



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Oliver Lewis December 2018

Latest News

Live Well Spotlight

During the quarter two delivery of the Live Well service, we have achieved some very positive results in terms of health outcomes and stakeholder engagement. Within this quarter, both the number of Just Be website visits and residents opting in for the 12 month



face to face behaviour change support increased by 50% or more against that of the same period in year 1. In total, our team of Live Well Advisors have delivered 1,620 initial appointments to residents and helped approximately 250 residents (from July to September) to access and complete the Health MOT at one of the Live Well hubs across Croydon. In October, the team integrated two new health tools to the Just Be website; a Heart Age Calculator and the Stoptober Personal Quit Plan,

both of which generated high interest and interaction by residents.

Both these tools will become a permanent feature of the website moving forward.



Live Well Croydon will shortly be launching the MECC (Making Every Contact Count) on-line training via the council's learning and development portal. MECC is a tool to support and enable us all to make a difference if we made the most of each and every opportunity to have a brief conversation with the people we meet on a daily basis; our residents, colleagues and friends and point them in the right

direction for help in making healthy lifestyle choices. MECC should be an integral part of what we do across all of our services and to this end we have signed up to the MECC London Pledge. The workforce and stakeholders will be encouraged to undertake the training and turn it into practice - so watch out for the link coming your way soon.

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Young Croydon residents hoping to follow top British athletes by taking part in the London Youth Games

Entries opened in October for young people to sign up and follow some of Britain's most famous athletes by representing Croydon at the London Youth Games.

The games, which are Europe's largest youth sports festival, involves young people from across all 33 London boroughs competing against each other in more than 30 different events, including eight Paralympic sports.

Croydon, who were last winners of the games in 2012 will start their 2019 campaign on Saturday 17th November 2018 by competing in cross country, the first event of the games.

An online expression of interest form encourages young people to register for their favourite sport. With events taking place across London over the next 8 months, culminating with a festival of sport at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre next July.

Olympic legend Sir Mo Farah represented his own borough in the London Youth Games. Croydon athletes have also taken part in the games and have also gone on to big things. Two-time NBA All-Star Luol Deng, represented Croydon in basketball, as did Olympic gold medallist Tasha Danvers.

The games are open to all young people aged between seven and 18 who either live or study in Croydon. To be a part of Team Croydon, young sportsmen and women are asked to register their interest online at www.croydon.gov.uk/lyg

DO YOU LOVE SPORT?
ARE YOU AGED 7-18 AND DO YOU LIVE OR GO TO SCHOOL IN CROYDON?

#TEAM CROYDON

The London Youth Games is Europe's largest youth sports festival!

There are opportunities for everyone – 30 sports and over 40 competitions from athletics to weightlifting. If you love sport and want to represent Croydon, fill in our expression of interest form and select up to five sports. The Active Lifestyles Team will send you information on training, trial and competition dates in Spring 2019.

www.croydon.gov.uk/lyg

BETTER
the feel good place

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www.croydon.gov.uk



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Stewardship Agreements for Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area (SWCA) and the Croydon Woodland Estate

Croydon has some nationally important natural areas within the borough, most notably Happy Valley, a Site of Special Scientific Importance for which we have a 10 year Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Agreement. Through this HLS the Council receive external funding to protect the habitats and species through land management techniques such as grazing and specific meadow management. Our recent applications for Stewardship funding for both the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area and the Croydon Woodland Estate by our Tree and Woodlands Team have been successful, safeguarding the ongoing management of not only our chalk grassland areas but also the many ancient woodlands in Croydon.

A National Nature Reserve in Croydon

Natural England are proposing to declare a National Nature Reserve in Croydon, which would cover land holdings of both the City of London (Farthing Downs, New Hill, Coulson Common, Kenley Common and Riddlesdown Common) and LB Croydon (Happy Valley, Hawkhurst Wood and the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area).

NNRs are the representations of the best sites, nationally, for nature conservation, representing 3 pillars – science, engagement, resources. They are exemplars for scientific research and public engagement. The areas earmarked for the Croydon NNR have been identified as outstanding examples of species rich chalk meadows and downlands and form a landscape feature at the edge of London.

