



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

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## Latest News

### OUR PARKS: *New free exercise programme comes to Croydon Parks*

The council with GLL are introducing 20 hours of FREE exercise classes per week across Croydon Parks. The programme is being delivered across four Borough Parks and will consist of classes such as Buggy Exercise, Bootcamp, Yoga, Back to Exercise and many more. All classes are suitable for all levels of abilities and are run by fully qualified instructors.

The programme started 14th May and will be available at the following Parks:

- Milne Park
- Ashburton Park
- South Norwood Lake & Grounds
- Park Hill Recreation Ground

To find out more about the Our Parks Croydon programme and to sign up for free visit [www.ourparks.org.uk](http://www.ourparks.org.uk)

### Leisure Centre Open Days

I am delighted to announce a number of Open Days are taking place within our leisure centres and will continue throughout the year. Opening up the leisure centres to the local community to try the facilities, take part in fitness classes, meet the managers and find out about the improvements coming to the facilities and neighbouring parks.

- Thornton Heath – 28<sup>th</sup> July
- Waddon – 18<sup>th</sup> August
- Purley – 8<sup>th</sup> September
- New Addington – 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- Monks Hill – Date tbc
- Arena tbc



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## GLL Sports Foundation

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June I was delighted to be invited to the wealth of young sporting talent event within Croydon which I found truly inspiring.

Forty eight talented young athletes from Croydon will benefit from funding and will be supported through the GLL Sport Foundation (GSF), which is the largest independent athlete support programme in the UK.

The athlete awards cover Olympic, Paralympic, Deaflympic, Special Olympic and Commonwealth sporting disciplines. With a staggering 90% of award recipients receiving no other sport funding and 72% of recipients being aged under 21, the GLL Sport Foundation has highlighted a vital funding gap for young talented athletes currently competing at National and International levels.

I am sure you will join me to wish our athlete every success during this funding programme. Applications for the next round will be in December 2018 for funding in 2019.

## Parks

### **Wandle Park**

'Summertime and the living is easy' sang Ella Fitzgerald fifty years ago and the park is doing its best to make the season an easy time for residents by hitting the ground running in June with two back to back events.

The 9<sup>th</sup> June saw the annual environmental fair with a good representation of our green and community based groups, with campaigning, upcycled/recycled goods, saffron farm, Fairtrade, Friends of the Earth, Rainforest Alliance, Amnesty, friends groups, community builders and the latest ponds project. Add to the mix live, easy listening music in the bandstand pervading the air, a bar serving cool Pimms and the café foodstall serving their delicious curried food making a lovely day out in the park with some 300+ people coming along.

The Summer of Love festival launched on the 16<sup>th</sup> June. This year the Park had the pleasure of hosting the launch of the Peace Festival. This involved the bandstand being taken over by the London Mozart Players to perform along with the choir from Ecclesbourne School the collaborative Anthem for Peace. Some 1,000 people engaged with the event during the day with live music from 1200-1930, bar and foodstalls, meditation, traders and awareness raising stalls. For the children there was hooping, story telling in a wigwam, juggling, a bubble fairy and her grotto along



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with craft making activities. The weather stayed kind and the vibe and good community/family feel was commented on by numerous people.



In future months Wandle Park will host Croydon Symphonic Band, London Rivers Week event, the Garden Party, CODA with Romeo and Juliet, Live and Unplugged and a sports tournament, Croydon Pride Festival and the Mela.

## London Youth Games

With the London Youth Games season reaching full swing, we prepare for finals weekend on 7<sup>th</sup> July with a flurry of events and competitions taking place before the season finale at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. A highlights results to date include:

- Para Swimming Boys reclaimed the trophy with a fantastic team performance. The squad was made up from swimmers who attend the Active Lifestyles Team's inclusive swimming sessions.
- Over recent weeks Croydon has achieved top 5 positions in; Trampolining, ParaGames Football (Female), Tennis, Table Tennis (Male), Handball (Female), Judo (Female) and earlier in the year Cross Country (Male)
- Croydon currently sit 7<sup>th</sup> overall with plenty of sports still to go including volleyball, sailing and the finals of the basketball where the boys are hoping to improve upon last years 4<sup>th</sup> position.



