

COULSDON

WEST

RESIDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION

Summer  
2024



## **The Wild West?**

**Our AGM will now be on  
Thursday, 11th July**

**It will include a presentation by  
Greenspace Information for  
Greater London (GiGL)**

**See inside for details**

## From the Chair

**Has anyone tried the new SL5 bus?** Well, Yvonne and I have used this 'Super Loop' bus a couple of times to get to Bromley, and it is pretty swift, with the first stop after East Croydon station being at Shirley Library. I wonder what the bus stop will be called once the library shuts?

Anyway, it's a simple way to get to Bromley to shop, or go to the theatre – which we did. 'Drop the Dead Donkey, the re-awakening' was showing, and it proved to be as funny as I remembered from 30 years ago. Gus still spouts those ridiculous lines, such as "May I stir fry some thoughts in your cerebral wok?" Just what are those writers, Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin on?

Bromley is well-endowed with good shops, both big and small, a market, and some decent pubs. Well worth a visit, which is more than can be said for Croydon, nowadays.

**Digital Payments** will soon be accepted by CWRA for the payment of subscriptions. We have invested in a couple of card readers, so that we can take card payments rather than cash, when collecting subs door-to-door. With a bit of luck, there will be one at the AGM.

**Royal Mail** – without any consultation - is only providing one collection per day for all Coulsdon post boxes, at 9am weekdays, and 7am Saturdays.

**A Banking Hub** will be gracing Coulsdon soon (well, before March 2025). Run by Cash Access UK, a consortium of 9 major UK banks, and operated by the Post Office, it will provide banking services including cash and cheque handling for nearly all UK banks. Currently, they are looking for suitable premises. Google 'banking hub' to learn more.

**Parking** – no overnight free parking in Lion Green car park (what's left of it), and no grace period for any parking at time of arrival (contrary to government guidelines). Everywhere - even at small shopping parades like Rickman Hill/Chipstead Valley Road - you will need the RingGo app or PayPoint to get the free parking.

**CWRA is 75 years old** – and 'not dead yet!'

If you have any interesting memories of, or historic facts about Coulsdon over the last 75 years, let us know, and they might get printed in our Souvenir Edition Booklet, which will replace the autumn newsletter.

**Thank you** to all contributors and advertisers in this issue. We look forward to receiving submissions for future editions; ...please send them via **info@thecwra.co.uk**

Cheers, Richard.



**PUZZLE**  
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## **WE HAVE MOVED!**

Our new **BIGGER** showroom will boast several displays including kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms, home offices and media walls

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## AGM moved to Thursday, 11th July

Moved because of the election, the AGM will now take place at:

**7:30pm, 11th July at the Coulsdon Community Centre**

(in Barrie Close, off Chipstead Valley Road)

We have a guest speaker to tell us about the wildlife of the Coulsdon area from Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL). See the article on page 7.

**Documents for the AGM are on the website.**

See **[www.thecwra.co.uk](http://www.thecwra.co.uk)** and/or email us at **[info@thecwra.co.uk](mailto:info@thecwra.co.uk)**

With lashings of ginger beer, lemonade, and maybe some wine this year, we will be enticing members and prospective members alike to join us at the Community Centre in July.

To learn more about GiGL, see their website: **<https://www.gigl.org.uk/>** or to submit your own sightings, use the links page on our website.

### **Your Committee needs You!**

We are always in need of more committee members (or help in running the association, without the formality of the joining the committee).

If you feel that you can help out in any way – for instance, being a road steward or a website programmer – please let us know by emailing, as above.

We need your input for the AGM to be successful – any questions or issues that you would like us or our local Councillors to address will receive a more complete response if you can advise us in advance.

We all look forward to seeing you in July,

Richard and the Committee.

**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.

If you are already a member, and your payment is due, we will email you a reminder to pay, or we will try to collect your payment when delivering the next newsletter.

