After the ceremony, the Deputy Mayor walked among the crowd, chatting to people, and mentioning that they had forgotten to bring the keys to the mace cupboard, and that had caused a slight delay. Maybe it had been a while since they were last dusted off!



Bodmin

The rest of the holiday went well, and the rain must have gone somewhere else, because we only had a couple of heavy showers for the rest of our time away. But, although we heard the news on the Thursday, I shall forever equate the passing of the late Queen with the ceremony at Bodmin. Long live the King!

Cheers, Richard.

Developments

The housing project on Lion Green Road should finally be completed this month, November, though there's still a strange absence of promotion regarding the 157 apartments in their rather grim-looking hexagonal brick towers.

Despite having been agreed in principle last December, the Coulsdon Community Centre Association is still negotiating with the cash-strapped Croydon Council over the terms of their new 25 year lease. The Council want to push responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the Centre on Barrie Close entirely onto the charity that runs it, and still demand a significant annual rent. The CCCA is obviously fighting this attempt by their landlords to take the money with no responsibility attached which it rightly feels is unreasonable and a threat to the Centre's survival. It is well understood that the current administration has inherited a poison chalice with regard to finances, but punishing the people of Croydon while letting the councillors and executives who caused the deficit get away with their incompetence and/or negligence is unacceptable.

The development of the new Coulsdon Medical Centre planned for the Smitham School / CALAT site adjacent to Woodcote Grove Road has recently been placed on hold. Wrangling between the developers, the NHS, the planning department of Croydon Council and local Residents Associations from Coulsdon had been going on for some while. Sadly in the meantime the bitter reality of the plunging economy has caught up with the developers. Matthew Kershaw, Chief Executive of the Croydon Health Services and NHS Trust informed us;

We have been advised that the current building developer (PHP - Primary Healthcare Properties) has paused all of its projects with the NHS that it is not yet contractually obliged to complete. They intend to review the impact of rising interest rates and other external factors which affect the developers view of the projects' financial viability and those of their investors. We are now working urgently to resolve these issues and we are in discussion with NHS England about the national funding we are receiving for these projects.

Clearly the significant rise in the costs attributable to the project will have damaged any chance of their making a profit, so PHP have bailed out pending a re-evaluation. NHS Croydon definitely want the Centre to be built, but whether they can afford the new price tag that will come with it is another matter.

On the positive side, despite derelict appearances, the old Smitham School is becoming a new Renal Unit as planned, with a number of outbuildings already demolished.



Celebrations on Bramley Avenue 2022



PHOTO BY ROD STURDY



PHOTO BY BRIAN QUATTRUCCI

The residents of Bramley Avenue seem to have a history of holding street parties and celebrated the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and then the marriage of Charles and Diana in 1981.

The seeds of our 2022 party were sown two years ago, as we entered our first Covid lockdown. I asked if the residents of Bramley Avenue and the two small side roads of Appledown Rise and Ruxton Close were interested in forming a WhatsApp and/or Facebook network to support each other through the pandemic. We now have 80% of the 60 houses signed up. Several people suggested that we should hold a street party 'when Covid was over'. Obviously, this is still not the case, but the situation is much better.

As we entered 2022, we were reminded that it is the year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and several days in June were chosen for national celebrations. I thought that this would be a good time to hold our own celebrations and, on speaking to my neighbours, found that others had the same idea.

There was a very positive response to the suggestion on WhatsApp and we soon formed a committee of about a dozen residents and held five meetings in total. I am very grateful for their support and time, especially with letter drops and seeking donations towards the cost of the event. I must also thank those volunteers who offered their services on the day, especially those who provided an electricity supply for the amplifiers and hot water and, of course, those who attended. The Events Department of Croydon Council was extremely helpful and, like other Councils, Croydon waived the charge for road closures.

We decided to hold our party at the same location as previous ones, where the road is straight, level and flat, and the date chosen was Sunday 5 June. At an early stage we agreed to invite the residents of two other roads adjoining Bramley Avenue, ie Julien Road and Southwood Avenue. This added another 50 homes to our list of guests, making 110 homes in total.

Quite a lot of time was spent asking for ideas, seeking volunteers and identifying who could lend equipment, especially tables and gazebos. We decided upon a format where people were invited to bring food to share, which would be laid out on tables and could be sampled buffet-style throughout the afternoon. One of our residents offered her services as a face painter and this was very popular with the children on the day. Another local musician brought his friends along to provide us with live music. Others generously offered their time on the day to run events, such as children's races and craft activities. An area was marked out on the road for remote controlled cars to be raced and this proved popular with children and even some adults.



PHOTO BY BRIAN QUATTRUCCI

Our local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team helped us find the owner of one vehicle left in our road for several days, but another owner could not be traced, having abandoned his car for several weeks. Being in the centre of the section that had been closed off, it was duly decorated to celebrate the purpose of the party. Some neighbours cut the low growth from the roadside trees, but was it just a coincidence that Croydon Council decided to have the grass verges cut back just then, after many months of neglect?

