



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey January 2018

Latest News

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/>

Get Active Wandle

Get Active Wandle moves into year 3 in January and is continuing to deliver positive outcomes for Croydon. The Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust have delivered a number of physical activity sessions in Croydon as a result of our support to this project and are in contact with us regarding the activities to be delivered in year 3. These include beginners running sessions at Wandle Park, family cycle rides and BMX sessions as well as family activities.

London Youth Games

Croydon's young athletes kicked off their 2018 London Youth Games campaign with a sixth place overall finish from 33 competing boroughs at the cross-country championships staged at Parliament Hill.

Croydon's 60-plus-strong squad brought home two team medals on the day.



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The medal-winning Croydon under-15 boys' team, for whom Harley Norman finished fourth

Full article available here: <https://insidecroydon.com/2017/11/22/medal-winning-performances-from-youth-games-squad/>

Friend of Park groups

44 parks in Croydon now have a Friends of park group, with the latest addition of 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

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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.

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

Outdoor Active Spaces

The first of five new outdoor gyms for Croydon's parks officially opened in New Addington on 18 November. There were demonstrations on how to use the equipment, free goodie bags, and talks on how easy it is to swap to a healthier lifestyle.

The £90,000 facility installed by the council on the site of the former pitch and putt course on Goldcrest Way provides free-to-use fitness equipment that can be used all year round.

The council is investing a total of £370,000 in the five new gyms, with others planned for Purley Way playing fields, Upper Norwood recreation ground, King George's Field, and Grangewood Park.

The New Addington scheme has made use of cash allocated to Croydon's ward councillors each year for them to use on things that are seen as local priorities.

Mental health charity, the Matt Palmer Trust, are contributing £100,000 towards the costs of the project. The trust is a non-profit organisation whose goal is to support the mental well-being of men of all ages in the UK and Ireland.

If you missed the opportunity to attend the launch event follow the link opposite for event highlights: [New Addington Outdoor Gym Launch Event](#).





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Wandle Park Heritage Lottery Project

Wandle Park events wrapped up in December with the perennially popular seasonal wreath making workshop. This year with the added attraction of non-alcoholic mulled wine, mince pies and carol singing bringing in over 50 residents and families with 42 very handsome wreaths being made.



Earlier in November the Heritage Lottery funded Kenley Airfield Revival team were invited to host a World War Two poster making workshop in the café. They will be back in 2018 to host more WW2 heritage events in the park.

External organisations are seeing the park and its very accommodating layout as an ideal location for their events. Therefore, the Mela, Oktoberfest and firework/stunt displays all held successful events over the Autumn months. It carries on the legacy that Wandle Park has been home to entertainment for decades which this vintage poster confirms.

Early 2018 should see the Youth Offending Service designed and built totem pole finally installed in the park.



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Parklife

Parklife is a collaborative project with Sport England and the Football Foundation exploring the potential of Croydon hosting two football hubs in the borough. Two sites currently in scope are Purley Playing Fields and Ashburton Playing Fields. In the New Year this will be followed up with engagement with local residents group, and starting to think about the two parks more holistically and their wider development. First stage feasibility work has now been commissioned for both sites and work has already started. In the New Year further exploration will support initial feasibility by looking at the social outcomes that the hub sites will provide, for example: health improvement, crime prevention and improved educational attainment for NEETs.

Tennis Development

Initial findings from the Play Pitch Strategy indicate that facilities for tennis in the borough could be improved. Following the award of the new leisure contract to Better, this work will be taken forward collaboratively with the new leisure provider. Indicative plans include the reintroduction of pay and play at Addiscombe and Biggin Wood, and a number of larger investment projects at South Norwood Lake and Grounds, Ashburton Park, Trumble Gardens and Grangewood Park.

Registrars Service

Tell Us Once

We are pleased to confirm that the Tell Us Once (TUO) service for the Council went live on 14th December 2017.

Registrars are the first point of contact with bereaved families when registering a death. The Registrar will take basic details at this appointment and start an entry on the website and provide the informant with an individual, confidential reference number. The informant can then provide full details using this reference and all the necessary Council and government departments that the deceased interacted with will be notified, reducing the burden on the family at this very difficult period in their lives.

No major problems have been experienced to date with the system working well. Full details of this service will be put onto the Council website in early January

Passport Checks

Introduced in September 2017 this is a short term opportunity until the service becomes fully digitised in October 2018.

The initial target was 30 per month based upon the information that we had at the time.

Performance has far exceeded our expectations with 270 applicants using this facility from 1st October to 31st December improving our service to residents and providing additional income of over £4k during this period.

Bereavement Services

Christmas Memorial Service



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Over 130 people attended the Christmas Memorial Service on Sunday 10th December with over £200 being raised for charity

A new programme of events for 2017 is currently being finalised and will be distributed in January.

New Burial Land

A new planning application to extend Greenlawns Memorial Park has been submitted to Tandridge District Council following a full review of our previous application and appeal feedback addressing any issues raised.

