



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2017

Latest News

BMX

The new BMX track at Norbury Park was completed in August and Croydon BMX Club was launched by Access Sport on Saturday 19th August to make contact with new users and encourage them to join the club. Equipment and bikes are available during the Club sessions from their base in the adjacent pavilion.

The track was funded through a Section 106 agreement and was constructed by Clark and Kent, leaders in the construction of BMX tracks.

It is a community BMX track where everyone is welcome. Coaching support is available through the local volunteer BMX club supported by Access Sport as part of their BMX Legacy Programme a multi-award winning programme that was launched in February 2011 to create a thriving youth cycling scene in London.



There is clear guidance for riders about the site and what to wear [BMX track rules](#).

The track is open at all times but Croydon BMX club will run sessions throughout the week starting with

- Tuesday 6.30-8.00pm Ladies only
- Thursday 4.30-5.30pm Girls sessions
- Saturday 12.00-1.00pm Beginners and Wingz BMX – Inclusive BMX for anyone with any disability, impairment and / or additional need

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- Saturday 1.00-2.00pm Intermediate
- Saturday 2.00-3.00pm Rock up and Ride

Up to date information about activities are available on the Croydon BMX Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/CroydonBMX/>

Waddon Ponds – New signage

As a member of the [Living Wandle Landscape Partnership](#) Croydon secured HLF funding for improvement works at Waddon Ponds. The works have now been completed with the installation of three interpretation signs illustrating the History of the Pond, Life Around the Pond and Birds on and around the Pond and finger posts in surrounding roads directing visitors to the site.

WADDON PONDS

Life Around The Pond



The ponds are spring fed and the clear chalk filtered water provides ideal living conditions for aquatic life, like millions of midges, sticklebacks, fresh water shrimp, frogs, newts and toads, all of which in turn feed a host of birds and mammals. The fresh waters also support a range of water plants which grow along the edges and provide shelter and food.



Bats – the only flying mammal, can be seen hunting over the water at dusk and during the night, catching insects. *Pipistrellus* bats are the most common species locally and only weigh 5 grams. Bats are not blind but they use echolocation to find their food in the dark. The sound bounces off objects which enables them to find their food.

Frogs will leave their eggs or frogspawn near the shallow water edge in the spring. The emerging tadpoles are a common food for dragonfly larvae. Herons like to hunt frogs.

Emperor dragonflies, with their characteristic green and black body, dart over the water in search of places to lay their eggs. Dragonfly larvae live in the water for up to 4 years before they emerge to fly around though only for 3-4 weeks whilst searching for a mate.

You can also spot *Damselflies* which are much smaller than dragonflies but come in striking colours of blue and red.



Pond Skaters or water bugs, 'skate' around on the surface of the water on the pond, feeding on smaller insects which they stab with their sharp mouthparts or beaks.



Flag Ibis and **Purple Loosestrife** grow along the water edges providing colour and nectar for honey bees and bumblebees.



Urban Foxes will visit the park at night, in search of eggs in unattended nests, left over lunches or a frog. Foxes are very versatile and well adapted to city life. They live under sheds and earth burrows and eat whatever they can find.

Terrapins, can be seen basking in the sun. Terrapins are popular pets, but once they are fully grown many get abandoned in public ponds and lakes. The species has a devastating impact on frog and dragonfly populations, as they have a huge appetite.

Please do not introduce any pet animals, reptiles, fish or plants into Waddon Ponds. Many species are in the wild and will die while others have a devastating impact on local wildlife, competing for food and space.

Help to protect Waddon Ponds and report any sightings of non-native species to Croydon Council.

GET INVOLVED

Local residents can get involved in their park by joining and forming a Friends of Park group, to work in partnership with the Council towards common aims. These include improving the park for people and wildlife, reporting issues, organising community events and creating more wildlife habitats.

Volunteer for your local park along the River Wandle: create habitats, improve access for all or clear invasive species, meet like-minded people, learn new skills and enjoy the outdoors.

Watch wildlife, like birds, bats, dragonflies, water voles and help monitor and protect wildlife along the river.

For more information about the River Wandle and how to get involved visit:

Wandle Valley Regional Park
www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk

Croydon Council:
www.croydon.gov.uk



Puddling bee



Emperor dragonfly



Damselfly



Common coot and nest



Terrapin

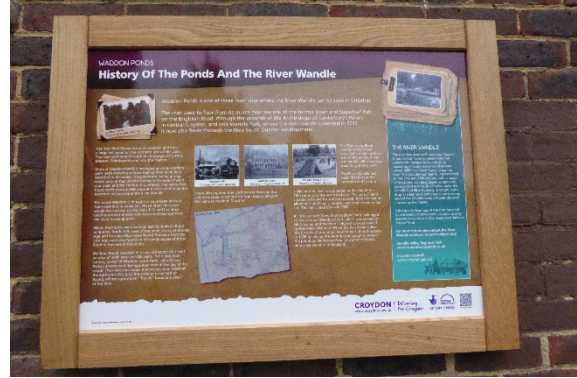





Produced by Pigeonhole Design © 2017



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Before the project started the majority of the banks of medium and small ponds were devoid of vegetation due to overgrazing by waterfowl. In 2014 and 2015 Ecosulis, the leading ecological consultancy & contracting company, were engaged to undertake work to enhance the pond edges with a series of edge treatments. A total of 366m, 90% of the bank length of the two smaller ponds and the southern edge of the main pond were planted.