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**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](mailto:info@thecwra.co.uk)**



## Who's Who

### Your CWRA Committee

#### *Position vacant*

**Richard Walker**

**Bill Kilvington**

**Doreen Rawlinson**

**Peter Appleford**

**David Rawlinson**

**Jennifer Sturdy**

**Durgesh Vyas**

**Keith Watkins**

**Chairman**

**Vice chairman**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

**Committee member**

**Committee member**

**Committee member**

**Committee member**

**Committee member**

**Planning, website**

**Ecology**

**Newsletter Editor**

**Transport**

**Social Media,**

**Rickman Hill Park**

**Supported by**

**Yvonne Walker**

**Membership**

**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**

**Mario Creatura**

**[mario.creatura@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:mario.creatura@croydon.gov.uk)**

**Ian Parker**

**[ian.parker@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:ian.parker@croydon.gov.uk)**

**Luke Shortland**

**[luke.shortland@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:luke.shortland@croydon.gov.uk)**

#### **Executive Mayor of Croydon**

**Jason Perry**

**[mayor@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@croydon.gov.uk)**

#### **MP for Croydon South (at time of printing!)**

**Chris Philp**

**[chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk)**

#### **London Assembly Member for Sutton and Croydon**

**Neil Garratt**

**[neil.garratt@london.gov.uk](mailto: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.**

Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (affectionately known as GiGL) is the local environmental record centre for London. GiGL belongs to ALERC, a nationwide network of organisations maintaining, mobilising and analysing ecological datasets for the benefit of key stakeholders and the public. This is a brief overview of GiGL and its data relating to our area.

One of GiGL's core datasets is the species database. The database contains over 8 million biological or species records taken across London, each representing an interaction between an organism and individual – a moment of time and space holding recognition and understanding.

Each species record in the database is, at a minimum, made up of four basic components:

- What was observed?
- Where was it observed?
- When was it observed?
- Who did the observing?

Other information on the organism (e.g. behaviour or abundance), its surrounding environment (e.g. the habitat type in which the organism was recorded), or the survey methodology utilised is very useful, but not essential. The more information provided, the more truthful a picture of the local state of nature can be developed. This information can be used to inform site management decisions, planning/development decisions and conservation practices.

The majority of species records within our species database come to us from devoted naturalists volunteering their time and effort to report on the organisms they observe, such as the London Natural History Society and large landowners conducting habitat surveys and regular monitoring, such as The Royal Parks or Local Authorities. The volume of data for a site for any given year is therefore largely dependent upon the activity of volunteers and whether a local authority has an imminent need for data – such as preceding the publication of a Local Plan. This pattern is seen in the data we hold for Coulsdon Town ward.

As of March 2024, GiGL holds species records spanning 1877 - 2023. This does not necessarily represent all species data available for Coulsdon Town, instead all data which has been made available to GiGL and has been uploaded onto our internal system.

As Figure 1 shows, reporting was scarce until around 2000, but since then, there has been a steady increase, due to both an increase in the number of data sources, and the number of records from each source, each year coming from the area to GiGL.

## Number of Records/Year

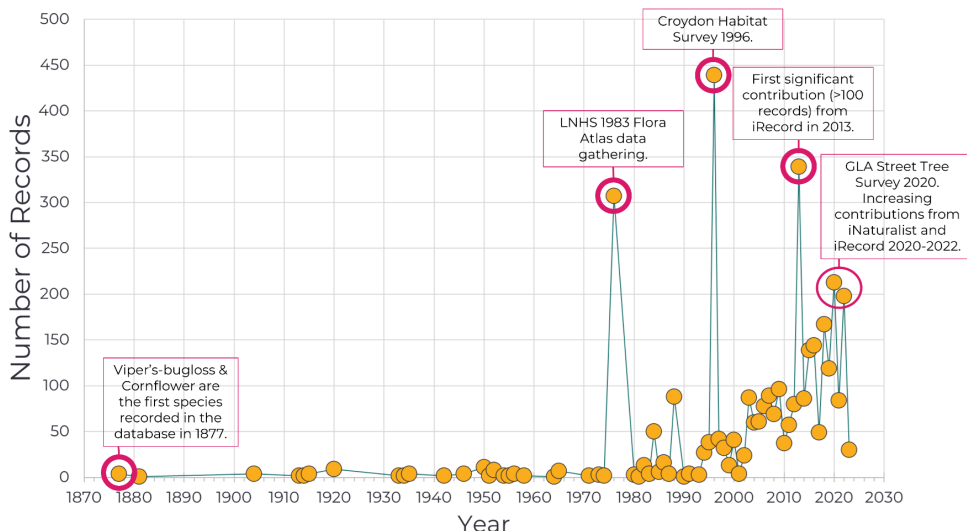


Figure 1

Until 1984, virtually all records are historic flora records from the London Natural History Society (LNHS), but they began to contribute bird records as well from 1980. Since 1994 there has also been consistent recording from the Surrey and South East London Butterfly Conservation (BC) branch. For the entire data span, both groups consistently contribute records.