Council Officers had meetings with representatives from Natural England in July 2018 to discuss basic principles of the NNR declaration processes and the Approved Body status which is required to manage a NNR.

Council Officers have since submitted all relevant documentation required for the council to be considered to become an Approved Body. Natural England indicated that the approval process is now underway and that a decision about our application and the announcement of the National Nature Reserve would be made together during Summer 2019 depending on the various board meetings and approvals.

Natural England has since met with LB Croydon Officers and representatives from City Of London to start discussions on a joint visions, shared objectives and possible names for the NNR.

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Friends of South Norwood Lake Fishing

Discussions are underway with local fishermen to form a community group to improve the fishing experience at South Norwood Lake. The fishing platforms are at end of their life and in need of replacement. Officers will apply for a S106 grant to remove the old ones and install new platforms in partnership with local fishermen. Fishermen can also play an active role in assisting the council with the annual work to manage the algae situation at the lake.

Community Grant Scheme

The Ambitious for Parks community Grant programme which started last year is now complete. Community groups were invited to apply for grants of up to £4000 to run projects that took place in their local parks, woodlands and green spaces and that met one of the themes Get active, Get involved, Support and learn about nature, and Exciting days out.

Projects from 11 community groups across the Borough were selected, offering a wide variety of activities including an outdoor Bollywood dance and drumming workshop, community fairs, improving landscape and community gardens, way-marking set distance running routes, community art and improving signage and information about different natural habitats and wildlife.

All of the projects have had a positive impact on the environment and communities in which they took place. The size of the grant fund enabled groups to be more ambitious in their plans and activities.

Many of the community groups involved have said they now feel motivated, confident and empowered. They are keen to develop further projects and seek funding to improve their local green spaces or hold public activities and events.

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A number of the projects have achieved the outcome of forming links and partnerships with other groups and organisations and as a result, have expressed an interest in the potential for further funding, partnerships and collaboration.



Explore **NATURE** on your doorstep Families welcome*
*children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult

- 10.30am: meet at the Wooden Bear Statue opposite the tram on Central Parade. Collect your **discount vouchers** from local shops & bring your own picnic. Water & Fruit are also provided **FREE!**
- Explore and learn about the diversity of **NATURE** at Hutchinsons Bank led by our partners, the London Wildlife Trust.
- TICK OFF YOUR ACTIVITY ON GO WILD CROYDON**
Bring wet weather gear & something to sit on.
For Info: newadad@tonbia@gmail.com / nr: 07949 382653

Family Nature Walk
Sat 15th September
Hutchinson's Bank
10.30am-1.00pm

NEW GOES WILD

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY
WILFORD ROAD RECREATIONAL GROUNDS
Windmill Road, Croydon, CR0 2UP

Sunday 10 September
2pm to 6pm

Traditional ONAM games from the God's own country
DANCE performances
Fun Dance workshops
Children's Play area
Food

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Culture



The Rise Festival of Urban Art took place over the first two weeks in September which brought new street art commissions to the town centre, launched The Croydon Collection and has reached millions of people online.

The London Open House tours of Fairfield Halls were booked out fully in the first few days of advertising, and four tours ran on a Saturday in September led by Neil Chandler the new venue Director and one of the architect's for the refurbishment.

LIP, Croydon's first festival of poetry and spoken work, led by Well Versed Ink based in Thornton Heath also took place in October having been successful in gaining Arts Council funding as first time applicants.

Later in October, 200 women were dancing at Boxpark as part of a unique piece commissioned as part of the Dance Umbrella Festival called Everything That Rises Must Dance. This was one of three performances of the moving and original piece performed across London.

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Libraries Summer Reading Challenge



Despite the pull of this summer's warmer weather, our libraries attracted a similar number of children to participate and finish the Summer Reading Challenge to last year's figures. In total, 2,536 children participated in the challenge, reading at least one book, with 1,443 reading six or more, each of whom was presented with a certificate and medal. Three lucky finishers (aged 6, 7 and 9) all won a Kindle Fire for their efforts in reading 6 books over the summer holidays. Pictured is Naumie Jape, age 6 receiving her prize which was kindly donated by Dotmailer.

