



OLD COULSDON

By Margaret Davison



Friars Oak, 75 Bradmore Way,

92 Coulsdon Road,



OLD COULSDON



The Parish Church of St John the Evangelist is of Saxon origin in one of the many manors held by the powerful Abbey of Chertsey. The Domesday Book records the church at Colsdon. Later after various spellings became Coulsdon.

No trace of this church remains, as it was probably made of wood. The older part of today's church was built around 1260. Various additions have been made and in 1959 the church as we know it today was completed, the oldest part becoming a lady chapel and the main part with the altar in the south.

Bradmore Green School (St John's Church of England) The first school on the site donated by Squire Thomas Byron in 1845 was replaced by the first building in 1885. This was demolished in 1963 and replaced by a modern school.



Guide Headquarters, on land which formed part of the Rectory Garden was offered by the Church for a peppercorn rate. A corrugated iron building was opened in 1955, and replaced by a permanent building, we have today in 1967.



By an Act of Parliament of 1899 the City of London were entitled to levy duties on all coal and were entering their square mile for the relief of orphans and other creditors of the City of London. In 1861 the area was extended to the Metropolitan Police District. There are between 200 and 250 Coal Iron Posts bearing the City of London Arms around the London Boundary. A manufacturing area. It should be 24 & 25. Coulsdon Road No 52258

The Grange dates from the 14th Century, but there has been a house on the site since the 10th Century. Administered by the Benedictine monks at Chertsey Abbey. Its original name was Abbots Court, followed various name changes in 1850 became The Grange. It has had various uses including The Rectory. In 1940 it was used as a plotting station for RAF Kenley, during which was visited by King George VI and Winston Churchill, after visiting Kenley. It is now a Private house.



Bradmore Green Library was built on land bought from the Church. It was opened on the 12th May 1967.

MD 2002

Old Coulsdon belonging to the Byron family was a scattering of tenanted farms and cottages. It was on the death of Edmund Byron in 1921 who was Square for 58 years that the land was sold for development and Old Coulsdon as we now know slowly evolved.

The Round Lodge on Grange Park, facing Bradmore Green, dating from Victorian Times, the Lodge protected an entrance to the Grange. Mrs Jeffrey, who lived in the Lodge was the first woman in Old Coulsdon to qualify for the Old Age Pension - Lloyd George's weekly bounty 5/- (25) at the time. During the WWII the Lodge was used as a soldiers Rest (HQS) - after which it was soon demolished.



Bradmore Farm, the farmhouse built in the 18th Century. The Road, in the past, provided water for the villages and their livestock.

Following the success of a new Sunday School, the first service for Parents was held in Downland School in the outside class room, in 1951. In 1955 the Congregational Union was presented by James Stanley with a plot of land at the corner of Canon's Hill. A bungalow there was destroyed by a German bomb in 1940. The church was dedicated on the 4th October 1958.



Downland School, a private school opened in 1952 at Round Cottage, the home of Miss Doris Martin. Girls aged 4-11, Boys 4-7. The school closed in 1961. Miss Martin lived at Round Cottage until she died in 1992.



A half timbered house dates back to 1609 and was extended in Victorian times. It has been the Cherry Tree Inn. In the 1880's it was the home of Coulsdon Cricket Club whose ground then lay behind the house. It was then divided into two and became the village shop, the Post Office, and a Butchers Shop. It is now a Private house.



Fitzes Old, Bradmore Way, built in 1934 where I was born and lived until 1955 when I moved to Coulsdon Road, which was built in 1956, on land bought from HULL & CO.





Marlpit Lane, Old Coulsdon.

Both Old Coulsdon and Sanderstead are on the top of a Hill.