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## Active Norbury Goes Live!

Norbury Park 'got active' this weekend with members of the local community taking part in Yoga, Cricket and BMX sessions; an introduction and taster to the activities that are being delivered within the park over the summer.



The Active Spaces initiative supports the delivery of programmes that directly aims to get inactive people in the community more active. Funded through Fields in Trust and Active Wandle Valley, Active Norbury encourages a behaviour change within the population to be more active and provides the members of the local community with the opportunity to access their local park and engage them in regular physical activity. The funding has been used to provide a programme of activity at Norbury Park for young people, families and older people throughout the summer months. Working with delivery partners including, Access Sport, Surrey Cricket Foundation and Our Parks, the programme is made up of BMX sessions (for women and girls, and young people and their families), cricket sessions (for young people aged between 8 and 14 years old) and physical activity sessions (adults).

## Culture

### **Fairfield visit**

I had the pleasure of a visit over to see the work going on in the Fairfield Halls building last month in the company of the incoming venue director Neil Chandler. It was great to see the stripped out spaces and get a sense of the space that we will have in the venue and by talking to Neil an idea of the activities that will be filling the place.



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## Grafton Quarter: Art House

Artist Studio Company are moving to Croydon with a purpose built facility which delivers 104 artist studio spaces. This is a much needed and excellent development for Croydon and will be the biggest facility that Artist Studio Company have. The spaces are a range of sizes for different artists or groups of artists, there are meeting spaces, a large reception space and a gallery.

Artist Studio  
Company's 104  
studio plus art  
gallery  
development in  
the Grafton  
Quarter



## **Croydon PrideFest and Croydon International Mela**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

The middle weekend in July sees two fantastic free events for our residents and visitors. Croydon PrideFest, now in its third year, will start with a parade along North End from 11.30am, along to Wandle Park where from 12pm there will be live music and entertainment all afternoon and evening, and a dance tent open until 10pm.

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Confirmed acts include Asifa Lahore, star of Channel 4's 'Muslim Drag Queens', and singer songwriter Christopher Haul. Other acts will be available on the Croydon PrideFest website in the coming weeks, but the day promises something for everyone.

Croydon International Mela on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> also at Wandle Park will be another event for all the family full of music, dance and food.



## Registrars Service

### Locality Working

We are advancing plans for closer working with Bereavement Services and the introduction of locality working and improve accessibility by preparing to trial birth and death registrations from the office at Croydon Crematorium on 1 day per week.

It is hoped that this trial will commence in July and, dependent upon its success, other venues will be introduced.

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## Bereavement Services

### **Cremation Metals Recycling Scheme**

We have just completed the nomination period for the distribution of surplus monies from the national cremation metal recycling scheme.

This time we have nominated SLOW a charity supporting bereaved parents and siblings, run by bereaved parents. For ten years they have held drop in support meetings for bereaved parents in North London and recently after extensive research and planning they have opened a South London branch to offer daytime weekly support groups in Streatham Hill.

SLOW offers a place of refuge for bereaved parents and the groups are open to all who have suffered the devastating loss of a child. Grieving parents can and often do feel alone, disconnected and alienated - losing a child can have a profound effect on family life. The SLOW service is an important part of supporting local people through daily life and challenges with the aim of promoting physical and mental well-being.

We will soon be presenting a cheque for £5,000.00 to this very worthwhile cause.

### **New Burial Land**

Our new planning application to extend the Greenlawns Memorial Park is to go before Tandridge DC Planning Committee in July/August.

### **Events**

Both Bereavement and Registration Services attended the 'Dying Matters' conference held at the Braithwaite Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May at the start of Dying Matters week

Dying Matters is a coalition of 32,000 members across England and Wales which aims to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement, and to make plans for the end of life.

Every year in May, Dying Matters and their coalition members host an Awareness Week, which provides an unparalleled opportunity to place the importance of talking about dying, death and bereavement firmly on the national agenda.

This was followed on 15<sup>th</sup> May with our Know Your Funeral Rights seminar held at the Crematorium to further support this initiative.