

COULSDON

WEST

RESIDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION

Spring  
2024



## A room full of food!

The Theatre Workshop Coulsdon's  
winter production was  
"A Christmas Carol."

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donations for the Purley Food Hub,  
left by audiences when they came to  
watch.

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## From the Chair, Membership

This is a general ramble through the winter quarter, more particular articles (or rants) concerning Planning, Transport and Library Closures appear further on in this newsletter.

I hope that you were able to spend some time at the Yuletide Magic celebrations in the town at the beginning of December, and maybe visit "A Christmas Carol" by the Theatre Workshop Coulsdon. The cover shows the audience donations to the Food Hub, a truly magnificent performance!

I am pleased that the invitation to local businesses to advertise with us has been met with an enthusiastic response, and this will help our finances going forward. If you give any custom to an advertiser, please mention that you heard of them through the Coulsdon West newsletter, and if you would like to place an advert, please contact us.

For community-related notices, there will be no charge, subject to space.

CWRA is fast approaching its 75th anniversary. We intend to produce a souvenir booklet for this coming anniversary, and we would like to invite contributions from anyone with a story to tell, or a good photo, about Coulsdon – particularly West Coulsdon! The booklet will be distributed in September.

Royal Mail seems to have already decided to go down to only three deliveries per week on our round - maybe messages in cleft sticks will be making a comeback, so look out for them in Aldi or Lidl's middle aisle, along with carrier pigeon kits!

**Save the Date! Our AGM this year will be on 4th July** in the Coulsdon Community Centre, from 7:45 pm. More info in the next newsletter.

**As usual, we would welcome more members, road stewards, committee members, or maybe a web designer to help us grow.**

Thank you to all of you who contributed articles or pictures to this issue. We look forward to receiving submissions for future editions; please send them via [info@thecwra.co.uk](mailto:info@thecwra.co.uk)

Cheers, Richard.

## Membership

**Join or renew now, whilst the fee is only £3 per household per year.**

Send us your money by bank transfer (online or telephone) and tell us by email that you have done so!

**Account name: Coulsdon West Residents Association**

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

Use your house number and post code as the reference, eg **47 CR5 3DH**  
**And then email us with your name and address: [info@thecwra.co.uk](mailto:info@thecwra.co.uk)**

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## Who's Who

### Your CWRA Committee

<b>Position vacant</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	
<b>Bill Kilvington</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>and Ecology</b>
<b>Doreen Rawlinson</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	
<b>Durgesh Vyas</b>	<b>Committee member</b>	<b>Transport</b>
<b>Peter Appleford</b>	<b>Committee member</b>	
<b>Jennifer Sturdy</b>	<b>Committee member</b>	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>
<b>David Rawlinson</b>	<b>Committee member</b>	
<b>Richard Walker</b>	<b>Committee member</b>	<b>Planning, website</b>
<b>Keith Watkins</b>	<b>Committee member</b>	<b>Social Media, Rickman Hill Park</b>

**General email:** [info@thecwra.co.uk](mailto:info@thecwra.co.uk)  
**Website:** [www.thecwra.co.uk](http://www.thecwra.co.uk)

### Our Elected Representatives

#### Local Councillors

<b>Mario Creatura</b>	<a href="mailto:mario.creatura@croydon.gov.uk">mario.creatura@croydon.gov.uk</a>
<b>Ian Parker</b>	<a href="mailto:ian.parker@croydon.gov.uk">ian.parker@croydon.gov.uk</a>
<b>Luke Shortland</b>	<a href="mailto:luke.shortland@croydon.gov.uk">luke.shortland@croydon.gov.uk</a>

#### Executive Mayor of Croydon

<b>Jason Perry</b>	<a href="mailto:mayor@croydon.gov.uk">mayor@croydon.gov.uk</a>
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#### MP for Croydon South

<b>Chris Philp</b>	<a href="mailto:chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk">chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk</a>
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#### London Assembly Member for Sutton and Croydon

<b>Neil Garratt</b>	<a href="mailto:neil.garratt@london.gov.uk">neil.garratt@london.gov.uk</a>
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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.

# Public Transport

## **Off Peak all day Friday – this trial lasts until 31st May 2024:**

Pay as you go single fares are now off-peak all day every Friday on Tube, TfL rail and National Rail in the contactless zone.