Sanderstead Hill

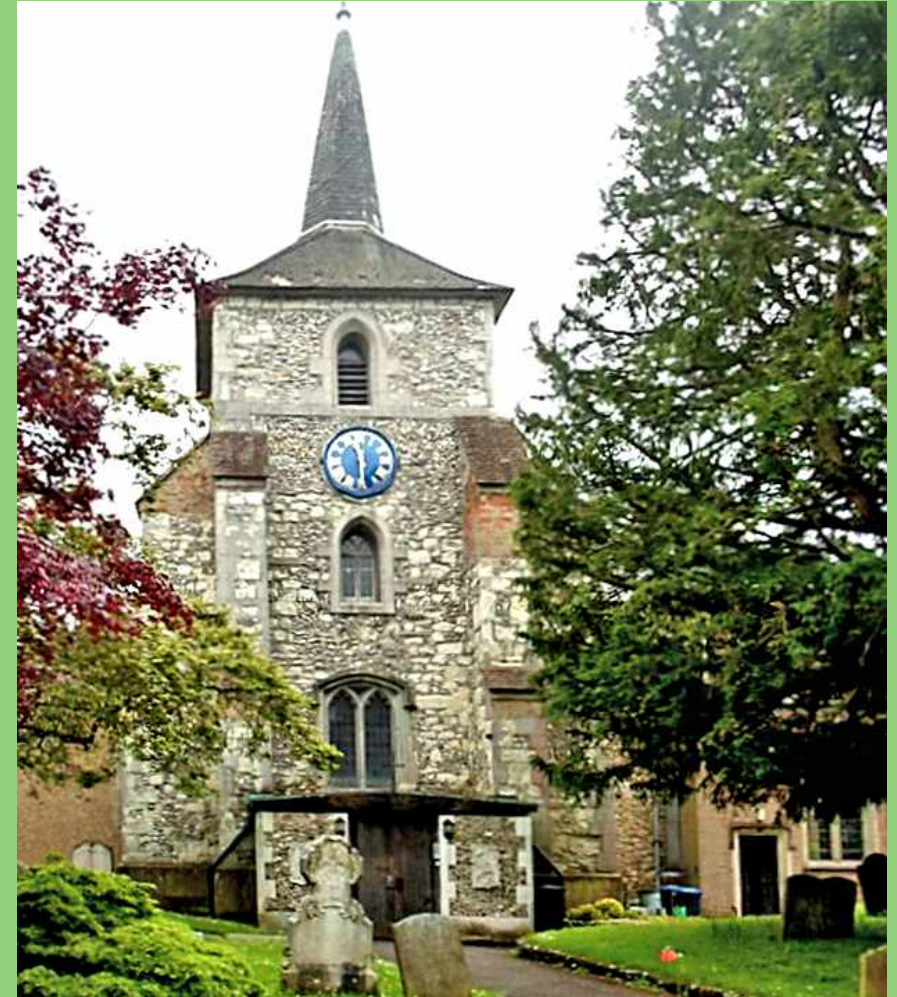




All Saints Church, Sanderstead present church built 1230.

St John's the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon church, built 1260 but with a large extension. The extension, built on to the south transept in 1958 by J S Comper, provides a spacious aisled nave.

Both Churches had earlier churches built on the same sites





All Saints, Sanderstead, built 1230

St. John the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon built 1260.
This is now the lady chapel used for weekday services.

In both cases there were Churches built on the sites earlier





The South wall and vestry was removed to make room for a larger St. John's Church, finally completed and dedicated in 1959. There is a choir gallery at the back. Sadly now there is no organ or choir now.





St John's Church Parish Hall

They also each have a Church Hall;
Sanderstead's though is sensibly next to
the Church.



All Saints' Sanderstead Parish Hall



An embroidery that I did of Bradmore Green Pond.

Sanderstead Church and pond.





Cupcake Corner

Established 2015

This flowerbed is planted and maintained
by members of Old Coulsdon Cupcakes WI

Cupcake Corner is beside Bradmore Green Pond. This is the pond showing the two Duck Houses. They had to get Planning Permission from the Council for these!





Horse Chestnut Tree

Both these Trees
were planted on
Bradmore Green
to celebrate
Queen Victoria's
Diamond Jubilee.



Lime Tree



Bradmore Farm was the successor to Colgrym's Farm, so called after the manorial tenant, a family name that persisted in Coulsdon for over 400 years. Originally they were villeins, i.e. they were non-free tenants who held their land by payment of services to the Manor.

Colgrym, Bradmore Green.





Plum Tree Cottages formerly Colgrym Cottages.

Originally 1 - 6 The Street, now 53 - 63 Coulsdon Road.





Built by Edmund Byron in the 1870s, originally there were four almshouses; over the years they have been converted into two, then one, with a large extension on the back. Now the right-hand side is divided off again.