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During the summer, Croydon children borrowed and read 15,168 Croydon library books and 1,950 children attended a range of 85 free storytelling, craft, comics and music events in the borough's libraries. 468 children also completed the complementary trail in the Museum of Croydon.

Black History Month

This year our libraries supported and celebrated Black History Month with a range of popular events for all ages. From a performance of Rastamouse "Da Easy Crew" with author Michael de Souza to African folktales and drumming there was plenty for children (and their parents and carers) to participate in, whilst Saleah's Journey, "Mi a go a Inland" celebrating the arrival of the Empire Windrush was fully booked in both Thornton Heath and Central Library.

Clocktower Late

The Museum of Croydon worked with the Library service development team, David Lean Cinema, Clocktower Café and others to deliver the first ever Clocktower Late on Friday 9 November, celebrating and commemorating Armistice Day.

The evening started with a visit from the Mayor, Councillor Bernadette Khan who opened the event at 6pm and toured the exhibitions and stayed to enjoy the choir singing outside the Clocktower Café.



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Visitors contributed to the Plate of Peace exhibition with 283 messages being added to the installation whilst 22 people attended the poetry reading in the Children's library and many more admired the WW1 Dolls from Purley Knit and Stitch Group and the wreath and clothes from Ashburton Knit and Stitch group.

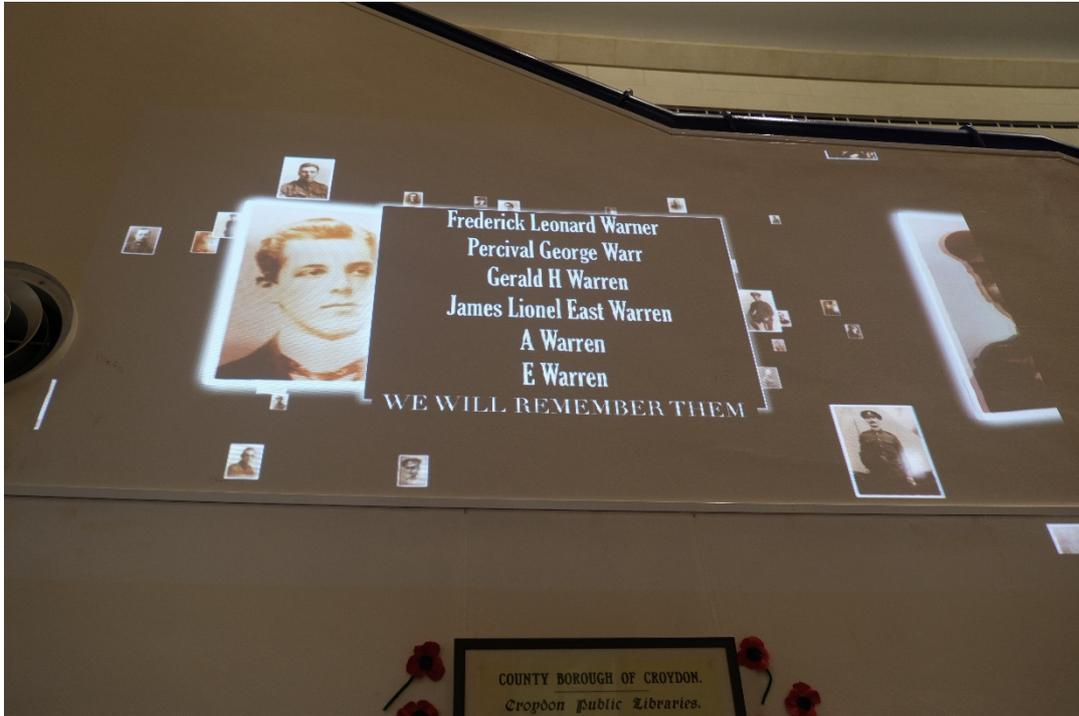
The Museum of Croydon recorded 124 daytime visitors and a further 276 evening visitors (400 in total). The film screening at David Lean Cinema was fully booked with 65 tickets being reserved



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Working Together

Registrars Service

Locality Working

We continue to advance plans for closer working with Bereavement Services and the introduction of locality working and improve accessibility to Registration Services.