**Only contactless or Oyster cards will be eligible,**  
paper travelcards won't!

**For all details and restrictions: Google, “off peak friday fares TFL”**

**It does not apply to trams,** but during the trial, holders of 60+ London Oyster photocard and Older Person's Freedom Passes will be able to travel free between 04:30 and 09:00 on rail and bus services in London on Fridays.

## **Bus changes:**

**New ‘Superloop’ buses:** SL5 provides fast travel between East Croydon and Bromley; X26 (Croydon to Heathrow) is renamed SL7.

**Route 455** has been axed; these routes will be changed to fill in.

**Route 166** This will no longer run along the Brighton Road between South Croydon (Swan & Sugar Loaf) and Purley Tesco, but will use Pampisford Road and connecting roads, following the existing 405 route there.  
(It might change again, in order to serve the front of Purley hospital, but only if the council modifies the Brighton Road/Christchurch road junction.)

**Route 312** will be extended from South Croydon bus garage along the Brighton Road to Old Lodge Lane, New Valley Primary School.

**Route 439** This new route will run from Waddon Marsh Sainsbury's to Wapses Lodge Roundabout at Whyteleafe South. The route will **replace the current route 434** route between Purley and Whyteleafe. It will operate every 30 minutes between 07:00 and 20:00 on all days of the week with no evening service.

**Route 434** will be extended from Whyteleafe South to Caterham Station. It will be temporarily rerouted in both directions at Purley Station via Godstone Road to Whyteleafe and Upper Warlingham stations before returning to its current routing.

**Further changes to route 434 are due!**

**Trams:** There are lots of tram re-building projects taking place, so **check before you travel, and then hope that nothing changes before you get to your boarding point!**

## Parking and Poles?

### Parking:

Most of Croydon's existing parking meter machines will no longer work, once the "3G" network is turned off, and hence a new mechanism to collect parking money is coming to Croydon soon. By moving away from cash and even card-readers, a much smaller infrastructure is needed at the point where you park - just a notice telling you to use your smartphone to use the RingGo app, or to visit a shop that hosts a Paypoint function.

**This change will take place over the next few months.** In central Purley, where a short trial took place, the Paypoint was hosted at the Shell garage at the foot of Foxley Hill Road – quite a hike from the centre of Purley, even for able-bodied drivers.

You can call the RingGo phone number from home, and pay, but there is no guarantee that you will find a vacant spot when you get there!

**Note that even the free (half or one-hour) parking will still require the use of RingGo or Paypoint.**

**Google "Croydon parking changes" to keep abreast of events.**

### Poles and Medical Trivia:

The symbol of a red and white striped pole outside a Barber's Shop denotes blood and bandaging - not because of any cack-handedness on the part of the noble cutter of hair but because of the Company of Barber Surgeons, formed in 1540 by Henry VIII. Then, the Barber Surgeons were as likely to perform a limb amputation as cut your hair!

'Mr' not 'Dr' – you might also have noticed that when you see your GP or a consultant physician in hospital you will be seen by Dr X, whereas if you are referred for surgery your consultant would be addressed as Mr, or Ms X.

This odd affectation is itself a throwback to the time of the Barber Surgeons, as becoming a surgeon entailed a form of apprenticeship, even after the Royal College of Surgeons was founded in 1800. Unlike physicians, the surgeons did not have a medical degree so were not entitled to use the prefix Dr.

Now of course surgeons are highly trained individuals that only specialise after gaining their initial medical degree, but senior surgeons adopt the title Mr or Ms etc. as a badge of honour to signify their senior status as a surgeon.





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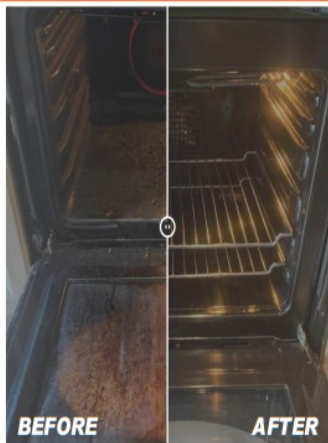
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## Planning

There are still some unwelcome planning applications being submitted to the council, and if you live near one of these, you have probably brought it to my attention. Although the high volumes of a few years ago have abated, sadly, this is more likely to be due to The Grove or The Drive being totally full up, rather than any change in council practice or policy.