In *LHR* No 1 Margaret Cooke quotes— ‘Old ladies who lived in the almshouses were too old to work. The Squire’s wife gave them 1/- a week, a sack of coal or wood, and a can of soup every Friday, which my brother or I had to fetch from the Court.’





Postcard courtesy Roger Packham

Cherry Tree Cottage dates back to 1639 was originally a barn belonging to Colgrym Farm. This was the first general store and post office.

Cherry Tree cottage as we know it today.





The Round House (demolished in the 1960's) was the gate house to The Grange.

In a dry summer there is evidence of the path from the Round House to The Grange through what is now Grange Park.





A Messerschmitt Bf 110 fighter-bomber, one of four attackers, was shot down in the grounds while attempting to bomb the control centre.

The Grange. Built in the 16th century, and added to in the 18th and 19th.

During WWII it was used as an operations room for RAF Kenley from November 1940. In April 1942 after visiting Kenley, it was visited by King George VI and Winston Churchill where they watched the progress of the entire Wing on the plotting board. Margaret Bray and Colin Kenyon, both of Coulsdon, were stationed at Kenley and served in the Operations Room.

It is now a private Residence.



Congregational Church in the 1960s. Note the Police box. Note the pole leading to the siren which was sounded when an air-raid was imminent during the war.

Previously on the site was a house, which was bombed in WWII.

Today – no Police box – I suppose they are not needed any more with mobile phones.





Edmund Byron, Born 1843, married his first cousin Charlotte Jeffreys in 1867. They had six children. He was Squire for 58 years and was the last Squire to live in Coulsdon. He died in 1921.



Byron Coat of Arms, granted 28th April, 1787 to Thomas Byron.

Hooley House, the original home of the Byron family before 'The Court' was built. Then it became Ashdown Park Hotel, a residential hotel with a nine hole golf course and a Bowling Green. It was demolished in 1971. A modern housing estate now occupies the site.

Postcard courtesy Roger Packham





Edmund Byron laid the foundation stone in 1850, when he was six years old on the instructions of his father Thomas, and in his turn lived at The Court until his death in 1921. He was Lord of the Manor for 58 years. The estate was sold for development under the instructions of Edmund's Will. Coulsdon Court was built with bricks from the brickfields where the Roman Catholic Church now stands.





Coulsdon Court Tennis Courts. The 35 Club played Tennis here on Saturday afternoons from 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm. This is how they looked January 2021 when I was walking round the Golf Course during lockdown.





Bradmore Green School, but its formal name is Coulsdon Church of England Primary School.



There have been three buildings on this site.

School No 1, built in 1845.



This was a landmark on Bradmore Green, built in 1888, demolished in 1963.

In 1958 the School house, beside the school, was demolished which made way for the building of new classrooms. In 1963 the old School that we all knew was demolished to make room for new classrooms, hall and kitchen. Subsequently more new classrooms have been added.





The Infants' School, built in 1959.

Keston Avenue School was founded in 1937 and the present Junior school building dates from then. A separate Infants' school was built in the same grounds in 1959. They are built in the grounds of Taunton sub-manor and uses the crusaders' Maltese cross on their badge.





Pcourtesy of Purley Library

Admiral Sir William Goodenough at the gate of Parsons Pightle. Note the ship on top of the gate



Photograph Robert Warner

All that remains of the colours flown by Commodore Goodenough, at the Battle of Jutland May 31st. 1916, in his Flag ship H.M.S. Southampton.

Photograph Robert Warner



Courtesy of Croydon Art Collection

The Parsonage, painted by John Hassell in 1823 This was replaced by a stone building in 1841. This served as the rectory until the present one was built in 1912. It was then known as Parsons Pightle, the home of Admiral and Lady Goodenough, who are both buried in St. Johns Churchyard.





The Front.

The present Rectory, 232 Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, opposite Grange Park built 1912. This was felt more convenient than the original at The Parsonage.



The Back garden.



Postcard courtesy Roger Packham

Old Coulsdon Post Offices The Old Smithy at Lacey Green was the first post Office in Old Coulsdon. Mrs. Kerrill was the first post mistress from 1845 – 1882.