From about the millennium, new sources of data - ecological consultants, environmental charities such as RSPB and PTES (People's Trust for Endangered Species) and independent recorders using iRecord - have generated more sightings.

Croydon's 1996 Habitat Survey undertook mass structured recording for the London-wide Biodiversity Action Plan habitat survey programme (which ran from 1984 – 2009), and in 2020, the Greater London Authority worked to document their trees across London; these caused the 1996 and 2020 peaks. Other peaks are the result of increased recording efforts in advance of a publication such as Rodney Burton's 1983 'Flora of the London Area'.

Over this time, a total of 3528 records have been submitted to GiGL, covering 734 distinct species. 17% of these records are protected species (611 records), covering 92 different species (12% of all species recorded). As expected given the active recording sources noted above, the top 5 most recorded species are mainly birds and butterflies (Table 1, overleaf).

The slow worm records are from a mix of sources including consultancy data, independent recorders sharing information through the GiGL webform and accessed through Record Pool.

## Top 5 Species Records, 1877 - 2023

Taxon Name	Common Name	Taxon Group	Record Count
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Cabbage White	Invertebrate - Lepidoptera	112
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Common Brimstone	Invertebrate - Lepidoptera	79
<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow Worm	Reptile	77
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Bird	72
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Eurasian Blackcap	Bird	72

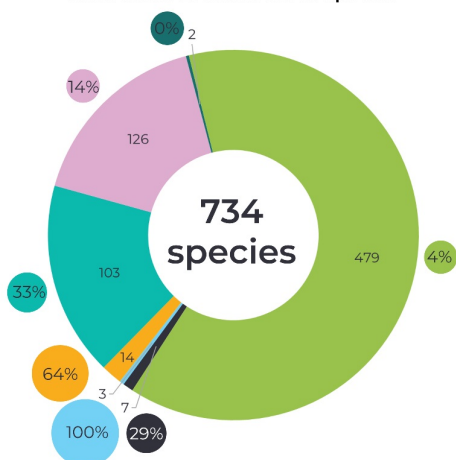
Table 1

## Top 5 Protected Species Records, 1877 - 2023

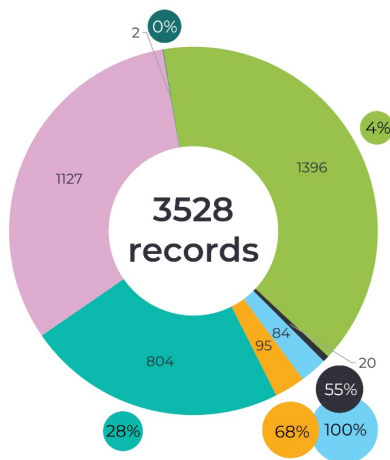
Taxon Name	Common Name	Taxon Group	Record Count
<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow Worm	Reptile	77
<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	European Stag Beetle	Invertebrate - Coleoptera	69
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	European Hedgehog	Mammal	33
<i>Apus apus</i>	Common Swift	Bird	27
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	Invertebrate - Lepidoptera	21

Table 2

Taxonomic Breakdown of Species



Taxonomic Breakdown of Records



■ Amphibians ■ Reptiles ■ Mammals ■ Birds ■ Invertebrates ■ Fungi & Lichens ■ Plants & Algae

Figure 2

Taxonomic breakdown of the distinct species and all records recorded within Couldson Town ward. The smaller circles surrounding each pie chart correspond to the percentage of protected species recorded within each taxonomic group. For example, there are a total of 1396 plant records that have been recorded in the area, of which 4% are protected species. The 1396 records are spread across 479 distinct plant species, where 4% of the distinct species are protected.

