

# ALL CHANGE? CAN COULSDON PERSUADE TFL TO

CHANGE ITS WAYS OVER THE 166?

SEE PAGE 8 FOR DETAILS

SEE PAGE 6

The THE BANKS ARE BACK IN TOWN

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**SUMMER** 2025

**RESIDENTS** 

**ASSOCIATION** 





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**Durgesh Vyas** Committee member Transport

**Keith Watkins** Committee member

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Yvonne Walker Membership

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General email: info@thecwra.co.uk
Website: www.thecwra.co.uk

## **Our Elected Representatives**

**Local Councillors** 

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**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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## **Annual General Meeting**

This year's AGM takes place on Thursday 3rd July at 7.30pm, held, as usual, at the Coulsdon Community Centre on Barrie Close. In addition to all the usual fun and frolics, elections and the like, we have Roger Packham with us, the Chairman of England's largest local history group, The Bourne Society. He'll be giving a presentation on the Society, what it does and no doubt, how you might get involved. We will be providing refreshments, nibbles and even a raffle to keep you entertained for the evening! If you'd like stand for election to the committee, or find out how you might support us in other ways, like being a road steward, please contact us via info@thecwra.co.uk

You can find out more about the Bourne Society at their website www.bournesoc.org.uk

## **Dropping off at Gatwick**

Dropping off or picking someone up from Gatwick Airport using the designated 'Drop-off' zone will cost you a princely £6. But you can avoid this by using the long-stay car parks, where you stay for up to 2 hours, cost free. Shuttle buses every 10-12 minutes take you to and from the terminal buildings, and there's no pre-booking required. If you find yourself heading for the short stay car park by mistake, just leave

immediately for no charge, and head for the long stay car park instead.

## Becoming a member

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

Membership is still only £3 per household per year.

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Whether you're a new member or existing, you can save time and fuss by sending us your annual membership subscription by bank transfer or standing order

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#### From the Chair

Summer approaches with sunnier days, and if you're out and about in Coulsdon, you may notice some changes. The Banking Hub, accessible from Chipstead Valley Road, is now open, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm. Run by our local postmaster, five of the major banks will have a representative there, one each day every week. It's now down to us to make the most of it and ensure it succeeds for Coulsdon.



Full details via the Post Office website:

## www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder/0250139/coulsdon-banking-hub

Another new venture is a collaborative workspace at the back of 35 Chipstead Valley Road, called Fine Toad. A desk can be rented for a modest cost, there is fast broadband, with tea and coffee facilities. Do check it out:

### www.finetoad.co.uk



You may have noticed that there is a garden development next to Coulsdon South railway station. This is a project organised by Govia Thameslink, the rail company who run the station. There are two raised beds, bee homes and bird boxes, and two picnic tables, poster frames and plants should follow. It is hoped that the community will help to maintain the garden once it is complete. Coulsdon College are already involved.

One social venue which is

definitely worth a visit is the Coulsdon Club, opposite the library on the Brighton Road. Membership is only £20 per year but non-members are also welcome. It has a bar but also many other activities, including 'open mic' music sessions, stand-up comedy, bingo and quiz nights. www.coulsdonclub.co.uk

The Easter Fair took place on 19 April, the Easter Bunny in the Hive garden behind the library being a popular feature. The Hive is open during library hours and is well worth a visit, and support is always welcome too.

The recent CWRA litter pick was well-supported and very successful: the next one is on **Sunday 15 June.** We will meet at 11am in the Lion Green car park, gloves and all equipment will be provided, and hopefully the sun will be shining!

Enjoy the summer! **Jennifer** 

## From Chris Philp MP

I was delighted to join the recent official opening of Coulsdon's new Banking Hub at 152 Brighton Road. Whoever you bank with, you can drop in Monday to Friday, 9-5, for the vast majority of your banking needs; plus a different bank is available each day of the week for more complex enquiries: Mon – HSBC; Tues – Santander; Wed – Barclays; Thurs – Natwest; Fri – Lloyds.

I've escalated concerns residents have raised about needing another ATM in Coulsdon. LINK say that the existing free-to-use ATMs within 1km (at Tesco and 189-191 Chipstead Valley Road) alongside cash withdrawal facilities at the Post Office and the till terminal at Pandora News (when open) don't justify it. Please email me with any evidence of Tesco's ATM breaking down, running out, etc. as I can get LINK to resolve the matter swiftly. It's in the operator's best interests to do so, as they only get paid when the machines are working.

Finally, while some new flats are needed (especially for younger people trying to get on the property ladder for the first time), we shouldn't be destroying family homes, which local families need, or changing the character of green suburbs like Coulsdon to build them. Local objections to over-development – including mine, local Residents' Associations and councillors as well as individual residents – continue to now be listened to, and applications to destroy family homes and replace them with blocks of flats are now almost always rejected after proper consideration.