The banks have been stabilised and the establishing plants are contributing to an increase in the range of habitats as illustrated in the before and after photographs below.



Croydon Parks Vision

An external consultant Tyrens has taken forward the development of six draft masterplans for: Lloyd Park, South Norwood Lake and Grounds, Norbury Park, Ashburton Park, Park Hill and Happy Valley. Various engagement and stakeholder events have taken place over the last few months and draft parks masterplans for all six parks are now available online - www.croydon.gov.uk/parks-vision.

To comment on the South Norwood Lake and Grounds, Norbury Park and Happy Valley plans, members of the public need to complete the relevant feedback form(s) by 11.59pm Tuesday 10 October

- [South Norwood Lake and Grounds](#)
- [Norbury Park](#)
- [Happy Valley](#)



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Feedback received will be taken into account in addition to that received at the engagement events with final masterplans intended to be completed by January.

Live Well Croydon

The Live Well Croydon Programme is making great headway in supporting Croydon residents towards improving healthy lifestyles, whether it's signposting people to local opportunities to increase physical activity, provide motivation for those who wish to give up smoking or lose weight or improve mental health and wellbeing; our team of Live Well Advisors have so far provided initial consultations to just over 260 residents. The initial consultation is the first stage of the 12 month behaviour change journey and we are now seeing a number of residents moving onto the next 3 month review stage. As can be seen below, residents are achieving some very positive results from engaging in Live Well Croydon as they work towards their longer term health goals:

Mr B – now a non-smoker at 3 months, has increased physical activity levels and improvement in mental wellbeing score.

Miss J - 7kg weight loss at 3 month review, reduction in high fat foods and fried foods within her diet; improved mental health and wellbeing.

Mr N - reduced calorie intake by 800 calories a day by making small swaps and increased his exercise from under 30 minutes a day to nearly 90 minutes.

More information about the Live Well Croydon Programme and healthy lifestyle information, advice and support can be found via: <https://www.justbecroydon.org/>

Friend of Park groups

44 parks in Croydon now have a Friends of park group, with the latest addition being Lloyd Park. A recent meeting with residents marked the start of yet another positive partnership between residents and the council to bring about positive improvements to parks and open spaces. The new group wants to focus on promoting the many different activities on offer in the park.

To support the network of Friends of groups, the council is running free first aid training courses for key volunteers, on 28 September and 5 October and continues to offer regular 'drop-in' sessions to enable face to face contact between groups and the Community Partnership Officer.

Great North Wood Project

Croydon is a key partner in the London Wildlife Trust's 4 year Heritage Lottery funded Great North Wood Project. The Trust received £ 669,000 from the Lottery to work with local people to revive the once Great North Wood. Croydon is a stronghold of woodland remnants and with the help from London Wildlife Trust volunteers will be able to get involved in managing these woods, learn to survey them for wildlife and take part in many community events which aim to bring to life the history of the woods, ranging from guided walks, bat survey, to spoon carving and charcoal making events. Woods that will benefit from this project are Biggin Wood, Spa Wood (The Lawns), Grangewood Park, Beaulieu Heights and Long Lane Wood.



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The project is looking for keen volunteers, no experience required, to find out more visit www.wildlondon.org.uk/great-north-wood

Active Spaces

The vision of outdoor active spaces is to create an innovative and unique space that breaks down the barriers to sport and physical activity; a space that is inclusive, open to all members of the community and encourages more residents to regularly take part in sport or exercise, thus promoting lifestyles that improves a person's wellbeing and quality of life. The project is being delivered in partnership with the Matt Palmer Trust who have donated £100k to the project.

On 9 August 2017 the Council launched a mini competition for the design, supply, install and maintenance of an Outdoor Active Space located at the former Pitch and Putt site at Goldcrest Way in New Addington. The Council invited four interested parties from the ESPO Framework to respond to a competition brief and submit the specified information as requested for the associated contract. Following a competitive process Kompan was selected as the chosen supplier and installation of an active space will commence in the next month. This outdoor 'active space' has been supported by councillor ward budgets and will be a flagship site.



Four more 'active spaces' are planned and a full tender process will take place for: Waddon Youth Centre (Purley Playing Fields), King Georges Playing Fields, Upper Norwood Recreation Ground and Grangewood Park.



