



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Oliver Lewis January 2019

Latest News

A National Nature Reserve in Croydon - UPDATE

In the last bulletin I informed you of the collaborative work taking place between LB Croydon, City of London and Natural England towards the creation of a National Nature Reserve (NNR) in the south of the borough. Positive discussions regarding the vision, objectives and name of the NNR amongst partners continue to take place and we are still on track for a dedication in Summer 2019.

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.



A Future Parks Accelerator Fund – Croydon & the Wandle Valley

In October a UK-wide £10m strategic initiative was launched by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the National Trust (NT) – the [Future Parks Accelerator](#) (FPA) – with the aim to inspire and financially support ambitious and sustainable solutions to protect and enhance public parks and green spaces. Within a context of increasing financial uncertainty for parks and green spaces, the FPA will support a selection of local authorities and communities to consider and implement practices for how these spaces can be better used, managed and funded to serve community needs and aspirations now and over the next generation.

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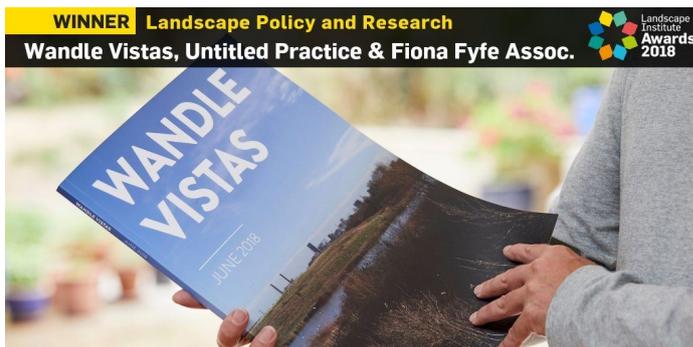


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These ambitious aims require partnership working, which is why Croydon submitted a joint expression of interest with London Boroughs of Sutton, Merton and Wandsworth, under the umbrella of the [Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust](#). Decisions regarding successful applications are expected in the New Year and we remain excited at the prospect!

Croydon views celebrated as part of Wandle Vistas Award

During 2018-18 Croydon residents and Officers were involved in the [Wandle Vistas project](#), delivered as part of the [Living Wandle Landscape Partnership](#). This exciting project involved local people assessing and researching a



selection of 10 vistas across the Wandle Valley, including four in Croydon, with the information being used to create resources for use in education, interpretation and planning policy. [Watch the film and download the map here!](#)

In November this project won a prestigious Landscape Institute Award and such a success should be used as a springboard to celebrate and enhance the Croydon vistas, including Addington Hills and Norwood Grove, to name just two.

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Croydon allotments to receive investment in 2019

Following a successful funding application to the Council's Growth Board, allotments managed by the council are set to receive over £350k of investment.

Six direct-let sites will receive capital infrastructure improvements. A programme of investment will target funding at improving walkways and accessibility, repairing plots that are prone to flooding, as well as those that have overgrown trees, whilst improving general health and safety standards.

In addition to the capital programme the Active Lifestyles team were also successful in securing £10k from the Council's Place Business Improvement Board to streamline and simplify allotments IT management software. Upgrades in 2019 will aim to improve both management efficiency as well as user experience.



The programme of capital improvement is due to start in early 2019 and is expected to be completed in Spring 2020.

Walking for Health - UPDATE.

Walking for Health is a nationwide programme of health walk schemes that deliver free, regular led walks designed to support people to get active and stay active. It is an inclusive programme, open to all. There are 14 walks in Croydon to choose from every week.

There are currently over 300 active walkers registered with the Croydon scheme, 24% of whom joined the scheme in 2018. An increasing number of walkers have been referred to the scheme by health care professionals and advisors.

In Croydon, our focus is on short accessible walks particularly designed for participants:

- with restricted mobility or fitness
- with declining health who want to remain active but at reduced levels
- new to physical activity
- recovering from ill health



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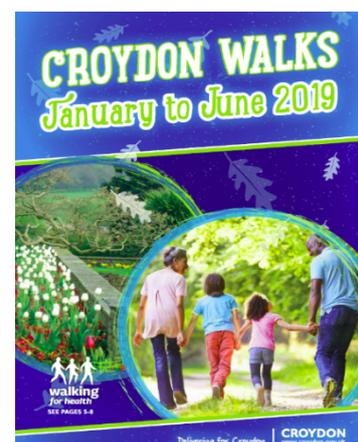
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We also organise progression walks of longer duration and with more challenging terrain.