I've been assisting residents with a wide range of issues; there is always plenty to do. If I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to get in touch via:

## **Transport Report**

Our petition to restore the route of the 166 bus so that it serves Purley Town centre and Purley Hospital again was handed over to Robert Verney of Transport for London (TfL) by Jennifer and Richard on 3rd March, symbolically in front of a 166 bus at West Croydon bus station. Charlie King, Chair of the East Surrey Transport Committee, Councillor Ian Parker and Labour Mayoral hopeful Rowenna Davis were also present – see front cover photo.

TfL are in discussions with Croydon Council about modifying the Christchurch Road/Brighton Road junction near Purley Hospital to make the left turn into Christchurch Road possible for longer vehicles – like the 166 bus. If successful, TfL get the increased service on Pampisford Road they want, and our residents get a direct route to Purley Hospital, so everybody wins. Fingers crossed.

## **Other Transport News**

Buses From the 29th March, the 434 was diverted to serve the top of Kenley, and the N68 added two earlier services from Old Coulsdon to Tottenham Court Road. Additional 166 services will run at the weekends throughout June, July and August to serve the Lavender Fields close to Oaks Park. The work to replace the bus shelters in Coulsdon has finally been completed.

Trams Figures released by the Dept of Transport show that annual usage has dropped from 30 million journeys by tram pre-Covid to just 20 million, a significant fall. This can be attributed to a number of reasons, from industrial action and the seemingly constant disruption caused by essential maintenance, to the general downturn in central Croydon's economy, and increased working from home.

**Trains** The May timetable changes saw no impact on the local services, but we continue to press for improvements to the services provided on the Tattenham Corner line, especially at peak times and Sundays.

**E-Bikes** All non-folding e-Bikes, including kit conversions, were banned from the Underground, Overground, Elizabeth Line and DLR from 31 March as they are considered a significant fire risk.

Smart tech If you use a phone or watch linked to your bank card to pay for a fare on TfL, make sure you tap in and out with the same device. If you use different devices, the system won't recognise them, register an incomplete journey and charge you the maximum fare regardless of how far you travel.

## **Croydon Green Spaces Open Day**

Croydon has many green spaces, from South Norwood Country Park and Lake in the north, to Wandle Park, Lloyd Park and the Croydon Ecology Centre in the centre and Selsdon Woods Nature Reserve, Farthing Downs and Happy Valley in the south.

This special Open Day event, which celebrates Croydon's Green Spaces and how local people can help to care for



our local environment, will be taking place at Croydon's Central Library, on Saturday 28th June, from 11am until 4pm.

You can discover more about Croydon's green spaces, local wildlife and nature groups here, and if you care about the environment, then Croydon Climate Action will be attending to discuss your concerns. You can also find out how you can become a volunteer and take part in activities.

At 2pm there's a talk on Croydon's Green Spaces by Alice Owusu-Evans, the council's new Community and Conservation Team Leader (Book in advance). There will also be a special bookable 'Book Buddies' children's event with a film to watch about textile printing and make your own prints, run by the Wandle Industrial Museum, starting at 2.30pm. The Croydon Museum will be presenting a special handling table showing 'green' related items from the past.

The event will host a wide range of stall holders including the CNHSS, Croydon RSPB, the Bourne Society, the Wandle Industrial Museum, Friends of Shirley Windmill, Croydon Ecology Centre, Croydon Community Gardens, Croydon Climate Action, Croydon COPSE, Sustainability Thornton Heath, Park Bathe, Holmesdale Road Community Garden, Little Blossom Plants, Grow Wild, the Museum of Croydon, the Wilderness Gardens, and local author Pam Buttrey. There will be plants, local history booklets for sale and free green leaflets to pick up. Go to libraries.croydon.gov.uk/events for details and booking.

Come and support your local environment. We look forward to seeing you.

Croydon Central Library, Katherine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET



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## 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

Toby Bassett

Toby Bassett
Managing Director
Walter & Mair



## Do we have the energy for this?

In the 1980's, arguing that it would make firms more efficient and increase labour productivity, the then Tory Government privatised the country's energy market. First the gas sector in 1986; electricity followed in 1990, when twelve regional electricity companies in England and Wales were sold off to private firms. In the end, the energy sector was 'unbundled' into the separate components of generation, transmission, distribution and supply, all placed under private ownership. As history has since shown, this flawed vision never provided the more competitive market that was promised, and the consumer continues to face ever increasing energy bills.