As reported to me, residents who are threatened with a monster development next door have no, or only poor, interaction with the council planning officers when they want to discuss the proposals. In one current case, a household is engaging directly with the developer, as they expect a better outcome than by using the 'formal-through-the-council' route. They certainly can't be worse off!

In two cases that I worked on in the last year in that area, our ward councillor, and Planning Committee member, Ian Parker, cast the only vote against the developments.

On the subject of larger projects, proposals for the swimming pool in Purley and the medical centre in Coulsdon, are both still in the air.

With utterly amazing lack of communications skill, the council managed to annoy everyone in Coulsdon by listing the intended site for the medical centre on the assets for sale list. Whilst they are obliged to get a market valuation, they couldn't have caused more upset even if they were deliberately trying to. It now appears (6th March) that the NHS has put in a high enough bid to secure the site, so we are probably exactly where we thought we were eight years ago.

At Purley, my basic understanding is that a developer called Polaska proposes to build a couple of tower blocks of flats (12 or so storeys), and that if they are allowed to do so, they will 'give' a leisure centre, including a swimming pool, to the borough. This will be built on the site of the existing old gym, pool and car park (of some 400 spaces). There will be only a trivial amount of parking in the new proposal.

Residents Associations will be meeting with the Mayor to discuss these issues and more, in April.

Richard.

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## Computer says No!

From the TV series called 'Little Britain', you may be familiar with the 'Computer says No!' sketches. Until recently, I had never come to appreciate, first hand, just how banal the reality is...

Since the demise of the film-based camera, I have used something called a bridge camera; providing zoom and close-up, yet small enough to fit into Easy-jet luggage! The only thing lacking was the facility to focus manually.

After a Google, I found a Sony and a Lumix on Amazon with this feature. What could possibly go wrong?

Only one Sony available, which I ordered. Next day a parcel arrived, but it wasn't very heavy – because they'd sent the wrong camera! The delivery guy doesn't take things back, so I am told to contact customer services. "We'll send a courier to pick it up tomorrow, authorise a refund, and you just order it again."

So I went for the Lumix. To avoid having to be at home all day (again), I asked for it to be delivered to a 'hub counter' at the garage across the road from me. I got a text telling me that the parcel couldn't be delivered because the delivery driver "couldn't get to my door!" A call with customer services shed no light, although I was assured that the parcel would get to either the garage or me, that evening. So that was alright then!

I went to the garage, and lo and behold, there's a parcel with my name on it and the tracking number matches, but they won't release it, because I don't have a barcode. On the telephone again, Amazon had lost the parcel! I told them where it was, and that I had even seen it, but the hub wouldn't give it to me. "Of course they can't give it to you, you need a barcode!" "We'll authorise a refund, and you just order it again." "But it's only over the road from me." "Look mate (I am paraphrasing here), that's the way it works. There's no way to get a code. You just re-order it, and you'll get it tomorrow." "Er... that's what I was hoping for... two days ago!"

So I ordered it from John Lewis, and later I picked it up from Waitrose.

Richard.

# Notices

## Community Activities at St Andrew's Church

These activities are there for the whole community; you do not have to be a member of the church or indeed of any religion.

**Time-2-Be** meets every Monday 10-12 in a room adjacent to the church hall. It offers a place to meet, chat, relax, join in a craft activity if you wish, and have some tea and biscuits. It is a very friendly, informal, welcoming group of people: you can participate in something if you wish, or just sit and enjoy some company.

Esther Foss can give more information on 0203 620 1885 or [estherfoss79@gmail.com](mailto:estherfoss79@gmail.com).

**Tots and Toys** also meets at St Andrew's. For parents and babies, Tuesday 11-12 noon. Come for coffee, cake and chat. Everyone welcome, it's free. Further details from [standrewstots@gmail.com](mailto:standrewstots@gmail.com)

**Pop In Tea** takes place on the second Tuesday of each month from 2-4 pm. This is a time of fellowship with activities and a delicious afternoon tea.

On the third Tuesday of each month, **Messy Church** meets from 3.30 - 5.30pm for children and their parents/carers with craft activities and a Bible story followed by a hot meal for all.

**St Andrews Church is located** on the corner of Woodmansterne Road and Woodcote Grove Road.

**Forthcoming Elections: on 2 May 2024**, voting takes place for The Mayor of London and the London Assembly.

**Photographic ID is now required in order to cast a vote in this and other parliamentary, local, or Police and Crime Commissioner elections.** This can be a passport, driver's licence or Freedom pass. However if you do not have any of these, you can obtain a Voter Authority Certificate **but you must apply for this by 24 April (to be in time for the 2nd May election).** It is free.