Birth and death registrations are now conducted weekly on Monday mornings at the Mitcham Road Cemetery Office, we are still working to overcome some IT issues but hope to be able to offer a registration service from Croydon University Hospital by late December.

Bereavement Services

Replacement Cremators

Our current cremators are now over 20 years old and reaching the end of their operational life. As unlikely as it may seem there have been a number of changes in this area firstly the thermal properties of the bricks used inside the cremator which have been improved and have the potential to reduce gas usage and also the need to increase the internal dimensions of the cremators to cope with larger coffins required for the increasing size and weight of individuals.

Tenders are due to be returned by late November with a view to making an award in December and works to take place next summer.

New Burial Land

Unfortunately our latest application for planning permission at Greenlawns Memorial Park was unsuccessful despite addressing all of the items raised by the Inspector at the last appeal. We are currently seeking professional advice regarding our next steps in relation to this matter.

Events

The next event for in the calendar is our Christmas Memorial Service at 2.15pm on Sunday 9th December 2018. This event is one of the most popular on our annual calendar and due to its popularity booking is advised.

The event is free and if you are interested in attending please contact us via e-mail on BEREAVEMENT@croydon.gov or by phone on 020 8684 3877 to register your interest.

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Leisure Contract Update

Croydon Participate in their first Club

A Team of 14 represented Croydon to compete against 700 over 55-year-olds at the 2018 Better Club Games; an Olympic-style event for older people that were held at the Copper Box Arena, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on Wednesday 10th October 2018.

The Croydon participants took part in Badminton, Short Mat Bowls, Timed Cycle and Walking Football. Proudly representing their borough the other teams were drawn from across London and the South including: Barnet, Camden, Crystal Palace, Ealing, Epsom and Ewell, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon, Kensington & Chelsea, Islington, Lambeth, Merton, North Kesteven, Reigate and Banstead, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Cambridge, Rugby and Sutton.



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Former WBC World Light-Heavyweight Champion and star of BBC hit show Superstars; John Conteh MBE was the guest of honour and officially opened The Games, while Team GB athlete and Dancing on Ice star Perri Shakes-Drayton also dropped in, to support the competitors in their events.

The Croydon participants had a great first experience of the Games and will spread the word to get more involved next year with the introduction of more Club activities.

Short Mat Bowls player Corrine Smither (pictured right) commented ...

'At 82 years old I did not think I would ever be part of an event like this, but it was for the over 55's and was so well organised. I am not sure that I was much help to our team but the four of us had such a good time and made so many friends that we were planning joining in again next year'



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GLL support Croydon Harriers 10K

The Croydon Arena based harriers organised their annual 10k race starting and finishing in Lloyd Park. As the new leisure operator GLL supported the event with £1000 sponsorship. Over 500 athletes took part in the event on Sunday 21st October.



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Croydon Guardian here -

<https://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/17006955.croydon-10k-brings-runners-to-the-streets/#gallery0>

October Half Term

Swim Crash Courses were offered at all 5 leisure centres during half term, providing the opportunity for young swimmers to practice their skills.

Free tennis sessions were also offered across the borough to advertise the weekly Saturday session at Ashburton Park, the sessions were also to support the Stand Up To Cancer campaign by asking for a donation. There were 9 hours of Tennis sessions offered across the borough which attracted 62 participants. The sessions gave an introduction to the forehand and backhand for the participants as young as 5, finishing off the sessions with some game play.



Ashburton officially opens new better coffee corner



On 24th October Ashburton Hall hosted their first Open Day and official opening of the Better Coffee Corner. The day welcomed over 150 visitors and featured a host of free activities including mum and baby yoga, tennis and martial arts. Local organisations and current hirers of Ashburton were invited to have a stall and promote their activities. VIP's that attended included local Cllr for Addiscombe East Ward Maddie Henson, Cabinet member Oliver Lewis, Sarah Jones MP and GSF athlete Shaun White. This is a significant community building, with the café acting as an important meeting point to combat loneliness.