In 2011, the coalition Government called on energy providers to shoulder the responsibility of putting 'Smart' meters into 50 million homes by 2019. The entire project, initially estimated to cost around £11 million, was supposed to bring customers annual savings of about £26 per household. The idea was that a smart meter would show a household's energy use via an in-home display, and this would help encourage people to reduce their energy use. Of course, smart meters can't turn off lights or appliances, they're not that smart. Yet. Saving energy is still down to us.

However, the smart meter roll-out was badly managed. By 2018 over 13 million had been installed, but there were still 37 million to go to make the target. So they moved the goal posts. In 2017, the Conservative party dropped the 50 million goal from their manifesto. Smart meters would no longer be 'required'. Instead, it said "everyone will be offered a smart meter by 2020." Five years on, these devices continue to be dogged with a host of operational problems, so it's no wonder that many of us have refused to have one installed. But though customers can't be forced to have one by their current supplier, if they move to another supplier, having a smart meter installed is often part of the deal. Future changes in technology affecting the way some older meters work may also leave the customer with no choice. Whether we want them or not, they're what we've got and we need to learn to work with them.

I manage my gas and electricity usage by monitoring the readings sent by the two smart meters to my supplier at the end of each month. I get a detailed monthly bill which I record on an Excel spreadsheet, and I compare the usage quoted on the bill with my own meter readings. Thankfully, they're always close. My spreadsheet also allows me to monitor annual usage, unit prices and overall cost. So, when I get the annual reconciliation account and my supplier's estimate of future usage (which affects my monthly direct debit amount), I can judge whether their assessment is fair. Now, this might seem like a lot of work. But for the last 35 years, Government policy has left consumers with no choice but to purchase one of the essentials of life from private companies who are in business for one reason alone, to make a profit. It's a situation that leaves us at the mercy of volatile world energy markets, as we've found out to our cost. As we can't shop around (as with food and other commodities), it makes sense to monitor our energy usage as closely as we can.

## The threat from above - 1940/45

We celebrate this year the end of the Second World War, eighty years ago. London had been a primary target for the German aerial offensive which began in earnest on September 7, 1940. That night, and for 57 consecutive nights afterwards, the bombs rained down, and through until the end of hostilities, the city and the area around it was under attack. Croydon got over 1300 bombs dropped on it, causing a swathe of devastation. Because of the airfield at RAF Kenley, the immediate area was heavily hit, with 116 bombs recorded. But Coulsdon West fared little better, registering a staggering 105 hits. On May 10, 1941, the attacks reached a deadly peak. Dozens of bombs fell across Upper Norwood, Addiscombe, Thornton Heath and South Croydon, and two hit the bus garage shortly after 11pm. All fuelled up for the following morning, the buses themselves became incendiary bombs and the fire spread with ferocious speed. The garage was completely destroyed, along with 65 buses, and 7 men were killed. Being to the south of London was a risk for all those who lived there. Bombers who turned back from their targets and dumped their explosive payloads to get home, the experimental V1 and V2 rockets with untried guidance and propulsion systems, and falling short, it all meant that the area got more 'attention' than you might have expected. Croydon reported 140 V1 Flying Bomb 'incidents'. Coulsdon and Purley 58. Banstead 37. Local resident Chris Jones was caught up in it all. A young child, living with his parents in

Lyndhurst Road, Thornton Heath, he survived a near miss. Chris and his two older sisters were sleeping downstairs at the front of the house when the bomb fell, the explosion lighting up the room and the tremendous noise waking everyone up. No-one was hurt, but the house, though it looked relatively unscathed, had been badly damaged and the family had to move to a requisitioned house in nearby Silverleigh Road until after the war, and their home rebuilt. They were lucky. Nearly 30,000 people were killed in London by aerial attacks during those five grim years of terror.

Photo from Chris Jones





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## What's going on?

**SATURDAY, 14th JUNE** 'Meet The CWRA' outside Aldi, 11.00 - noon. Members of the committee will be chatting to residents and listening to their needs.

SATURDAY, 14th JUNE Local Councillors Surgery outside Aldi, 11.00 - noon.

**SATURDAY, 14th JUNE** 'Soul and Motown' Night at Coulsdon Club. Free Entry.

**SUNDAY, 15th JUNE** Joint CWRA/ECRA Litter Pick from Lion Green Car Park (parking free on Sundays) 11.00 - noon. All equipment provided, and hand-washing and facilities afterwards at Fine Toad on Chipstead Valley Road.

**SUNDAY, 15th JUNE** Farthing Downs & Happy Valley 10.30am – 3.30pm Celebrate the 75th anniversary of the green space's SSSI designation with walks, talks and stalls. For more information contact: email **pauline@payne42.co.uk** or phone **01737 554449**.

