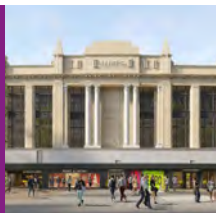


# OUR CROYDON

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## P7

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[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)



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# Welcome to our Croydon



Jason Perry,  
Executive Mayor  
of Croydon

## Dear resident

**I am proud to be Croydon born and bred. I want to feel this pride every day when I walk through my hometown.**

As Executive Mayor, I have prioritised making our streets cleaner and safer, with investment in street cleaning, grass cutting, parks and green spaces, and a programme of blitz cleans borough wide.

Most residents share this pride. They do their bit to keep our borough looking its best, from our fantastic street champions and friends of parks, to everyone who simply does the right thing and disposes of their waste responsibly.

## **It is time for us to stand up to the minority who spoil it.**

Croydon residents are rightly fed up with lawbreakers who commit crime and antisocial behaviour on our streets, whether that is dumping rubbish illegally or abandoning cars. Our communities want tough action.

That is why from now on, we are taking a zero-tolerance approach. To the fly-tippers, the fraudsters and anyone else who flouts the law, my message is clear: Croydon will no longer be seen as a soft touch.

Criminals who blight our borough will face the consequences. We are putting boots on the ground to track them and seek the toughest penalties against them whether that is a fine or a day in court. Find out more (p7).

As well as restoring pride through cleaner, safer streets, we are looking to the future, bringing new investment into Croydon, to create new jobs, new homes and new opportunities. Find out about the latest town centre

developments, from the new shops opening as 'Alders Parade' and the restoration of the historic landmark Alders building. (p3). We are working with communities across Croydon to invest in our district centres, from Selsdon to South Norwood, New Addington to Thornton Heath. Find out how we are using UK Shared Prosperity funds to boost business, celebrate character and bring communities together (p19 and p20). I am also delighted to introduce our new community bases - a new chapter for four former library buildings (p9 and p10).

I hope you enjoy looking back at some of the fantastic cultural and community events from this summer in Croydon, from the Croydon Food and Music Festival (p5) to Croydon Gladi Gladi (p17). During Black History Month in October, it is a perfect time to celebrate a Croydon legend, globally renowned composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, with a specially commissioned concert marking his anniversary (p18).

Taking action in autumn can help us to stay warm and well this winter (p25). Council crews are already preparing to help everyone stay safe in the colder weather - read about our gritting plans (p26). And do not forget to save the date now for our hugely popular festive celebration - A Very Croydon Christmas (p18)!

---

**Jason Perry**

Executive Mayor of Croydon



## OUR TOWN CENTRE

# Alders Parade: new shops breathe new life into Croydon landmark

**A relaunch is under way at the historic Alders building, as Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW) announce the Alders Parade of new shops to revitalise this much-loved landmark in the heart of our town centre.**

Founded in 1862, Alders served generations of Croydon residents and became one of the best-known department stores in the country before closing its doors in 2013. Now, over 150 years since it first opened, the building is being given a new lease of life.

The front of the North End building has been sensitively refurbished, allowing for four new shops and two food and drink units, providing a mix of local, regional and national businesses – a strong vote of confidence in Croydon's future.

Confirmed tenants include: Coco and Nut, a local coffee shop and café; Isle of Flowers, a London-wide florist; Melting Memories, a much-loved gelateria returning to Alders; Abaci, a fashion retailer; Miniso, lifestyle and design-led product retailer and Sky, the national digital media provider.

The shops will open in a phased approach, with the first two opening in September and then two more every fortnight.

Adam Smith, Strategic Development Director at Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield, said: "The launch of Alders Parade represents a key milestone in our plans for Croydon's future. Our ambition is to collaborate with local people to design a vibrant mixed-use destination with new homes, public spaces, revitalised retail and leisure and sustainability at its heart. Alders Parade is the start of realising this vision, and we're delighted to welcome these exciting new retailers to Croydon."

Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon, said: "I was given a tour in the summer to see how Alders Parade was progressing, and it was great to see how this landmark building is being preserved and brought back into use for our residents to enjoy again. I'm continuing to work with URW as they progress their masterplan to redevelop the Whitgift Centre, refurbish Centrale and reimagine Alders.

"Meanwhile, I am delivering a dozen projects to create a vibrant, green and well-connected town centre – all part of my Town Centre Vision to attract new homes, businesses, visitors and investment for our borough."



Alders Parade will soon be opening in North End

## Town centre regeneration continues with new Wellesley Road crossing

**Work on the new surface-level pedestrian and cycle crossing on Wellesley Road is expected to be complete before Christmas.**

This new toucan crossing will replace the existing underpass, which is being permanently filled in as part of the project.

The crossing will significantly improve connectivity between Croydon town centre and East Croydon, making it easier for residents, workers, and visitors to navigate the area.

This is part of a £30m package of town centre improvements which will improve connections, public spaces and wayfinding across the town centre, while also celebrating Croydon's rich heritage.

The programme supports Executive Mayor Jason Perry's Town Centre Vision and Croydon Growth Plan 2025 – aimed at restoring pride and attracting new visitors, residents, businesses, and investors to Croydon.



Other town centre improvement works are progressing, including:

- **Dingwall Road junction with Lansdowne Road:** Enhancements to layout and new safe crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **George Street:** Upgraded paving, improved drainage, and new fencing between tram tracks and the highway.
- **Croydon Minster area:** Scheduled to start early next year, these works will improve public realm, safety through lighting and celebrate the Minster's and wider area's rich heritage.