Then Cherry Tree Cottage was the Post office from at least 1905 – 1930 with a postal address of Bradmore Green, then Coulsdon - and finally Old Coulsdon when Smitham Bottom became Coulsdon.





St. John's cottages became the General stores and Post Office immediately before Tudor Parade was built, between 1930 – 1934.

In 1934 when Tudor Parade was built the Post Office moved again to the back of the haberdashery shop, V. I. Parkin, long gone.

The post office remains in the same place but forms part of the newsagents, which recently has started selling groceries.





Recently it was discovered that six names were omitted from the Original War Memorial. These have now been put on a stone on one of the Rose beds to the side of the memorial.





Postcard courtesy Roger Packham

Old Coulsdon, being developed following the death of Squire Byron in 1921. This picture was taken 1934 when Tudor Parade was being built.

More or less the same photo in the 1960s.





Postcard courtesy Roger Packham

Purley County School for Boys moved from the Godstone Road, Purley to Placehouse Lane in 1934. The first stage of the shops were being built and Old Coulsdon being developed. The haystack above the school is where the *Tudor Rose* is now.

Rebuilt in 2010 and now is a 6th form college.





The *Tudor Rose*, built in the 1930s, this photo taken in the 1960s. This is where the haystack was in the previous picture.



The *Tudor Rose* in 2019.



Old Coulsdon Bowling Club.

Opened 6th June, 1936. The cost £5000. The Indoor green was added in 1974.





Purley County School for girls, on this site 1939-1992. The site was sold for re-development, forming the Poet's Estate of 81 houses.



Miss J. C. Simpson was Headmistress from 1939 – 1962 when Mrs Andreef took over until the school closed in 1992.

March 1968 Prize-giving.



Pound Cottage 2019.

So named because the Drovers used to stop overnight in the 'Pound'. Miss Martin always grew wonderful vegetables. She lived in the house until her death on 2nd April, 1993.

Haymaking at Pound Cottage, 1902.

From An Autobiography – Frank H. B. Ellis.



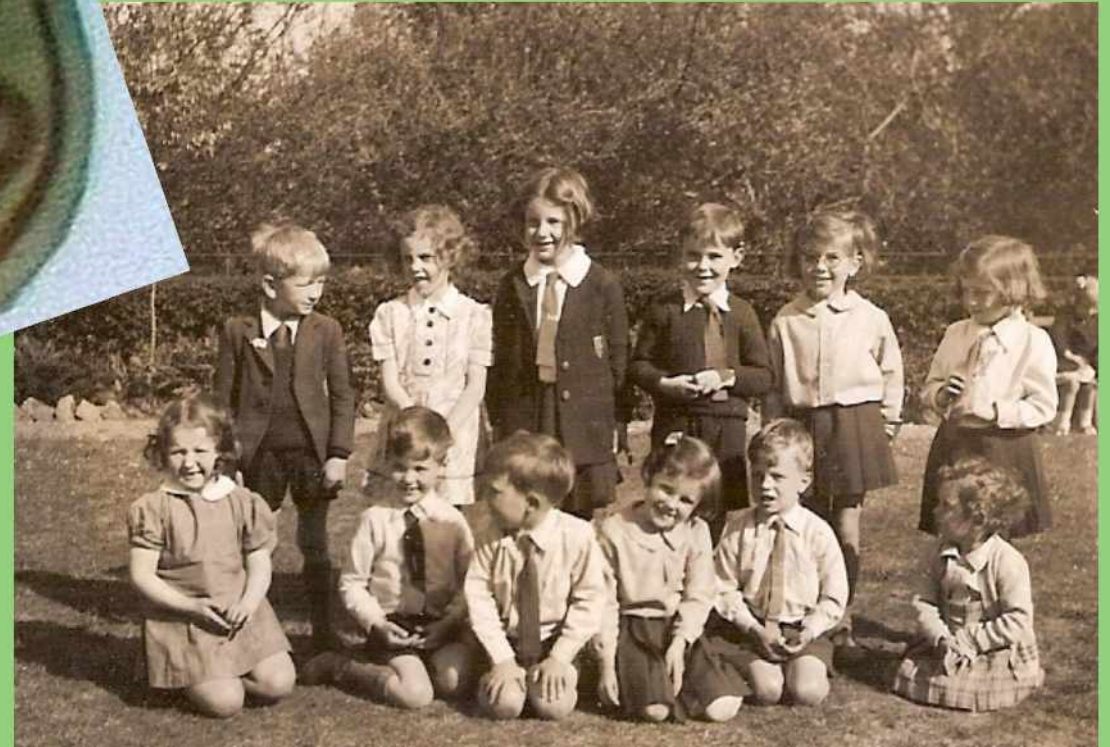


Downland School, opened in 1932 by Miss Martin in Pound Cottage. Closed in 1972.