The application will be discussed at the Tandridge District Councils Planning Committee meeting in February 2018.

Museum & Archives

In November 2017, the Museum & archives team recruited their first Apprentice as part of the Council's 2017 cohort. Abundance Matanda is following a Level 3, Cultural Heritage Apprenticeship, accredited by the National College of Creative Industries. She will be with us for at least 12 months and works Tuesday - Saturday based at Croydon Town Hall & Clocktower.

Sam Ali, also successfully graduated from his Cultural heritage trainee programme in November, along with the rest of the final cohort of HLF funded 'Skills for the future' trainees to have been trained and supported by Culture&.

November also saw the launch of 'Gujarati Yatra: journey of a people' exhibition at Croydon Clocktower, which follows the inter-generational migration of the Gujarati people from India to Africa and the UK. Croydon's historic links with this community are also explored through the East India Company's Military Training School at Addiscombe. The exhibition is one of the outputs of Subrang Arts' HLF funded project and continues at Croydon Clocktower until 14 April 2018. Croydon Art Society also held a successful launch event for their Annual Show at Croydon Clocktower in November / December 2017.

2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the foundation of Croydon School of Art, one of the borough's key cultural institutions. It was established by the Literary & Scientific Society in 1868 and, from very early in its history, had a close relationship with the Council. The Museum of Croydon's new exhibition displays 35 works from many of the artists who had connections with the School, either as students, visiting teachers or lecturers. These range from late Victorian watercolours and oils depicting Croydon in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, to graphic prints and abstract paintings from artists such as Richard Allen (1933 - 1999), John Hoyland (1934 - 2011) and Bridget Riley (b. 1931). Local artist Norman Partridge (1921 - 2002) was a student at the School from the age of 16 and two works by him, depicting the interior of the studios and teaching rooms, have been specifically purchased for this exhibition. 'Croydon School of Art' is on display in the Exhibition Gallery at Croydon Clocktower, from 20 December 2017 to 14 April 2018. The exhibition is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10.30am - 5pm (except public holidays). Entrance to the exhibition is free.



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2018 is also the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act, which first gave some women the right to vote in the UK. The Museum of Croydon are participating in the HLF supported '100 Banners' project, which will produce banners inspired by the partner organisations historic collections. These will be displayed in central London in Spring 2018, before being accessioned to the Museum of Croydon collections and displayed locally to mark the centenary. Lead officer: Lindsay Ould, Borough archivist.

Rob Shakespeare will be leaving Croydon Council after 14 years as, initially, Museum Education Manager and, since 2007, Museum & archives manager. He will be joining the City of London from 5 March 2018, in the role of Principle Curator (Keats House).]

Business as usual for Croydon libraries

I am pleased to say that it's business as usual for all our Croydon libraries following the collapse of Carillion. I am pleased that we have been able to keep our libraries open and keep staff in their jobs by bringing the service back within Croydon Council and I ask you to bear with us while the transition takes place.

I'd like to thank library staff for their dedication and professionalism, particularly in dif cult circumstances.

Over the coming months we will be involving residents, as well as staff, in the task of improving our much loved libraries. Together we can build an even better library service that's an integral part of the council.

South Norwood Library is on the move

In 2019, South Norwood library is moving to a new central location, 24 Station Road, providing an opportunity to deliver a 'library for the future' in a purpose-built space. In this building, the new library will be all on one floor and users will have access to the same number of books as now as well as more computer and study spaces. This is part of Croydon's wider plans to develop the service by equipping our libraries with the latest digital technology, in fit-for-purpose buildings, so that more people can benefit from what is on offer.

Local people have been asked for their views through the council's Get Involved platform and the council has so far had a very positive response to the proposals. Whilst books are overwhelmingly the most important feature residents have also indicated that free wifi, access to computers and printers, access for local community and advice groups, access to wider council services, a local meeting space, study spaces and evening opening hours are important. The survey closes on January 14.



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Innovative school performances at Central Library

The Brit school teamed up with Central Library to offer free schools performances. The show featured walking talking books and a short interactive workshop at the beginning and at the end of the performance piece and was performed by Year 12 students. Four hundred and fifty school children saw the performances, which took place in mid-December.

Tailoring the service to local community needs

We have been working with our provider to provide a more targeted approach to introducing new book stock that reflects the needs and interests of local communities – for example in Broad Green library Tamil language books make up 50% of adult loans and the library will be stocking more Tamil language books.

Cultural and Community events

Our libraries continue to offer a range of community and cultural events for all ages ranging from the ever popular rhymetime and wiggle and jiggle events for pre-school children, to Autumn and Christmas crafts for older children and adults, to talks, health events, homework clubs and job clubs. Events and activities programmed to take place from January to March 2018 include LGBT history month, Harry Potter book night, a range of half term creative activities, Chinese New Year activities, author talks, National Careers Week, local history events, health and wellbeing events and Shakespeare week.