The graphs in Figure 2 show the distribution of records and species between broad taxonomic groups and the proportion of which are protected species, shown by the smaller circles surrounding the pie chart. The term 'protected species' refers to any species which has received an international, national and/or local protective designation, such as the IUCN Red List species, UK laws and/or London Priority Species, respectively. The majority of both species and records captured in Coulsdon Town ward are plants, with approximately the same proportion of both records and species represented by protected species (4%). Other than amphibians, across all taxonomic groups, approximately the same proportion of species and records are protected species. While it's hard to draw definitive conclusions as to why certain species are recorded more than others, the diversity of different taxonomic groups found and shared is to be celebrated!

**To learn more about biological recording and the recording patterns found in Coulsdon Town, come along to the AGM on Thursday 11th July, 2024.**

Victoria Kleanthous, GiGL's Senior Community Officer



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## Coulsdon Town Ward Councillors

**Brick by Brick** – Coulsdon flats sold for £38m.

Croydon Council has announced that the sale of the Lion Green Road flats has been completed.

This is the last of the large Brick by Brick schemes to be finished and brings us one step closer to ending the sorry – and expensive – saga of Labour's failed foray into the world of property development in Croydon.

The site, now known as Red Clover Gardens, consists of 5 blocks; two of which are designated for private use and the remaining three for affordable housing. In total, there are 157 properties across these blocks, with 85 properties intended for affordable use.

Regen Capital has bought the five blocks and will retain two for private rental or sale. The Council are taking on the three affordable socially rented blocks through a sub-lease with Mears. Mears will be responsible for managing the blocks and the tenants, whilst the council retains 100% nomination rights for these affordable flats.

The flats will be used by the Council to offer homes to residents on the Council Housing Register, many of whom will have been living in temporary accommodation for some years. So as well as providing a secure home for residents and their families, the Council will also be driving down the cost associated with providing temporary accommodation.

This is great news for residents and families who have been waiting for permanent accommodation. To have secured £38m when speculation had suggested a much lower sum, is great news for Croydon taxpayers who have been paying the cost of the failed development company Brick by Brick.



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.  
The next few dates are : 20th July, 21st September, 19th October.  
See our Who's who on page 6 for contact details.



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# Planning

## Medical Centre

I don't see any change in the situation that I reported back in March – I am sure that we would have heard if the sale or long lease of the site had been agreed with the NHS; and on the planning side, no permission has been applied for yet (either full permission with detailed plans, or outline permission).

## Purley Pool

We are concerned, along with many other Residents' Associations, that the plans for the proposed Polaska complex which includes the pool have not been thought through. Not only is the current station car park due to close (for more flats to be built), this development will remove a car park with over 400 spaces, the only large car park in Purley for commuters and anyone else who wishes to park for over 3 hours (which is the limit at Tesco). This was raised at a meeting with the Mayor in April. We await any new designs from the developers.

## Objections

On the Coulsdon housing front, some recent cases that CWRA was invited to submit an objection are here:

<b>25, Linden Avenue</b>	22/01992/FUL	Refused at appeal Feb
<b>7, Bramley Avenue</b>	23/01280/FUL	Refused at appeal Mar
<b>12, Woodcote Grove Rd</b>	24/00973/FUL	Refused
<b>23, Hollymeoak Rd</b>	23/04562/FUL	Yet to be decided
<b>29, Hollymeoak Rd</b>	24/01379/CONR	Yet to be decided
<b>76, Rickman Hill</b>	23/03604/FUL	Yet to be decided

The Planning page on our website has further information and advice, should you find that your neighbour's house will be replaced by 9 flats.

<https://www.thecwra.co.uk/planning.html>

Richard Walker.

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## St Aidan's

A place of worship has been present in Coulsdon for the Catholic community since the Coulsdon Catholic Mission was founded from Caterham in 1909. In 1916 a tin church was built in what is now Woodcote Grove Road close to the junction with Chipstead Valley Road. This was replaced in 1922 by a more permanent church on the same site, built with stones from a demolished barn at Stoa's Nest Farm. This building is now the home of Coulsdon Martial Arts.

The present church on Chipstead Valley Road started in 1930, and reached partial completion in 1931. The unfinished elements were given a temporary finish pending the second phase. Work did not resume until 1964 – to a somewhat different design! The completed church was formally opened on 18 May 1966. It is notable for its fine modern furnishings, many of them paid for by local donors, including staff at nearby Cane Hill Hospital, who donated the cost of the high altar.

