



Culture, Leisure and Sport

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Oliver Lewis

January 2020

LATEST NEWS

London Borough of Culture Bid

Croydon was one of 7 boroughs to bid for the latest round of London Borough of Culture titles and we have bid for 2023. If successful, we would receive £1.35 million from the GLA and would hope to pull in significant amounts of partnership funding taking the overall budget to over £4 million. Our bid included large scale events with companies like Arcadia from the Glastonbury Festival, an open access fund of £500,000 for local community projects, a structured approach to involve all our neighbourhoods and communities via 23 beacons situated across the borough, a new structure for decision making linked to the Big Conversation and the Culture Network set up after the previous Borough of Culture bid in 2017 and new investment programmes in social prescribing and job creation in the culture and creative industries. Our bid, [This is Croydon](#), has been shortlisted to become London's Borough of Culture 2023. This means we will now go forward to compete against seven other shortlisted boroughs in the final round of bidding in January 2020. Interviews will be held on 17 January which is when we will be launching our bid publically and on social media, and when we will really need you to show your support.

Pantomime returned to Fairfield with Cinderella

The festive season saw a return of pantomime to Fairfield Halls with Cinderella. Over 24,000 people attended with 16,000 of them being Croydon residents and 50 schools saw a stellar cast with Tim Vine making a welcome return to pantomime as the lovable Buttons, Cat Sandion as the Fairy Godmother and 2016 Strictly winner Ore Oduba as Dandini against a magical set in the Phoenix Concert Hall.

Museum of Croydon

Museum of Croydon has had an exciting end of exhibition programming for 2019 as it makes final preparations for the upcoming Trial and Test 2020 year. 2020 will see a programme of 9 temporary exhibitions all led by local artists, communities and organisations taking over museum spaces to reveal new stories of Croydon and a different understanding of our collections. For 2019, we finished with Croydon Art Society from 18th November until 9th December. Whilst our galleries upstairs are closed in preparation for the New Year, our very own apprentice Ben Szuts curated

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#Faves which has brought staff and volunteers favourite pieces from the art collection out on display for the first time.

Our 2020 programme will start on 1st February with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society photography exhibition in the atrium. Play for Progress will be joining us in the exhibition gallery through creating contemporary works and photography display by unaccompanied minor refugees whilst Good Wolf will be exploring Croydon's rich literary and storytelling history upstairs in the Now Gallery. A programme of activities and workshops along with our first Museum Late event will follow – watch this space! This approach to programming will help us shape our vision for the Museum going forward and help us understand further our collections and what they mean to our residents. We are really relying on as many people to attend as possible and to feedback on our programme.

Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) and Music City

CEZ Website due to launch in January

The Croydon Creative Enterprise Zone website is currently in the final stages of development and will serve as a one-stop-shop for the borough's creative, cultural and music sectors. The site will host a directory, where organisations can create a profile featuring photos, video and audio to showcase what they do, as well as contain information about support, spaces and events in Croydon. The site is due to soft launch during January for testing by member organisations of the CEZ consortium.

Industry steering group established

The Croydon Music City Industry Steering group has been established and have held their first meeting. The group will be driving forward the activity relating to the music city initiative by establishing priorities, co-creating projects and promoting Croydon to the wider music industry. The group consists of the following people:

- Kiarn Eslami: Live Nation – festivals, events and new talent lead (Chair)
- Romano Sidoli: Former MD of the New Musical Express (Media and Brand Partnerships lead)
- Tony Nwachukwu: Head of CDR (Artist development and Music Education lead)
- Graeme Miall: Longtime promoter and booker BBC London Jazz Festival, Hideaways (Promotions and tours lead)
- Esther Sutton: Oval Tavern (Croydon Grassroots venues lead)

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Christmas Market “Live Lodge”

In December, 20 local musicians and artists took part in the Christmas Market “Live Lodge” – a joint initiative between Croydon BID and Croydon Music City that enabled musicians to play to shoppers and sell their merchandise. Additional support was provided by local youth music organisation Setting Da Standards (SDS), who accompanied younger artists and provided technical assistance.

Libraries

New IT infrastructure

Library customers can now access the internet using brand new computer equipment and enjoy faster network speeds following the installation of full fibre broadband in 11 libraries. The two remaining libraries, Coulsdon Library and South Norwood Library, will be updated in January. Croydon have replaced over 200 public PCs across 13 libraries to improve the service. As part of the installation, Council colleagues will also be able to access the Council network so they can deliver their services in any Croydon Library.

The Library Consortium

On 4th November, Croydon libraries joined The Libraries Consortium and transferred to a new modern library management system, shared with 16 other boroughs. Now Croydon residents have access over 6 million books available to reserve free of charge for delivery to any Croydon library. Search for titles on the new Croydon Library [website](#) or use the new MyLibraryApp available as an app for iPhone or Android phones. New system features include notifications by email or text to alert customers when books are due to be returned, and app allows renewals at the click of a button.

Our customers can now access books and internet services in other libraries across 16 London Borough with a Croydon Library card: Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge, Brent, Kingston upon Thames, Sutton, Ealing, Lewisham, Tower Hamlets, Enfield, Luton, Waltham Forest, Hackney, Merton, Harrow, Newham.

Croydon Libraries ran a Facebook and Twitter campaign to highlight MyLibraryApp and all the resources available.



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Croydon Libraries @CroydonLibs · Dec 13, 2019

12 days to Christmas @CroydonLibs loaned to me...

@BorrowBox full of eBooks & eAudio! #Letitloan #lovelibraries #lovetoread @yourcroydon

Available from #MyLibraryApp using your library card. Download now ow.ly/a4mv30q1gsb ow.ly/B5qJ30q1gtp bit.ly/CroydonLibrari...



Norbury Outdoor Space

New fitness equipment comes to Norbury Park

A new Outdoor Active Space in Norbury Park has been installed and was unveiled at a special opening event at 10.30am on Saturday 11 January. There were also demonstrations and taster sessions on all of the equipment from community organisations Mental Muscle and Gloves Not Guns.

An outdoor active space is a free-to-use gym, this is the fifth and final facility in the current programme which has been funded by the council with support from The Matt Palmer Trust, a non-profit organisation supporting the mental wellbeing of men. The planning process also included local residents and park users who were given the opportunity to decide the Outdoor Active Space location and the type of fitness equipment included.

There are now a total of ten council outdoor gyms across the borough. Information on where to find the nearest Outdoor Active Space can be found at the following link: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/parksandopenspaces/outdoor-active-spaces>

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