As the date of the party approached, we realised that the weather forecast for the Sunday was poor and effort was made to obtain more gazebos. Once again, our neighbours were generous and we had a plentiful supply. In the event, there was no rain until the evening, just as clearing up began.

Plenty of volunteers helped to set up on the day, installing gazebos and tables as well as decorating the street with bunting, and not long afterwards people arrived bringing a variety of food and drinks which represented the multi-cultural make up of our community. The face painting and crown-making proved to be popular and it was great to see so many people mingling and getting to know each other. There was plenty of food and drink and with piped music to start with and then live music, people were soon enjoying themselves. It was a fitting way to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee as she approached what turned out to be the last few months of her life.

Croydon Council had arranged for Bramley Avenue to be resurfaced earlier in the year and this was useful for some of the planned activities, although it didn't prevent my daughter, one of our first-aiders, falling over in an adults' race and breaking her nose and also a tooth!

It was estimated that between 100 and 150 people attended and, with the exception of my daughter, they all seem to have had a good time. We had a surplus of about £270 after the event and this was distributed between three local charities.

Several people have suggested that we should hold another party and, although we don't need a specific reason, the sad news about the Queen's death means that there will be a Coronation before long. So, who knows?

BRIAN QUATTRUCCI

Celebrations on Bramley Avenue 1981

In 1981, there was a street party to celebrate the marriage of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer. These photos are of our daughter Emma, who was two and a half at the time. There was a fancy dress competition for the children, as you can see! Much of the organisation of the street party was done by Irene Molyneux, who lived at Bramley Towers. I remember that there was a toilet in their garden, to which children, and myself, heavily pregnant with our second child, had access. There were trestle tables set down the middle of the road, with typical party food, which the children in particular enjoyed.

We had only been living in Bramley Avenue since 1980, and it was an opportunity to meet neighbours we had not met before. For us it is memorable, because it was then we got to know the Quattrucci family, and have remained lifelong friends. Pam saw that Emma was a similar age to their daughter Linda, so we got chatting. Linda and Emma went to Smitham Primary school together, and remain close friends to this day.

JENNIFER STURDY



PHOTOS BY ROD STURDY



Planning

22/03814/FUL |

Bankview Apartments 96 Brighton Road Coulsdon CR5 2FN

The old NatWest Bank on the corner of The Avenue.

Alterations including erection of roof extension to create additional storey and 1-3 storeys rear extension to create 8 self-contained units with associated amenity areas and bin and bike storage.

AWAITING DECISION



22/02586/FUL |

Land Adjacent To 185 Brighton Road Coulsdon CR5 2NH

Currently used by AMC Motor Solutions on corner of Station Approach.

Erection of a three storey building to provide a mixed-use development of residential units and commercial area with associated refuse and cycle storage.

AWAITING DECISION - 136 objections raised, including from the CWRA.

22/00987/FUL |

140 Brighton Road Coulsdon CR5 2ND

Ground floor used by Lorimers the stationers.

Construction of second floor extension to provide a one bedroom flat.

AWAITING DECISION.



21/03840/GPDO |

Sentinel House 163 Brighton Road Coulsdon CR5 2YH

Large red brick building set between Aldi and Coulsdon Library.

Application for change of use from office (Class E) to residential (Class C3) resulting in 42 residential units

APPROVAL GIVEN - APPEAL MADE TO PLANNING INSPECTOR – AWAITING DECISION

22/03609/DISC | 19/01109/FUL.

1 South Drive, Coulsdon CR5 2BJ

Demolition of existing bungalow and garage, erection of a three/four storey building providing 9 flats (comprising 1 x 1 bedroom, 5 x two bedroom and 3 x three bedroom), cycle storage, private and communal amenity space, landscaping including land level alterations, bin store and the provision of 6 parking spaces to the front.

DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDING HAS TAKEN PLACE, NEW BUILD UNDER WAY.





Transport 1

Railways

The pandemic and the restrictions placed on working and travel have had a lasting effect on the way people work, with many people now permanently working from home and others commuting to their offices on far fewer days than before. As a result, public transport is busier midweek, with fewer people travelling on Monday and Friday. However, there are still many workers in the education, health, transport and leisure sectors who need to travel throughout the week, and figures show in that by July of this year, the number of passengers using rail services were reaching 93% of pre-Covid levels, although this does vary from line to line and even station to station. Passenger numbers at Coulsdon South on the Redhill line have returned to near pre-Covid levels, and a full service has been restored. However, on the Tattenham Corner line, the number of people using Coulsdon Town, Woodmansterne and Chipstead are still down.

