



SELF-GUIDED WALK AROUND OLD COULSDON

No. 2

**The Fox
Parson's Pightle
Lacey Green
etc.**

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SELF-GUIDED WALK AROUND OLD COULSDON No. 2

1. Start at The Fox public house

- This can be reached by bus on route 466 or by car using the car park beyond The Fox
- The Fox used to be called The Old Fox or Ye Olde Fox and with justification as it appears on records from 1788.



- The road leading past The Fox takes you to the car park and footpaths on to Coulsdon Common and Happy Valley where there are miles of open countryside open to the public for walks and picnics
- There were also two windmills nearby on Coulsdon Common but the last one was demolished in 1924.
- Windmill Farm Boarding Kennels and Cattery on Stites Hill Road nearby was attached to one of the windmills.

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2. Walk toward Coulsdon Road past Old Fox Close

- On your left in the grass is a drinking fountain. This replaced an older drinking fountain.

3. Turn left on to Coulsdon Road

- On the column on the left by the Bus Stop there is a camera which uses Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) to read number plates of passing vehicles and record their speed. Drivers exceeding the speed limit may receive a letter for a first offence with penalties increasing if they are spotted speeding again.
- Continue towards Old Coulsdon admiring the well kept green spaces on your left and right. Both are maintained by the City of London City Commons staff.

4. Continue until you reach Parson's Pightle

- The original Coulsdon Rectory was built on this site in 1841 and was a substantial mansion which replaced a previous house known as The Parsonage.
- Rectors of St. John's Church lived here in spite of its distance from the church.

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- In 1915, a new Rectory was built at 232 Coulsdon Road very close to the church and Coulsdon Rectory was sold to a WWI hero Captain (later Admiral Sir) William Goodenough becoming a private house later re-named Parson's Pightle.
- Lady Margaret Goodenough, the Admiral's wife founded Old Coulsdon Women's Institute in 1932 and was heavily involved in the Girl Guides.
- A 'pightle' is defined as 'a small enclosure of land'.
- The house was demolished in the 1960s and there is now a block of flats on the site.
- Old Purleians RFC started in 1927 and played on Grange Park until 1961 when the clubhouse and ground at Parson's Pightle opened.
- Purley John Fisher Rugby Football Club was established in 1997 with the merger of Purley RFC and John Fisher Old Boys RFC and they have two full size rugby pitches, training floodlights, and a fully licensed clubhouse with a function room, Presidents lounge and two bars.

5. Continue along Coulsdon Road to Lacey Green

- Lacey Green (and Lacey Avenue and Lacey Drive nearby) are named after the landowner Henry Lacey in 1296, a famous family from Lassy in Normandy. The Lacie family (1333 spelling), were joint tenants of Place House Farm, with the Salmon family. In 1548 the whole area was called Lacyland. The 'e' was added in the 20th century.
- The Shell petrol station is the site of The Forge which was the traditional blacksmith's forge for Old Coulsdon. It became a garage shortly before WWII with the arrival of the motor car and then a filling station.

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- It was demolished in 1935, and a small garage, The Tudor Garage, built on the site. This has now been replaced by the Shell petrol station



- The Blacksmith obtained water from the pond (Forge Pond) that was opposite. The pond was unfenced, and 14 ft deep
- Remains of this deep pond can still be seen as a dip in the ground
- In front of this opposite the shops is a small green (with a Noticeboard maintained by OCRA).

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6. Continue on Coulsdon Road and turn right into Taunton Lane

- Taunton Lane and its shopping parade are named after Taunton Farm the land on which the windmills mentioned earlier stood and records of the farm go back to 1191 but farming ceased in 1918.
- The old farmhouse burned down in 1935.

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7. Turn right into Homefield Road

- The Oasis Academy is the 11-16 mixed comprehensive secondary education school for Old Coulsdon.
- It was formerly called Taunton Manor and then Coulsdon High School.
- Oasis Academy Coulsdon opened in September 2008, replacing Coulsdon High School. The Academy has undergone a £20m redevelopment, completed in September 2011.



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- Some of the new facilities are available for local residents to use. An Oasis 50+ Club has been launched in 2015.
 - The building to the left of the Academy was Homefield House, a Council retirement home until it closed. Developers would like to build houses on the site but planning permission has not been obtained yet.
- 8. Continue along Homefield Road, cross Stites Hill Road (take care – dangerous crossing).**
- The paths to your left lead to Kenley Common and Kenley Aerodrome, the famous WWII fighter airfield, now used for gliding by Surrey Hills Gliding Club and No 615 Volunteer Gliding Squadron.
 - There is a commemorative RAF Kenley Tribute and preserved Blast Pens which are well worth a visit.



9. Rejoin Coulsdon Road to make your way back to The Fox.
You are now back at the start of your walk which we hope you have found interesting.

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*Sources: The Village of Old Coulsdon website: www.oldcoulsdon.co.uk
Bourne Society: Village Histories: History of Coulsdon
Kenley Airfield Friends Group www.kafg.org.uk*

If you still have some to spare in Old Coulsdon, why not pop into Café Shack for a snack or cup of coffee or The Fox for something stronger.

The other shops on Lacey Parade may also have something to offer so please enjoy Old Coulsdon.

If you would like to explore other parts of Old Coulsdon, we have another walk starting at the Tudor Rose public house taking in Bradmore Green, Grange Park, St. John's Church and the Tudor Village.

Please contact OCRA (Old Coulsdon Residents' Association) via the website at:

www.theocra.org.uk