Our class about 1943.



The school entrance and playground (2019).





Tudor Estate Office 1930s. On the board house prices are advertised as £595 or £750.

The building has been rebuilt but is still an Estate Agents. The house prices have increased. Average for the area is now about £600,000.





This first section of Tudor Parade, built in 1934.

The completed section as it was for many years before modern frontages. During the war years the name Old Coulsdon was taken off the sign boards of the shops. Originally upstairs was a café and round the back sold vegetables.





1 & 2 with the modern frontages, but still the Tudor style is kept. Hence the name Tudor Parade. These two shops have always been as one inside and a village store selling groceries; now it sells pet foods and many other things.

The Shop front has changed with Hermes Parcel shop 2021 as it now takes in parcels.





3 & 4 This next pair of shops has only been one shop until comparatively recently, but has always housed the post office since about 1934. At the back of the shop was the Post Office and the front was V. I. Parkin – a haberdashery and wool shop, which also sold a few ladies clothes. The next shop has always been a newsagents, privately owned, but now belongs to one of the big chains.

5. For many years this was an old fashioned ironmongers that sold everything you wanted to do the odd in your house, until 1972. Then was John Brown Estate agent before he moved to the Estate office, Now Danny's Fish & Chips since 2013.





6. This was an Off Licence originally Goodhews for a long time, then various Wine & Soirits merchants took it over until 2013 when it became Coral's Betting shop. I never saw anyone in there.

The shop stood empty and then in October 2021 opened as a Wine Bar and Café and sold Garden Plants.





7. When this shop first opened it was F. R. Skingle Butchers, owned by a local family. When they retired it was sold to A. Carder, who also had a Butcher's shop in Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon. Now it is Curry Leaf Restaurant.



8. This has always been and still is a hairdresser's, starting off as Elizabeth, for a long time, but more recently has had several name changes.



9. This was an estate agents, originally Harrington & Groves, then Slade & Church. Followed by Hewitts Greengrocers from 1978 – 2012. They also had shops in Coulsdon and Caterham Valley. All are gone now. Rowlands, the undertakers occupy the shop now.

10. This has always been a chemist. Originally J. Nicholson, until 1972 when Bernard Holmes, educated at Purley County Grammar School, was there until 2000 when he retired. Now Holmes Pharmacy (no relation).





11. The name has always been Tudor Bakery, but has had several owners. The bread is baked on site, and smells good! There is always a queue outside.



It was refurbished and Hydro Hounds moved from 216 Brighton Road, Coulsdon on 1st November, 2021. The windows are again decorated for Christmas along with the other shops.

12. It was a Grocery Store from the beginning in 1938 and W. H. Cullen were there from 1948 – 1990. From 2013 it has been a hairdressers. Closed in 2020.



Tudor Parade, Old Coulsdon, decorated their windows to cheer us all up for Christmas 2020 during the covid Pandemic.

No 9 Rowlands – Undertakers.

No 8 Torio – Hairdressers.

No 11 – Tudor Bakery.



More decorated windows at Christmas time.



No 7. Curry leaf – restaurant for curries, eat in or takeaway.

No 5 Fish & Chip Shop.





1a. The shops continue round the corner into Placehouse Lane. This for years was a Gentleman's Barbers, in 2013 it was and still is Whyatts Coffee Shop.

1b Originally this was the part of Old Coulsdon Café selling vegetables. Since about 2008 when it was Brace & Bidwell's Estate Agents for a few years, then for a short time Property Care kitchens and bathrooms, then in 2015 a Dry cleaners, Now a gift shop.





1c Placehouse Lane Originally all part of Old Coulsdon Café, and this part was the greengrocers.