A contract agreed by the Department for Transport with Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) earlier this year required GTR to cut costs by reducing service levels and withdrawing the 40 year old Class 455 trains from service. And this they have done. Of the 46 Class 455 trains that were running at the beginning of the year, 42 have now been scrapped with the remaining four put into storage, and the service for Coulsdon reduced to the worst level since the Second World War. The all stations service from Caterham to London Bridge via Streatham, gone. The all stations service from Coulsdon Town to London Bridge, gone. The Tattenham Corner line is down to two trains per hour into London during the week and on Sundays it gets worse, with just a shuttle service to Purley running once an hour. Bad enough if we were in some obscure rural location, but for a town on the edge of London, it's unacceptable.

At a recent meeting of the East Surrey Transport Committee (ESTC), we challenged GTR over this position. We acknowledged that use of the Tattenham Corner line is still lower than before the pandemic, but not at half the old level, and certainly not low enough to justify such draconian cuts. But GTR merely stated that there wasn't the funding within the new DfL contract to allow them to restore the services, and besides, with the Class 455s gone, they just didn't have the trains.

The ESTC is campaigning to have at least the peak hours Tattenham Corner/Caterham to London Victoria service restored, and we are asking you, the public, to support them.

Please, if you have a moment, email GTR at gtrpublicaffairs@gtrailway.com to voice your unhappiness with the current position and demand that the service be brought back, along with the two trains an hour to London Sunday service.

Transport 2

On the bright side, after much lobbying from the ESTC, the semi-fast Tattenham Corner service to London Bridge now calls at Norwood Junction, allowing for a connection to the London Overground.

Buses

There are presently no changes planned for local bus services.

Sadly, we will be waiting a lot longer for the new bus shelters that were to replace the ones removed nearly two years ago. Valo Smart City, the shelters' supposed providers, are now looking as if they will shortly go out of business having singularly failed to deliver anything. Croydon Council, who stated only a month or so ago that the project was still on track have clearly been misled, and with no money available from the bankrupt administration it seems likely we're going to standing in the rain for a while yet.

PETER APPLEFORD



Coulsdon Library



This excellent Art Deco building on the Brighton Road, originally designed to look, from above, like a opened book, remains an excellent resource for local residents. It provides;

Books and DVDs for reference and loan.

Newspapers and Magazines.

A Children's library.

Wifi Internet Access.

Free Access to internet enabled PCs, with a scanner.

Colour photocopying.

Study spaces, which can be booked in advance.

Community information.

The staff at the Library are also happy to assist you with any enquiry you may have.

Opening hours have been restricted for some time, and until the Council are able to resolve their budgetary issues, this is unlikely to change.

At the moment the hours are;

Monday and Thursday 10am to 6pm

Saturday 9am to 5pm.

Last admissions are 30 minutes before closing.

Coulsdon Library

Brighton Road CR5 2NH

Telephone 0207 884 5180

Email coulsdonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk



As Barclays Bank closed at the beginning of October, a representative from Barclays will be based at the Library on Thursdays to answer queries. There is no defined end date for this arrangement but undoubtedly if the representative is untroubled by questions, it'll be wrapped up sooner rather than later. So, if you bank with Barclays and have a question relating to your account or finances, please take the opportunity while you can. The nearest Barclays Bank is now in Wallington, while the nearest Barclays ATM is at the petrol station on Chipstead Valley Road.



News Notes

Covid vaccinations

You can have a seasonal booster dose (autumn booster) of the COVID-19 vaccine if you are: **aged 50 or over**, pregnant, aged 5 and over and at high risk from COVID-19 due to a health condition or a weakened immune system and a number of other categories. Please go to the NHS website for further details <https://www.nhs.uk>

Flu vaccinations

You can get your seasonal flu jab at Valley Pharmacy. Just visit their website <https://tinyurl.com/flujab22> to book.

Postage stamps

If you are holding any non-barcoded, regular stamps, you'll need to use them by 31st January 2023 or exchange them for the new style stamps, as after that they'll no longer be valid. You can download the form to exchange the stamps from https://www.royalmail.com/sites/royalmail.com/files/2022-05/Stamp-Swap-Out-Form-under-200-pounds-v1_3.pdf and then send it and the stamps in an envelope addressed to:



Freepost SWAP OUT

You can't exchange your old stamps at the Post Office.

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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NEIL GARRATT

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ENVIRONMENT

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.

THEATRE WORKSHOP COULSDON

DARE YOU GO DOWN
TO THE WOODS
THIS CHRISTMAS?

GRIMM TALES

FOLKLORE AND FAIRY STORIES FROM THE BROTHERS GRIMM

DECEMBER 10, 14, 15, 16, 17 BOX OFFICE
PERFORMANCES AT 7.45pm
DECEMBER 11, 17, 18 www.twcoulsdon.org.uk
PERFORMANCES AT 3.00pm boxoffice@twcoulsdon.org.uk

TICKETS £10 CONCESSIONS £8 07709 266 728

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cozyglow.store/yuletide-magic