

## Smitham Bottom Historical Trail 2011

Start facing **The Pembroke PH** (formerly the Co-op), at 12-16 Chipstead Valley Road CR5 2RA, Smitham Bottom/Coulsdon town centre. Bldg near National Dining Rooms in WWII, and prior to 1914 a row of terraced houses with shops opposite, on land purchased from the Byron estate.



Chipstead Valley Road at Brighton Road c.1904

From a postcard courtesy of Roger Packham

Turn left to the **Teddies Nursery School**.



Former Smitham Infants School 1990

Photo: Paul Sandford

Flint faced Nursery building opened 1893 as **Smitham Bottom Infants School** to replace Mission School on Brighton Rd 1886 following Cane Hill opening 1883. Land donated by Edmund Byron. See Bourne Society plaque.

Formerly the infants part of Smitham Primary School (1967-91), following SCC Smitham Bottom Mixed School (1932-67).

Continue to junction, then right to corner of **Malcolm Rd**.

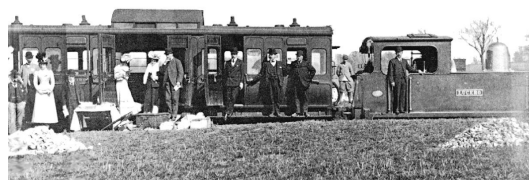


Former Smitham Primary School 1990

Photo: Paul Sandford

**Former Smitham Primary School** building on your right, built 1905, is now CALAT (Croydon Adult Learning & Training centre). A new Smitham School was built at Portnalls Road 1991, opened by Roy Castle.

Proceed north to bridge over railway, widened in 2009.



Tattenham Corner Line – Derby Special 1901

Courtesy of Croydon Local Studies Library

**Tattenham Corner line**, opened to Kingswood in 1897. Sir Cosmo Bonsor of Kingswood saw development potential and a new route to the Epsom Derby.

Continue to corner of **The Avenue**. View church on opposite corner.



St Andrew's Church

From a postcard courtesy of Roger Packham

**St Andrew's Church**. Started on this site in 1913 and opened 1914.

Retrace route to **Malcolm Rd** and proceed downhill to the tile shop opposite **Waitrose car park**.



The former Palladium Cinema in 1989

Courtesy of Tony Newman

The present Tile shop building was once a 350 seat **silent film cinema**, opening in 1914 as the Palladium using a Pathé Frères projector. Later became the **Plaza** and finally the **Bijou** which operated until about 1932.

Proceed to **Brighton Rd** (formerly turnpike road opened 1808) and turn left to cross under bridge. Proceed up **Station Road**.

**Smitham Station** was opened 1904. Major alterations in recent years. Name change to Coulsdon Town is due in 2011. Longest box tunnel in Europe built in 2005/6 takes the A23 under the station.



Box Tunnel under Smitham Station under construction

Photo: Paul Sandford

Proceed up footpath to pedestrian bridge over railway to viewing point looking south to trading estate, near site of former rail terminus.



Coulsdon North Station 1928

Courtesy of Croydon Local Studies Library

**Coulsdon North Station** (1899-1984), which came off the Quarry Line, was built as **Stoats Nest Station** in 1899. Renamed **Coulsdon & Smitham Downs** in 1911, then **Coulsdon West** in 1923.

Return via **Farthing Way** pedestrian bridge to **Edward Road**. Continue via **Victoria Road** to **Brighton Road**. Turn left past public conveniences to site of an Inn on the left.



The Red Lion, Coulsdon c.1920

From a postcard courtesy of Roger Packham

**The Red Lion Inn** stood on the site, a temporary car park in 2011. Many photos exist as postcards, including this 1920s view showing the bus terminus for route 58.

Proceed south to **IHS Janes, (IHS Global) Ltd building** at 163 Brighton Road.



Site of **Bourne Floods** (pictured in 1904) and later water works pumping station. The *Red Lion* PH is in centre background.



The Bourne Flood at Coulsdon in 1904  
From a postcard courtesy of Roger Packham

Proceed south past **Coulsdon Library**



Spitfire fundraising by Coulsdon Library  
Courtesy of Croydon Local Studies Library

**Coulsdon Library**, heart of the community since 1936. Photo shows WWII Spitfire fundraising nearby. Continue to Station Approach. Opposite stood **Coppard's Temperance Hotel** (1891-1934) at corner of Lion Green, former site of cricket matches and prize fights.



Coppard's Temperance Hotel c.1910  
From a postcard courtesy of Roger Packham

Join part of the **London Loop** and proceed to roundabout. Cross Marpit Lane under flyover and proceed to station, passing **turnpike milestone** on right hand side.

**Coulsdon South Station** (renamed 1923) was opened in 1889 as Coulsdon Station, then renamed Cane Hill & Coulsdon in 1896. The fast Quarry Line entered the grounds of Cane Hill just north of the station, in what was a covered cutting until 1954. Note Bourne Society blue plaque.



Removing the cover over the Quarry Line, 1954  
Courtesy of Croydon Local Studies Library

Cross bridge at station and follow path to Reddown Road, then left to Marpit Lane, right to Downs Road, opposite **Coulsdon Memorial Recreation Ground**. Take the left fork in Downs Road to Farthing Way. Take first path left off bypass, up steps, then left to FP744. Proceed uphill to minor diversions of FP around fence to Portnalls Road. Stop and cross to pavement with care.

From here a view of **Marpit Lane** can be seen. Compare with this aerial photo taken in its early development phase in the 1920s.



Aerial photograph of Marpit Lane development c.1925  
From a postcard courtesy of Roger Packham

**Farthing Downs** is the site of an Iron Age field system and c.7-8 Saxon burials, hence *Cuthredsdone*, early name of Coulsdon. In WWII Canadians manned an anti aircraft post here; trenches were dug to stop landings and an ARP post stood off Chaldon Way.



On Farthing Downs, Coulsdon c.1930  
From a postcard courtesy of Roger Packham



ARP Warden Reporting Post No.35, off Chaldon Way  
Courtesy of Croydon Local Studies Library

Turn right (west) at signpost by clump of trees (originally 6 beeches planted 1760), leaving the London Loop. Proceed downhill to Downs Road, turn left, then via Woodplace Lane to Brighton Road. Cross at lights and turn right. Proceed north for 1000m past roundabout, to Farthing Way. Take first path left off bypass, up steps, then left to FP744. Proceed uphill to minor diversions of FP around fence to Portnalls Road. Stop and cross to pavement with care.



Cane Hill Asylum  
From a postcard courtesy of Roger Packham

**Cane Hill Asylum**, shown here on the hill to the west of the railway. Opened 1883 on 148 acres from Portnalls Farm, with 1100 patients and 500 staff.

Turn right downhill past **St Aidan's RC Primary School**, and then past the new **Smitham Primary School**, (1991) to Chipstead Valley Rd. Proceed to traffic lights. Turn right to Lion Green car park.

View embankment of the **CM&GIR (Croydon Merstham & Godstone Iron Railway)** c.1805-1830 at rear of car park. This iron tramway took building materials to Wandsworth.



Horse-drawn wagons on CM&GIR crossing the bridge at Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon  
Watercolour by G B Wollaston, 1823.  
Courtesy of Croydon Public Libraries

Return to Start or depart from Lion Green car park. (Toilets opposite mini roundabout)

Allow up to two hours for this walk

The Bourne Society hopes you have enjoyed this historical trail. See our website at:

[www.bourne-society.org.uk](http://www.bourne-society.org.uk)

for details of our activities.