Old Coulsdon Osteopathic Clinic – 107 Coulsdon Road, from 2008 to 2019. Opened in Coulsdon 2nd January, 2020. Moved to 100 Brighton Road, Coulsdon.





This was a temporary building. Foundations cost £155.13.0d. The foundations were used again for the new Guide Hut.



Old Coulsdon District Land Ranger Unit. Thinking Day, 22nd February 1959. Raising the World Flag having slept the night in the Guide Hut.



Margaret Davison, Joy Stockbridge and Gillian Hill.

The opening of the first Guide Hut, 5th February 1955. Opened by Lady Burnham, Chief Commissioner for England.

Courtesy Croydon Times





The Guide Hut rebuilt and opened again by Lady Burnham, who was now President for England. 11th February 1967 Cost £5000.



This was the final piece of the jigsaw. The extension at the back to house the camp equipment which had been housed in a village of sheds, and the trek cart. Cost £10,000.

Opened by The Mayor of Croydon 24th October 1987. The District Commissioner at the time was Jean Horn, who had been a 2nd Coulsdon Brownie and Guide, went on to be a Sea Ranger, and then was a Guider for many years. Jean died in 2019.





17th Purley (St. Johns) Scout Troop Headquarters. This is behind St. John's Parish Hall. Both my brothers belonged to the Scouts. As with the Guide Headquarters, there was a temporary hut before this one was built.

27th Purley (Old Coulsdon) Scout Group.

The group was formed in 1955 at Keston Avenue School. The first headquarters was in Old Coulsdon until 1972 when Dormer Lodge was built.



In 1972 they moved to Parsons Pightle, where a new Headquarters was built. At that time there were 120 boys.



St. Mary help of All Christians, Roman Catholic Church, Old Coulsdon.

The Church Hall that stands beside the Church was originally the Church, built in the early 1950s at a cost of £5708.19s.1d.

Opening and blessing of the Church, 17th April 1965.





Old Coulsdon Medical Practice, with the 2nd floor and waiting room in front – added 2019.



Dr. Ken Heber moved to 2 Court Avenue early in the 1950's and the surgery and waiting room was part of his house, with various extensions. When he retired the new surgery was built and in 2019 the 2nd floor and new waiting room were added.



‘Pistachios in the Park’. This was the Cricket Pavillion, now a Café, in Grange Park opened 6th July, 2019, on the day of the Village Fair. There is a playroom for children. This is situated near the play area for the children.



The Retirement Centre, Grange Park opened in 1984. It is open every weekday Monday – Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm for the elderly to enable them to stay in their own homes. It has a bus for people to be collected and taken to the centre.