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Wandle Park

The Summer season of events has come to an end with a good turn out of visitors coming along, despite the British weather doing its best to keep numbers down at times. Highlights include the Environmental Fair and the 1967 themed Summer of Love festival on successive blazing hot Saturdays in June. The Croydon Symphonic Band returned to the bandstand for the first time since July 2013 and brought a huge crowd of 180 people chilling on the lawns and enjoying the sounds.



Other events that took place throughout the summer period included: the Friends garden party, the poetry festival, Friday night acoustic music in the bandstand a sports tournament with Decathlon sports store, Live and Unplugged, 5 weeks of sports coaching for children over the holidays and CODA who put on a fantastic Pirates of Penzance musical production with the bandstand and trees atmospherically lit by festoon lighting



For London Rivers Week Croydon Vision brought 8 clients to the park for a day of sensory activities hosted by the Wandle Trust and volunteers from Santander. The café did a fantastic picnic lunch which was appreciated by all especially the Croydon Vision clients who after lunch put on waders and with a volunteer, bravely went in to the river to do a litterpick. They thoroughly enjoyed the sensory experience

and immediately asked if they can do it again!



Sunday mornings along with the regular community gardening sessions, saw community golf and physical exercise activities and Fridays and Saturday mornings saw Pickleball sessions.

Over 300 children from local schools have been to the park to attend educational sessions using the parks natural facilities hosted by the Wandle Trust education team.

The park is currently delivering Wandle Fortnight and activities have included a seasonal litter pick, pond dipping with watercolour painting of creatures found, a mini-bus visit to the Wandle Industrial Museum and to round off the fortnight Haiku poetry using the park as inspiration.



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Registrars Service

Restructure

We are pleased to confirm that the new structure in the Registrars has been implemented from 1st September 2017.

The structure has been designed to improve customer service levels, manage the workload more efficiently and to capitalise on income opportunities. We currently await the arrival of two Team Leaders to complete the compliment of staff.

Passport Checks

On 25th September the Registrars added the JCAP (Joint Citizenship and Passport) service to its portfolio. This is an additional service which sits alongside the Nationality Checking Service in which we check applicant's passport applications, take their fees and pass on to the Passport Office, this will provide an additional income stream. Initially we have had a soft launch with the website updated and the contact centre briefed, we will appear in a list of offices offering the service provided by the Home Office. We will monitor the success and feedback in the next bulletin.

Bereavement Services

Reclaimed Graves

A tranche of graves have been reclaimed at Mitcham Road Cemetery. This process is where any unused space in old graves that meet specific criteria is reclaimed to council ownership then made available to sell to families requiring burial. Without this initiative both Mitcham Road and Queens Road Cemeteries would have both been closed in 2006

Hospital NVFs

We are in preliminary talks with the management team at Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust regarding the sensitive disposal of NVF's. Our contacts have heard about the dignified multiple infant cremation service that we are providing for another two neighbouring NHS Trusts and are interested in us providing the same service on their behalf. As well as providing some modest additional income, it will provide much needed comfort for bereaved parents in knowing their babies have been cremated in a dignified manner and laid to rest in beautiful and tranquil gardens of Croydon Crematorium.

Recycling of Cremation Metals

Croydon Crematorium participates in a national scheme where metals from the cremation process are recycled. These metals include staples used in the construction of the coffin, plates and screws used to repair severely broken bones, artificial joints etc.

Any surplus monies remaining after operating and administration costs are removed are available for participating Crematoria to bid for on behalf of local bereavement related charities. The second round of nominations has just taken place and we have nominated the Lily Foundation. This is a charity that assist

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families that have children suffering from Mitochondrial Disease and its impact. Mitochondrial Disease kills children and the Lily Foundation funds research into this incurable disease in the hope that one day a cure will be found. It also supports families throughout and into bereavement, for more information follow this link www.thelilyfoundation.org.uk

We will be presenting a cheque to the charity for £5000.00 in the very near future.

The Green Flag Award

The Croydon Crematorium and Mitcham Road Cemetery site has again been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award in July 2017.

Along with our contractor Ground Control Ltd we are awaiting the results of another two awards we have entered these being the BALI Awards and London in Bloom.

Museums

The Museum of Croydon has delivered a number of pop-up exhibitions at Croydon Clocktower to support the cultural offer in Croydon.

'What is Croydon?' encouraged an active debate on social media and through visitor comment cards about the regeneration of Croydon and the impact on local communities. This will continue until the end of October, culminating in CYAC's Takeover of Croydon Clocktower, adding a youth perspective on Croydon's regeneration.

The display to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele, opened on 31 July to coincide with the launch of the offensive. Since then, we have continued to tweet the name of every Croydon person known to have died during the First World War on the anniversary of their death and a special display to support the civic commemorations is planned for Remembrance weekend, when the Battle of Passchendaele also ended.