St Aidan's continues to be a lively Catholic parish with a Sunday church attendance of around 400 people each week. We enjoy good relationships with the other local Christian communities, and have been part of 'Churches Together in Coulsdon' (CTC) from the beginning, forty years ago this year. The 'Floating Shelter', prior to Covid, was a wonderful expression of Churches in Coulsdon working together for the most needy in the local community. St Aidan's Church hall provided overnight accommodation for this CTC initiative for the homeless in Croydon every November and December. Since Covid, this outreach continues in the form of the 'sandwich run', feeding the homeless in Croydon.

St Aidan's is pleased to welcome people who are not Catholic to their church and social events. The monthly first Friday 4pm afternoon tea attracts not just Church members but people from the wider community. Anyone who would like to sing or play an instrument at our Church services would be most welcome to join our choirs irrespective of their religious background.

Recently we started a listening session once a month for those who have experienced bereavement or loss of any kind. It consists of refreshments and an informal chat with group leaders. We are keen to reach out to the wider community.

For enquiries of any kind contact the Parish Priest, Father Peter, by email:

[coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk)  
[www.st-aidans-parish.org.uk](http://www.st-aidans-parish.org.uk)

Father Peter.



## Public Transport

### Trains:

**GTR** have recently launched automatic weekly fare capping on contactless keyGo cards, helping to save customers money when travelling on the same route more than twice per week.

**keyGo** is a pay-as-you-go, tap-in, tap-out ticketing service available through the Key Smartcard. Weekly capping means that customers using GTR services will never pay more than the value of a weekly season ticket for multiple journeys between two stations in the keyGo network area within the same week. Check out the GTR website for more information: <https://www.greatnorthernrail.com>

There are currently no dates for planned strikes, but they haven't finished, so check before travelling.

### Buses:

**166** additional services on summer Saturdays and Sundays between Purley and Banstead to serve the Lavender Fields at Oaks Park. TfL have confirmed these will run again this year.

**166 petition.** As reported last time, the 166 route no longer serves Purley town centre and the hospital. We have launched a petition to have the 166 restored to Purley Town Centre, available via this link...

[https://www.change.org/Restore\\_166\\_to\\_Purley\\_Hospital](https://www.change.org/Restore_166_to_Purley_Hospital)

**434** extension to Caterham. This has been a success as predicted. Presently, it is direct along the Godstone Road as it is unable to serve the top of Kenley due to sight line and parking issues. This is being looked at by TfL and Croydon Council, and will hopefully be resolved by the autumn. In the meantime the 439 will continue to run between Higher Drive and Whyteleafe South via Northwood Avenue and Valley Road.

**197** Still waiting for TfL to agree to the 197 to pick up outside Fairfield Halls as do the 50 and 75.

**289** more buses are now double deck.

Durgesh Vyas / East Surrey Transport Committee.

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**Living in the age of antibiotics** and modern methods to prevent or control infections, particularly during surgical operations, it is hard to think that this was not always the case. In fact right up to the second part of the 19th century infection was commonplace and indeed an expected outcome of any surgical operation. Such was this expectation that if a patient did not develop an infection the surgeon feared the worst, as this was a sign that the patient was not strong enough to fight infection. This gave rise to the phrase laudable pus - laudable because the formation of pus in the wound was a sign the patient was responding.

All this began to change from about 1867 when the Scottish surgeon Joseph Lister described his new 'anti-septic' method of surgery, building upon the Germ Theory that Louis Pasteur was developing in France. He was unusual in washing his hands and putting on a clean apron. Prior to this, surgeons only washed their hands AFTER the operation and wore a protective 'frock coat', stained and stiff from the blood and gore of countless previous operations.

Lister also pioneered the use of carbolic acid as an antiseptic, using it to wash hands, instruments and even as a spray mist over the wound during surgery.

These days we have largely moved on from the 'anti-septic' age, where harmful germs were killed in the wound to the 'aseptic' age, where we endeavour to exclude any harmful organisms from the surgical site entirely. We use completely sterile instruments, wear sterile gowns and gloves, hats to avoid shedding germs from our hair and, rigorous attention to surgical handwashing, before we don sterile gloves.