**Please alert anyone you think may need to make an application..**

**Google "id for voting uk"**

Jennifer.



### **Purley community diagnostic centre**

The Community Diagnostic Centre has now opened at Purley War Memorial Hospital, providing easier access to essential health services such as x-rays, CT scans, cardiology, and respiratory screening.

Alongside an expansion of existing x-ray and CT scanning services, the NHS will now offer additional services including:

- Respiratory screening including asthma and COPD testing and clinics
- Echocardiography
- Ambulatory ECG Monitoring
- Blood pressure monitoring.

**See this link for more info:** <https://tinyurl.com/3mrxxxch>.

### **Action against medical accidents**

– a local charity with national reach

Based in South Croydon, Action Against Medical Accidents (AvMA UK) is a charity that not only campaigns for improvements in patient safety, but also aims to help patients and families get access to justice when things go wrong with healthcare.

After an avoidable harm event, people want to know the truth, and that lessons will be learnt to help prevent the same thing happening again. They may also want compensation for harm that has been caused due to negligence, or to see people held to account for gross departures from patient safety or attempting to cover up.

AvMA can provide a range of expert advice and support, from simply having someone to talk to on the helpline to navigate complex complaints procedures, through to accessing their panel of accredited clinical negligence lawyers.

If you or a family member believe that they have suffered harm as part of healthcare, you can contact AvMA via:

**<https://www.avma.org.uk/>**

**or on the helpline, 0345 123 2352 weekdays 10am – 3:30pm**

**Declaration of Interest.** Bill Kilvington, Committee Member of the Coulsdon West Residents Association, is a Trustee of AvMA.

## Coulsdon Area Farm

Do you know that there is a wonderful farm shop at the far end of the Cane Hill Estate, at the end of Lime Tree Avenue, a long straight road with chicanes, on the left as you enter the estate.

It has been run by Toby Kent since 2001: some of you may remember the location of the farm at the end of Lion Green Road, but when the Cane Hill Estate was sold, Toby's farm was relocated to the other end of the estate, in 2016. The Coulsdon Area Farm has been leased by the Kent family since the late 1960's. His father had a dairy, and a piggery, the pigs being there till the 1970's.

Where the farm shop is now, in a large barn, is where the Cane Hill Hospital secure unit used to be. Behind the barn in the yard, you can still see the lines on the floor, marking out netball and tennis courts.

Toby sells local produce: eggs, jams, chutneys, honey, potatoes, carrots. He also sells logs for wood burners, hay, straw and animal feed. I can strongly recommend the eggs, I buy no others. The other products are equally delightful.

The shop is open Monday – Friday 8.00-16.15 and Saturday 8-12.30. You can drive right up to the shop and park outside, there are signs indicating where it is.

Jennifer





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## **Coulsdon Library – Great Facilities!**

Perhaps like many people you got out of the habit of using the library during lockdown, but it is an incredible resource, with leaflets and posters about local events and societies.

Discover all the amazing options which Coulsdon Library has to offer! Several local libraries are under threat of closure (see the next page), but we are very fortunate that our library remains open, currently with limited hours, although this could change for the better.

**Monday 10-6, Thursday 10-6, Saturday 9-5**

It is free to join, you may borrow up to 25 items. Books are on loan for 3 weeks and can be renewed free online, in person or by phone. It is also free to reserve books if they are available from the Croydon Libraries or from the Consortium, which includes over 20 other libraries in neighbouring boroughs. This is the link to the Croydon online catalogue.

**<https://libraries.croydon.gov.uk/bookshelf>**

There are PCs which are free for 2 hours for adults, one hour for children. You can also do printing and photocopying at a very reasonable rate, 15p for A4 black and white, 50p for colour. A3 printing is also possible for a slightly greater cost. Something which was new to me is the amazing quantity of digital resources, also accessible for free. Thousands of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers in over 100 languages. Plus links for language learning, Theory Test Pro and Go Citizen. Full details on this link:

**[libraries.croydon.gov.uk/digital-content/digital-library](https://libraries.croydon.gov.uk/digital-content/digital-library)**

Coulsdon also has a very well-resourced **children's library** and on Thursdays there is a Rhymetime 11-11.30 where they sing nursery rhymes and have fun together. This is very popular and numbers are limited to 15 children with a parent or carer, so it is definitely advisable to book in advance online, via the Croydon Libraries online catalogue, events.