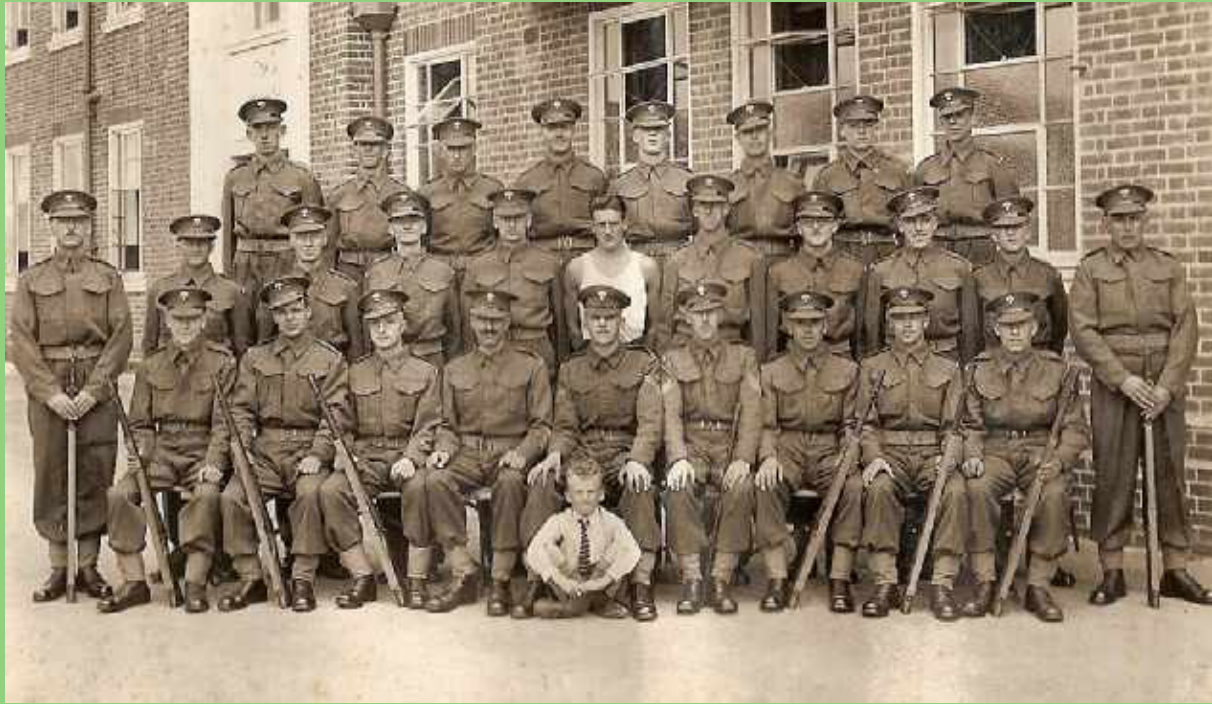


Bradmore Green Library opened Monday 20th May, 1963. The residents of Old Coulsdon had been asking for a Library since 1937.

The footfall of this library, per number of books, is the largest in the borough. It contains 10,000 books.

On the site during WWII was a large water tank.





Drill Hall 2019.

Drill Hall, Marlpit Lane, Old Coulsdon. This was beside the back entrance to our house. Built in 1936.

The picture shows the volunteers there at the time, with my brother Nigel sitting in front. In WWII it was used by the Home Guard, which was formed in 1940. Now it is used by the Territorial Army.





During the war a large building was erected (possibly by the M.O.D.) on land adjacent to the stables. It was common knowledge locally that parachutes were made and or packed there.

After the war the stables became known as a riding school and they took over the large building and it became the indoor school. (Stan Coleman).

In the Summer 2021 edition of the Bourne Society *Local History Records* it says that the owner was Jack Bradley. Many local children used to muck out the horses and in return were allowed to exercise the horses stabled there when their owners were not available.



In the house at the back was the Blacksmith – Mr. Ganfield – and later his son. They made the ironwork on the lounge doors and hall window in our house in Bradmore Way, and later made my side gate and boot scraper in my garden at Coulsdon Road.

There has been a garage on this site since I can remember. For years it was called Marlpit Lane Garage and sold petrol. Robe & Hitchens have been there since 1968. Now it only services cars.



Old Coulsdon Village Fair is held the first Saturday in July each year. All the organisations in Old Coulsdon take part. It is organised by Rotary.





Taunton Lane – built in 1934 these shops all look a bit run down.
I took these photographs 2020.

No 13 has always been a newsagents.

No 15 Originally was a Wool shop and Drapers. Now it is a Dental Practice.





No 17 Originally was Bryants Dairy, then became a Fruiterers and Greengrocers, owned by a father and then his son. T.F.L.Fruiters, Ltd. Since 2013 it has been an Accountants.

No 19 In 1934 when the shops were first built it was Mrs. Brivant, a café and Baker. By 1956 it had become W.J. Pye Hardware and in 2013 was Man Lee – Chinese Food, but by 2019 it had closed.





No 23 when these shops were first built was McKenzies – an ironmongers, then Frasers Stores, Grocers, until 1975. In 2021 It had been Village Kebab & Pizza House for the past 20 years, and had a new shop front two years ago.

G. McKENZIE

(GENERAL and
FURNISHING
IRONMONGER)

**TAUNTON LANE
OLD COULSDON**

21 Mrs. Brivant, Chemist and Sundries 1934-1950. Then Matthews – Butchers – for many years. Following this it was Cuticals, but was unoccupied when I did the research in 2013 for *Local History Records 90* published February 2017, and is still empty (2021).





In 1934 this was Frasers Groceries until 1956 when they moved to no 23. Since then it has always been a fish and chip shop.



Postcard courtesy Roger Packham

On the corner of Waddington Avenue and Coulsdon Road, was the Old Forge since about 1836 Richard Green was the Blacksmith in the 1920 – 1930s, fashioning horseshoes and iron tyres for wagon wheels for the Wheelwright on Coulsdon Common.