SATURDAY, 21st JUNE Woodcote Primary School Summer Fair, 12 - 3pm

**SATURDAY, 12th JULY** Chipstead Flower Show & Fair: Elmore, Chipstead CR5 3SB. For more info **www.chipsteadflowershow.co.uk** 

SATURDAY, 12th JULY Smitham Primary School Summer Fair, 1pm - 4pm

**SATURDAY, 12th JULY** Old Coulsdon Village Fair at Grange Park, Old Coulsdon, 12 to 4.30 pm. For further information go to the Rotary Club of Coulsdon Manor website.

**WEDNESDAY, 2nd JULY** Safer Neighbourhood Teams - Joint Ward Panel: 6pm, Old Coulsdon Centre for the Retired, Grange Park. Open meeting with local police officers to discuss issues of concern.

Contact rose.viggiani@blueyonder.co.uk for more details.

**SATURDAY, 19th JULY** The Downland Chorale presents 'Summer Favourites' at St John's Church, Old Coulsdon. 7.30pm, Adult tickets £15, Teens £5. For details contact **chair@downlandchorale.org.uk** or **07973 871951** 

**WEDNESDAY, 30th JULY / SATURDAY 9th AUGUST**: George Orwell's 'ANIMAL FARM' live in the open air at Coulsdon Manor Hotel, performed by Theatre Workshop Coulsdon. Go to **www.twcoulsdon.org.uk** for tickets.



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## A brief history of vaccination

**Beginnings** 

An early form of inoculation, known as variolation, was practised in 10th Century China and India. It involved exposing healthy individuals to material taken from smallpox sores, which aimed to induce a mild case of the disease, which would confer some immunity against future infections. Though not without risk, variolation was often effective in reducing the severity and mortality of smallpox.

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu observed the practice in Istanbul in 1717, and having lost her brother to smallpox, and herself being disfigured by it, took the bold step of innoculating her 5 year old son. A success, she became a passionate advocate of the procedure, which was taken up by the royal family during the smallpox epidemic of 1722. Despite initial resistance by the medical establishment, variolation gained traction as a preventive measure against smallpox.

In 1796 Edward Jenner, an English physician, observed that milkmaids seldom caught smallpox, having contracted cowpox, a milder disease. He hypothesised that cowpox infection protected against smallpox, which he tested by inoculating an eight-year-old boy, James Phipps, with material from cowpox sores. When exposed to smallpox, Phipps did not contract the disease. Jenner's experiment having proved successful, he published his findings in 1798. The term "vaccine" itself stems from the Latin word "vacca," meaning cow, in honour of Jenner's discovery. Vaccination quickly became essential in combating smallpox, leading to its eradication by 1980.

#### **Advancements**

The 19th and 20th centuries saw significant advancements in vaccine development. Louis Pasteur, a French chemist and microbiologist, developed vaccines for chicken cholera, anthrax, and rabies in the 1880s. His work laid the foundation for the development of vaccines against bacterial and viral diseases, and vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) followed in the early 20th century.

## **Eradicating Polio**

Poliomyelitis, commonly known as polio, was a devastating disease that caused paralysis and death, particularly in children. In the 1950s, American virologist Jonas Salk developed the first effective polio vaccine, and his vaccine released in 1955 was a monumental success, leading to a dramatic decline in polio cases. Albert Sabin later developed an oral polio vaccine in the early 1960s, which offered easier administration. Through these developments, polio has largely been eradicated globally.

Fighting Cancer

The significance of vaccines in cancer prevention is not widely known by the general public. For example, a vaccination targeting Hepatitis B can also reduce the chances of liver cancer, and the human papillomavirus (HPV)

vaccination in girls aged 12-13 reduces their risk of developing cervical cancer by a remarkable 90%.

### COVID-19

The rapid and successful development and deployment of the COVID-19 vaccines was unprecedented. Scientists utilized various platforms, including mRNA (messenger Ribo Nucleic Acid) technology, to create effective vaccines in record time. An estimated 1.6 million lives were saved worldwide (data: The Lancet) as a result.

Vaccination stands as one of the greatest achievements in the history of public health. By preventing the spread of infectious diseases, vaccines have saved countless lives and significantly reduced the burden of illness. These innovative technologies are crucial in protecting us against an ever-increasing number of emerging diseases, such as Ebola.

Sadly, alongside medical advances has come a rise in mostly social media-driven conspiracy theories — exaggerating the risks and minimising or even denying the enormous benefits. While it's true that a vaccine can sometimes cause an adverse reaction, it's rarely serious. And though it's important to take an informed and balanced view, the fall-off in vaccination rates caused by unfounded scare stories have led to recent upsurges in previously rare diseases, such as measles and whooping cough, sometimes with fatal consequences. Please, listen to your doctor, not social media.

Bill Kilvington
Patient Safety Lead
College of Operating Department Practitioners



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