There is also a **Home Library Service** where volunteers will deliver books, audiobooks, DVDs to your home. It is open to adults and children who have ill health, disabilities, reduced mobility and the elderly. For more information: **[homelibraryservice@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@croydon.gov.uk)**

Jennifer.



## Croydon Libraries under threat

Croydon Council has recently published a report on the future of their existing 13 libraries. The reason advanced for the upheaval is efficiency; to use the same count of staff across a smaller number of sites. And we all know that they are strapped for cash.

The proposals are: to keep two libraries in each of the three zones – North, Central and South – and re-brand them 'Library Hubs'; demote one library in each zone and re-brand as 'Community Hubs'; and to close the rest ('Ex Hubs'?).

For our area, Coulsdon is retained as a Library Hub (essentially, as it is today), Purley becomes a Community Hub, and Bradmore Green and Sanderstead are to be closed (alongside Shirley in Central, and Broad Green in North).

We are very fortunate that Coulsdon library has been saved from the 'red list' (at least for the time being), not least because of the great volunteers who have worked tirelessly for The Hive, Coulsdon's community garden immediately behind the library.

As a Library Hub, it should be open on all Saturdays, and for four weekdays – actually an improvement.

At a recent public event in Old Coulsdon, I learned that Bradmore Green has both parking and accessible toilets – something that Coulsdon Town can't offer (yet). There were many impassioned pleas to keep their library open. I think that Jason Perry and his team were taken aback by the level of support.

The proposals are subject to period of consultation, which ends soon, on 19th April; it will include an online survey, a series of public events, engagement with community groups and much more.

You can access the online survey by going to:

**<https://tinyurl.com/24libraryconsult>**

Please participate in order to preserve this vital local amenity.

Jennifer/Richard.

## Chartwell's Bookshop

In common with many other National Trust properties, Chartwell, the much-loved family home of Winston Churchill, has a thriving second-hand bookshop. The property at Westerham, Kent is amongst the top three in terms of popularity and revenue in the National Trust South-East region – the other 2 being Sissinghurst and Scotney Castle.

Originally, the site used was a storeroom for garden pots and furniture and gradually the books took over! Since then the shed had to be refurbished because of damp and it re-opened about 3 years ago with a bright new interior. Many National Trust properties are now converting barns and potting sheds to accommodate second-hand bookshops to fund projects on their respective properties. All proceeds we raise help to fund vital conservation projects at Chartwell.

We are fortunate in that the house at Chartwell is such a unique place to visit – not only the coachloads of tourists now returning post-Covid - but its lovely grounds also make it popular with families and walkers. People really do come from all corners of the world to visit the house. The Visitors' Centre has a big selection of books by and about Winston Churchill, some of which are quite valuable!! These books are donated by members of the public, as is all our stock, and 'interesting' looking books are researched and valued accordingly. The lead volunteer in the bookshop is very astute in checking out rare books donated, including a first edition Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a couple of first edition Biggles and, notably, a 1742 book (rebound in the 19th century), entitled History of Masonry.



## **Chartwell cont, Croydon Camera Club**

It never ceases to amaze me what people will buy – books that we think are not worth shelf space will be seized with glee by a visitor who has been looking for just that book to complete his/her collection. One day when tidying up, I came across a small red hardback book written by one of Churchill's secretaries, Elizabeth Nel, who moved to South Africa. I could not believe it when about 30 minutes later, a South African visitor came in, we got talking and he asked if we had a book by/about Churchill's South African secretary!! This is what I find so rewarding about working in the bookshop. It is surprising how in demand some books we read as children are – Enid Blyton's and Ladybird amongst them. So just check before you throw them out, and if you want to donate them, why not come along, visit us and bring them with you!

Doreen.

### **Croydon Camera Club present the Wratten Lecture 2024**



**Graeme Purdy: 'A Photographic Journey with Wildlife'**

Croydon Camera Club will be holding its flagship event, The Wratten Lecture, on Wednesday 17th April at Shirley Methodist Church.

**Admission £6**

**For details, see <https://www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk/wratten>**

## Theatre Workshop Coulsdon



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