Now it is the Shell Petrol Station. Over the years various petrol companies have owned the site.



This is the first of two shops built where the last horse chestnut tree stood, and have no numbers.



For about 25 years the shop sold car spares. Coulsdon Furniture had been there since 2005 and closed on 11th January, 2020. In September 2020 the shop re-opened as Coughlans Bakery.



This is the second shop with no number. The Londis Grocers is owned by the same people as the Old Coulsdon Café on Tudor Parade.





219 J. Palle Hairdresser in 1939 remained there until 1972. Then it became Booth's Hardware, and in 2013 became Betfred – Betting shop.

221 W. Tanner Tobacconist, Confectioner & Newsagent including the Post Office in 1937 and in 1956 was P. Hook which is the name on the shop now (2020) but has had various owners. The post office closed about 1998 with the closing of a lot of sub-post Offices.





227 Unoccupied in 1937 and was SSCS Butchers in 1956 remaining there until 1972. In 2009 became Hair and Nails. It was empty for a few years and in September 2021 it became Harty Homecare Services Ltd.

229 Unoccupied in 1937. By 1956 it had become Tudor Bakery who baked their bread at No 11 Tudor Parade and remained there until 1963 when it became Dependable Shoe Repair. In 2013 it was Kitchen Design Affair, who had been there for several years, and who first of all used it as a showroom, then just for storage. In 2016 it was K. M. Barbers.





231 Was not occupied for some years. Peverills Fruit and Greengrocers remained there until 1998. Coulsdon Glass occupied it until 2008. In December 2009 came S & S. Hardware, much needed as it is the only one in all the Parades. A modern shop, like the old fashioned Ironmongers that sold everything. The only one in the area.

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GARDEN MATERIALS SUPPLIED

★

Office :

Smitham Goods Yard, Coulsdon, Surrey





In 1937 R Hardstone Wine Merchants, then taken over by various chains. In 2000 Croydon it became Fancy Dress & Elite Balloons, and in 2019 an Italian Restaurant.



No 6 Stoats Nest Parade,
(75 Stoats Nest Road).





No 5 Stoats Nest Parade
(77 Stoats Nest Road).

1937-1960s Choules, a family Butcher;
From then until 2015 Caspian Dry
cleaners
After a gap, reopened in 2016 as The
Hair Salon.



No. 4 Stoats Nest Parade
(79 Stoats Nest Road).

In 1937 this was a tea room-cum-cake shop, Honeybuns, which like some of the others closed at the outbreak of WWII.

In 1956 it was Ideal Hardware. Run by a succession of owners and closed in 2013. Remained empty until 2020 when it reopened as a Builders' Merchants, and central heating installers.



No 3 Stoats Nest Parade
81 Stoats Nest Road.

From 1937 this shop was a hairdressers – Jennifer – owned by Miss Perrott for many years, then it had various owners. It was empty for a few years and then became Pearlescent Nail and Beauty in 2015.



No 2 Stoats Nest Parade
(83 Stoats Nest Road).

In 1937 open as a Grocery Store & Post Office . It was a typical small shop of that period, stocking a wide range of everyday goods . It catered mainly for the residents of Stoats Nest Village. In recent years it has been run by various Indian families selling groceries and newspapers.



No 1 Stoats Nest Parade.
(No 85 Stoats Nest Road).

In 1937 trading as 'Joys' Mr. Pickup Newsagents. Mr. & Mrs. Barnes took over the post office, which was all the shop was in the end before Mrs. Barnes was attacked, when it closed.

Reopened in 2012 as a Fish & Chip shop and in 2014 became 'Star Chippy'.

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Bourne Society *Village Histories*, No 5: Coulsdon.

Bourne Society *Village Histories*, No 3: Sanderstead.

Bourne Society – Coulsdon Downland Village.

Numerous *Local History Records*.

Index to *Local History Records*.

Guiding in Old Coulsdon – Margaret Davison.

In the beginning: A brief history of Coulsdon Church of England Primary School.

A brief guide to The Parish Church of St. John The Evangelist, Coulsdon.

Coulsdon in Old Picture Postcards – Roger Packham.

An Autobiography – Frank H. B. Ellis.

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