Most recently, a film viewing pod has been installed, showing archive moving image footage from Croydon. The pod is on loan from London's Screen Archives (LSA) as part of our involvement in the London: A Bigger Picture project, which has now concluded. LSA have already shown interest in supporting Croydon's application to be the London Borough of Culture in 2019.

Gig Buddies Croydon launched in September, with an initial recruitment event at Boxpark. The scheme aims to pair up volunteers with people with learning disabilities to encourage attendance at local cultural events.

Visits in person to the Museum of Croydon's galleries at Croydon Clocktower have grown strongly in the first two quarters of 2017-18, with August seeing a 33% increase year on year. This was in part boosted by our summer events programme and the success of The Fairfield Collection and The Art of Fairfield exhibitions. These HLF supported exhibitions continue until 4 November 2017, marking 55 years since the opening of the Halls.

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Autumn / winter highlights include another major HLF supported, community led exhibition, *Gujarati Yatra: journey of a people*, which opens at Croydon Clocktower on Tuesday 14 November and Croydon Art Society's Annual Show from Tuesday 14 November to Saturday 19 December 2017.

Ashburton Hall

I was delighted to recently tour the completed refurbishment of Ashburton Hall. This has been expertly completed by one Mulally, one of the Council's contractors who mainly work on the housing estate.

The extension to the building is going up fast.

The building can be booked by the public by filling in the online form at: goo.gl/SdB1ZE

This is a wonderful example of the difference that elections make to a community. Reinforcing that democracy does work when a community comes together.



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Working Together

Community Project

We are in the very early stages of a potentially exciting local community project with an organisation called Unique Roots. A resident living close to Mitcham Road Cemetery had started the project when she began growing fruit and vegetables in her garden whilst recovering from a leg operation. Gradually the local community began taking a keen interest in her work and asking questions on how they too could grow their own products. This quickly grew into a community garden project on a piece of abandoned land by their local community centre in Valley Park. We are now looking to work with this team and utilise some unused nursery facilities within the grounds of Mitcham Road Cemetery. There are already a number of other interested parties pledging to train vulnerable young adults in recognised horticultural qualifications. The hope is that once we can get an arrangement established a new route to employment will be available for local vulnerable young adults.

Culture



Croydon is officially putting its hat in the ring to be London's first **Borough of Culture in 2019**.

The initiative, sponsored by the Mayor of London, is inspired by the UK City of Culture and European Capital of Culture programmes. Two winners (one for 2019 and one for 2020) will each receive over £1m from the Mayor of London to deliver a huge programme of events.

Importantly, the title won't go to a borough just because of their past cultural record, rather it's set to be awarded to those who show they can best use the investment to enact **real change**.

If public opinion has any sway Croydon is already way out ahead. Right now an online ITV poll asking viewers which borough they most think deserves the title has Croydon on 37% of the overall London vote.

This may be because Croydon is already starting to attract some amazing events.

Boxpark is going from strength to strength, the summertime rooftop cinema on top of Centrale has hosted classic films and DJ sets, the month-long Warhol exhibition recently took over the town centre and the Colors Croydon International Mela in Wandle Park provided the perfect platform to launch Croydon's bid for 2019.

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The Mela was a brilliant day and was extremely well-attended by a wide cross-section of the community. The main stage was full of energy and excitement and the smaller stages provided a platform for scores of dancers and performers to show off their skills and talent to the delight of the crowds. The atmosphere was brilliant and Wandle Park has shown itself to be the perfect location for events of this kind.

2019 will be the first full year of operation for the refurbished Fairfield Halls, as well as the year the London Mozart Players celebrate their 70th anniversary.

Even before that Croydon will see the London Jazz Festival come to the borough for the first time ever, and Dance Umbrella, one of the UKs most well-known and respected contemporary dance festivals, is taking a detour from their path down the Thames to bring their stunning set-piece performance to the town alongside the Croydon Dance Festival on 14 October.

London Lumiere will be coming in the spring to light up the parts of the borough with their very special brand of visual expertise.

In addition to the Mayor's promised funding, a further **£500K** is also expected to be handed to the top borough by backers including the Heritage Lottery fund and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

Croydon will look to match that cash with **£1 million of partnership investment**.

In total that would put **£2.5 million** into Croydon's cultural pot – more than enough to deliver a series of events and activities that would leave a lasting legacy and completely reshape the way people see the borough.

Due for submission in December, Croydon's bid will set out a framework to demonstrate how the 2019 programme will meet the aims of the programme to improve life chances for young people, build stronger communities, bring about reputational change, put people at the heart of physical redevelopment, and enhance the vibrancy of the local cultural sector.

For more information contact: Paula Murray, Creative Director

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