In addition to the health benefits, the walks are a social activity, with many walkers saying that as well as the exercise, they enjoy the opportunity to spend time with the friends they make and the opportunity to meet new people.

The new Croydon Walks programme January to June 2019 is now available in libraries, health clinics, online and from the Active Lifestyles team. This includes nature walks and health walks which take place in Croydon's woodlands and green spaces.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY
<p>Sunday 20 January Happy Valley and Chaldon Winter Ramble</p> <p>Put on your thickest jumper and explore the beautiful countryside around Happy Valley and Chaldon. Learn about the Chaldon Labyrinths, the Pilgrim's Way and the Chaldon Doom mural. A longer walk for the more adventurous. 7 miles over 3 to 4 hours. Paths can be very muddy at this time of year. Dogs on leads welcome.</p> <p>Meet at 11am at the Farthing Downs car park, Ditches Lane, Coulsdon.</p> <p>Bus: 60, 404, walk up Ditches Lane 1 mile</p> <p>Train: Coulsdon South, walk up Ditches Lane 1 mile</p>	<p>Sunday 10 February Winter Wander over the Sanderstead Common</p> <p>We will be walking around the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area enjoying some fresh air and lovely scenery that we are lucky to have here on the downs. If you would like to join the Countryside Warden please meet at the far end of Tandridge Gardens at 10.30am for a 1 to 2 hour stroll. For more information please contact biodiversity@croydon.gov.uk</p>





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RAP Sport Christmas Event

To celebrate the success of another year for the Croydon RAP Sports programme, the Active Lifestyles team added a little festive spirit by organising an all-inclusive night out for the participants.



The event took place on the 18th December 2018 at the Oxygen Trampoline Park and was the first project led by project support apprentice who joined Croydon Council in the autumn.

The event was a great opportunity for all attendees from various RAP sport sessions to meet each other, providing a fun and enjoyable

experience for all. It also acknowledged the contribution to the programme from the parents and carers enabling them to take a well-deserved break from all their hard work throughout the year.

The Croydon RAP programme is a dedicated sports scheme providing young people with disabilities from ages 5-25 with the opportunity to take part out various sporting activities on a weekly basis. The programme also offers opportunities to learn skills and meet new people. The programme is delivered by a team of specialist coaches who work closely with individuals throughout the year.



For more information on the RAP Sports

Courses visit <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/sports/youth-sports/team-sports>



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Leisure Contract Update

Thornton Heath

Health and Fitness investment of over £949k is almost completed for facilities providing much needed state of the art improvements. Investments in Thornton Heath have continued with a new Sauna and Steam room on poolside.



South Norwood

The South Norwood gym health and fitness investments are now complete. Improvements include new equipment from Techno Gym which also makes the space look and feel bigger and enables more space for functional items.



GLL Sport Foundation Application open till 20th February 2019

GLL is once again showing its commitment to improving health, wellbeing and opportunity in the communities it works in, by supporting the next generation of athletes to the tune of £1.5 million, via The GLL Sport Foundation (GSF). Now in its eleventh year, GSF's latest investment in today's and tomorrow's athletes will take its total support to £10.7 million. Athletes from across the UK can apply for support through the GLL Sport Foundation via the online portal at: www.gllsportfoundation.org. Applications close 20th Feb. 2019. The word is being spread amongst the athletes of Croydon!

HELPING ATHLETES ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

The GLL Sport Foundation provides athletes with financial, training and sport science support. Apply now, become part of the largest independent athlete support programme in the UK and let us support your athlete journey.

Find out more and apply online at www.gllsportfoundation.org

Dina Asher-Smith Team GB athlete, Rio 2016 Olympic Games 4x100m relay bronze medallist and supported ambassador

BETTER
the feel good place

GLL Sport Foundation is a registered charity trading name of GLL (Croydon Leisure) Limited, a charitable social enterprise and registered charity under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2004, registered No. 277930. Registered office: Millersgate House, The Square Avenue, London, SE18 1DE. School Business Centre, No. 1001258

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Crowd Funding Workshop

On the 1st of November the Community Sport Manager (CSM) hosted Croydon's first crowdfunding workshop. Open to local organisations and members of the public, the workshop is part of a pilot for GLL CSM's to deliver workshops to encourage more individuals and groups to understand and utilise the support available through the GLL Community Foundation and how they can bring their idea to life.