Interestingly, another medical man, Ignaz Semmelweis had developed hygiene methods decades before Lister. But perhaps I'll save his story for a future article.

Bill Kilvington

Patient Safety Lead, College of Operating Department Practitioners

# Coulsdon Community Partnership



COULSDON COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP

**Coulsdon Community Partnership** is an umbrella organisation for residents and businesses in Coulsdon. Our aim is to bring business and the community together to make Coulsdon the best place it can be, and promote all of the good things that happen in our town.

We were involved in Cozy-Glow's Easter Trail and market with the Hive Library garden. Good weather and the Easter Bunny were popular with all! We distributed free tickets to all of the schools in Coulsdon to hand out to those families that might not otherwise have been able to take part and donated left over Easter Eggs to the food bank. Thanks to all the volunteers and to Jo Hall from Hallways.



Our latest 'Big Lunch' in Marlpit Lane Memorial park on 2nd June, was held in conjunction with Marlpit Lane Bowling Green (and the last municipal putting course in LBC) and Poppy Café Rung. Many of the community shared in picnics and joined in with games.



We are a charity, and we look for ways of helping other groups; these include:  
**Tollers Estate Community Centre:** provision of furniture and equipment for free yoga classes and stay and play facilities for residents.  
**Coulsdon Art Trail:** sponsored additional finials, and a digital guide for the trail is in progress.

**Cozy Glow:** sponsoring their Halloween trail.

We also incorporate The Hive garden behind the library and organise the Coulsdon Yuletide event (if you are interested in a stall for this or the Halloween trail, please contact us). We always welcome new ideas and volunteers. If you have an idea to make Coulsdon a better place to live and work and some time to implement it we would love to hear from you! Please contact [team@coulsdonpartnership.org](mailto:team@coulsdonpartnership.org)

Eleanor Richardson

## Michael John Bettaney

A check on-line reveals quite a few famous people who were either born, or lived in, Coulsdon. One of those who lived here for a time was a certain Michael Bettaney, at number 5 Victoria Road. But rather than famous, it would be more accurate to describe Bettaney as infamous. On 11 August 1983, he was charged with offences under the Official Secrets Act. Calling himself 'Koba', Bettaney had made contact with General Arkady Vasilyevich Guk, the KGB's head of station in the Russian Embassy in London. He was offering to supply intelligence gained from his job as an MI5 officer in 'K' Branch, which dealt with counter-intelligence; specifically with the threat from the KGB in the UK. Guk did not respond to Bettaney's overtures, suspecting that it was a trick to make him reveal his intelligence role and give the UK grounds to expel him. When the police searched Bettaney's home they found masses of copied secret and top secret material.

Bettaney was convicted on 16 April 1984. Before being taken to Brixton prison to begin a 23-year sentence, he made a statement denouncing the government and urged 'comrades everywhere' to increase their efforts towards 'a victory which is historically inevitable.' He spent a lot of time in prison learning Russian. He was written to, and visited, in prison by a lady with distinctly left-wing views. After his release he set up home with her.

It emerged that Bettaney was disaffected in his role in MI5, and was a heavy drinker. He was fined for travelling on public transport without a ticket. He died of alcoholic poisoning. I seem to remember reading in the local newspaper, when the story of his treachery broke, that he had been in the habit of drinking at a working man's club in Victoria Road.

One of my favourite writers is Ben Macintyre, and I can recommend his book 'The Spy and the Traitor', which deals with the recruitment as an agent in place, and subsequent defection of the KGB officer Oleg Gordievsky, a wonderful source of high-grade intelligence on Russian hostile activities, whose information was highly prized by Margaret Thatcher. Gordievsky was very nearly betrayed by Bettaney. I am sure you can find this on the usual Internet sources, or maybe our local library can locate you a copy?

Rod Sturdy

Another spy connection with Coulsdon, was the 'school for spies' training centre, based near The Fox pub just outside Caterham from 1952 to 1954. The Joint Services School for Linguists selected men from National Service to learn Russian and some other languages, skills which the intelligence services were short of at the time.

Richard Walker



THE ADVENTURES OF

# ROBIN HOOD

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