Purley LC smash stand up to 'Stand up to Cancer' fundraising

All Centres in Croydon have been supporting the Stand Up To Cancer campaign. Purley Leisure Centre went above and beyond with their fundraising efforts including a member of staff who shaved his head to raise money for the worthy cause. Fitness instructors hosted a heat the





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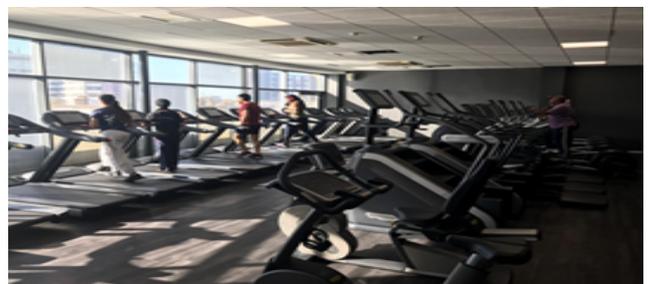
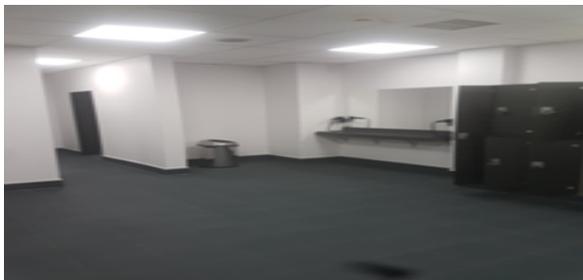


Investment

Health and Fitness investment of over £949,000 is almost completed for facilities providing much needed state of the art improvements. In addition Ashburton Hall & park 103k has completed the Tennis court improvements and the Café is now open. Monks Hill has also completed the replacement of the all-weather pitch with additional upgrade to 4G 5v5 pitches and lighting totalling £359k

Thornton Heath

Has benefited from the changing room investment including showers flooring and lighting, previously dark and uninviting with the saunas located within them that created issues with humidity. The centres 2 saunas in the changing rooms, have been replaced with one large sauna on poolside with a steam room to follow.



Gym area has seen replacement of flooring and redecoration along with replacing the gym equipment with latest Technogym range and introduced a dedicated spinning room, replacing the spinning bikes with latest Technogym range

Waddon

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Gym area - To uplift gym area, replacing flooring and redecoration and replacement of the gym equipment with latest Technogym range.

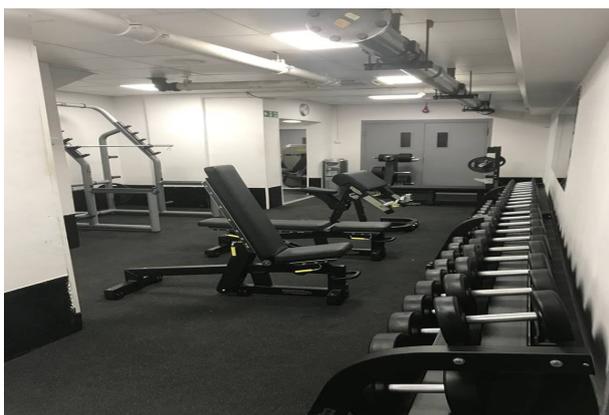


South Norwood

Works are underway and will be completed on 15th November. This includes Gym area redecoration and flooring replacement. Replacement of the gym equipment with latest Technogym range and replace spinning bikes with latest Technogym range

Purley

Has seen a transformation in the gym area, replacing flooring and redecoration along with replacing the very dated gym equipment with latest Technogym range.



Ashburton Hall & Park

Café & Tennis completed with the opening of Better Coffee Corner along with full refurbishment of Tennis courts including courts refurbishment at - Addiscombe Recreation Ground & Biggin Wood.



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Monks Hill

Pitch replacement of 11aside and 5aside pitches Lights have been completed along with replacement of lights introducing more efficient LED lighting providing improved playing conditions.



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