The workshop attracted 43 sign ups and was a great opportunity for groups to engage with each other and share their understanding and learning around crowdfunding campaigns. In Croydon the CSM is currently working with three projects to get them ready to launch their campaign.



Weight Management Talk

During November the CSM attended local weight management groups organised by our Live Well team in libraries and community centres across the borough. The invitation to the talks aimed to introduce the opportunities at the leisure centres and explain different membership options as well as publicising community drop-in sessions. Discussion also focussed on addressing barriers to exercise/using the leisure centres, including cost, weather, parking and concerns around body image.



School of Hard Knocks Employment Talk

As part of GLL's commitment to support Croydon residents into employment the CSM has partnered with the School of Hard Knocks charity. On 2nd November the CSM visited the current recruits and gave a presentation on GLL as an employer and the local opportunities available in Croydon.



Currently two successful appointments at both Thornton Heath and Monks Hill have been made through the partnership.

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Leisure Centres and Healthy Living Hub support promotion for HIV testing

National HIV Testing Week is an initiative of HIV Prevention England, funded by Public Health England, and coordinated by Terrence Higgins Trust, with support, partnership and participation from organisations across the public, statutory and private sectors.



Croydon was again supporting the week, which started on Saturday 18 November. All the leisure centres in the borough received promotional material to display and the Healthy Living Hub at Central Library hosted testing sessions.

This year's HIV Testing Week theme – Give HIV the Finger – aimed to demonstrate that getting tested for HIV is as easy as a quick finger-prick test, with the result available within 15 minutes. Receiving an early diagnosis and treatment can help people to live up to a normal lifespan.

New artists in residence at Museum

The Croydonians exhibition is on from Wednesday 19 December 2018 in the Croydon Art Collection.

From an Addington blacksmith and his wife, to celebrities and a mayor of Croydon, discover some of the faces from Croydon past and present.

This exhibition will showcase works from the Croydon Art Collection alongside photographic portraits that have featured in recent exhibitions at the Museum of Croydon."

Libraries new programme of events

Croydon Libraries celebrate 2019 with a variety of events in January, starting with a Volunteer Celebration on Saturday 12th January at Thornton Heath Library, open to anyone interested in volunteering with us. Visit Central Library for a Healthy Lifestyles marketplace event outside the Central Children's Library, Thursday 17 January, 10am-1pm. Talk to experts who can advise on healthy eating and lifestyles and find out about health information online. Join us for a talk from Ian Porter on The Titanic - What happened after the ship sank, at Ashburton Library, Monday 21



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January, 11am, covering more details of the rescue and aftermath including tales of the corruption and disregard for human suffering during that terrible night.

(Contact ashburtonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk to book). Finally, we are pleased to launch two new online resources, all free with your library card:

- PressReader, allowing you to access thousands of newspapers and magazines from around the world; read the latest complete editions of the newspapers as they are published.
- Digital comics & graphic novels, with new collection of comics including Spiderman, Avengers and X-Men.

All details available in the latest What's On Guide, available in your local library or at the following link: https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/downloads/Croydon-libraries-What%27s_On_Jan_March_2019.pdf

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 conducted weekly on Monday mornings at the Mitcham Road Cemetery Office with the popularity of these appointments increasing. In relation to Croydon University Hospital, we continue to work to overcome the IT being experienced but hope to be able to offer a registration service from here by early February.

Bereavement Services

Replacement Cremators

Our current cremators are now over 20 years old and reaching the end of their operational life



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The procurement process for replacement cremators is almost complete with recommendations to go to CCB in early January 2019. Work to replace the cremators will be scheduled for late summer/early autumn 2019.

New Burial Land

We are planning to appeal our unsuccessful planning application for Greenlawns Memorial Park. Papers are being prepared for submission in early 2019.

Events

Over 100 people attended the Christmas Memorial Service on Sunday 9th December with over £170 being raised for charity

A new programme of events for 2019 is currently being finalised and will be distributed in January.

Our events are 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.