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## OUR TOWN CENTRE

# Thousands flock to Croydon Food and Music Festival

**South Croydon was buzzing with energy as more than 9,500 visitors poured into the restaurant quarter for the much-anticipated Croydon Food and Music Festival 2025.**

After a year's break, the festival made a triumphant return, transforming the streets into a vibrant celebration of global flavours and live entertainment.

Festival-goers indulged in mouthwatering dishes from 35 food and drink stalls, each offering a taste of international cuisine – from sizzling street food to sweet treats. The air was filled with music and laughter as a diverse lineup of performers kept the crowds dancing and smiling all day long.

Executive Mayor Jason Perry, who supported the event through his Festival Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Funding, said he was thrilled to see the festival back in action: "It was fantastic to see our community come together to celebrate Croydon's rich culture and creativity. Thank you to the organisers and local businesses for putting on another great event."

Croydon Food and Music Festival 2025 is organised by the independent South Croydon Business Association and creatively delivered by White Label Creative.



Photography by Glenn Foster

The 2025 festival was partially funded by UK Shared Prosperity Funds and supported by the Executive Mayor of Croydon's Festival Fund. London South Bank University Croydon were an associate partner this year.



## Historic drinking fountain makes a splash

**The landmark Victorian drinking fountain and commemorative plaque on the corner of the High Street and Surrey Street in central Croydon have been restored and returned to their former glory.**

Built in 1896, on the corner formally known as Stevenson's Corner, the drinking fountain is a rare example of its type, built of granite and terracotta. It was unveiled by the then Civic Mayor of Croydon, Frederick Thomas Edridge.

The plaque explains how the space was designed as part of road widening of the High Street at the same time as the current Town Hall was built. The original Town Hall Garden, now part of The Queen's Gardens, was also opened at this time.

The restoration works are part of the council's Amplifying Surrey Street project and the Executive Mayor's Town Centre Vision. Largely funded by a grant from the Heritage of London Trust, the works

have been carried out by London Stone Conservation.

They include cleaning, repairs to the stonework and terracotta, repairing and reinstating original metalwork, and providing new drainage, water supply and push-button operation.

Hundreds of children from local schools have been involved in the renewal works through the Heritage of London Trust's Proud Places youth engagement programme, which helps young people gain important life skills.

Dr Nicola Stacey, Director, Heritage of London Trust, said: "We are delighted to be supporting the restoration of this historic fountain in the heart of Croydon – a source of much local pride 130 years ago. It's

been fantastic to involve Croydon's young people in the project through our Proud Places programme."

The fountain is now fully

functional, providing clean drinking water from the lion's mouth and helping to reduce the use of single use plastic bottles.



Pupils from Park Hill Junior School and Krishna Avanti Primary School



# Paw-some news for your parks

**Our parks investment programme is about helping more people to make the most of Croydon's fantastic parks, more often.**

Over the next six months work will start on more new playgrounds, outdoor gyms, upgraded pathways and even dedicated dog parks for our four-legged friends.

Children in New Addington and Thornton Heath will enjoy new playgrounds at Rowdown and Trumble Gardens. Local residents will get a chance to see plans before they are built and have

their say.

We are building new outdoor gyms in Addiscombe Rec, Mayfield Road in Thornton Heath, Shirley Church Rec, South Norwood Lake and The Lawns in Upper Norwood.

To make our parks more accessible in the wetter months, we will improve paths at Norbury Hall; Sanderstead Rec; Shirley Church Rec; South Norwood

Country Park and Westow Park in Upper Norwood.

We are also hoping to finalise details of the borough's first dog parks soon. These will be separate areas where owners will be allowed to have their dog off the lead.

If you are a dog owner, please make sure you always have your dog under control and always pick up any waste they create.



The outdoor gym at Lloyd Park



## More Green Flags for Croydon's green spaces

**We have doubled the number of Croydon parks that can fly the prestigious Green Flag.**

Coulsdon Memorial Ground, Happy Valley, Wandle Park and Wettren Tree Garden have been recognised and rewarded as among the best parks and green spaces in the UK.

This is thanks to the work of our fantastic volunteers, Friends of Parks groups, council officers and partners in all four parks.

The awards, which come from charity Keep Britain Tidy, follow significant investment in Croydon's parks and green spaces.

Improvements have seen better schedules for grass cutting,

upgraded playgrounds, and new paths, making them more accessible for all residents to enjoy.

Croydon is home to 127 parks and green spaces that play an important role in helping residents and communities keep active and boost wellbeing.

Investment in and improvements to parks is one of Executive Mayor Jason Perry's priorities to make Croydon cleaner, safer and healthier.

Xabier Mendez, parks and green spaces development manager, said: "My job allows

me to meet so many passionate people and friends of parks groups who love our parks so much and look after them. If any groups are interested in putting their park forward for a Community Green Flag Award, I ask them to get in touch at parks@croydon.gov.uk so we can help them through the application process."

If you want to help improve your local park you can join a Friends group or become a Street Champion. Contact champions@croydon.gov.uk for more information.

**£600k**  
improvement programme

**10** new playgrounds  
in 2 years

**6** weeks between  
grass cuts in parks

**4** green spaces  
awarded green flags

COMING SOON

**4** new outdoor gyms

## All set for autumn leafing

**Each year between October and December, deciduous trees shed the bulk of their leaves.**

Clearing the leaves will be part of the street cleaning service. Where there are more trees, we'll have extra patrols out to clear fallen leaves from roads and pavements.

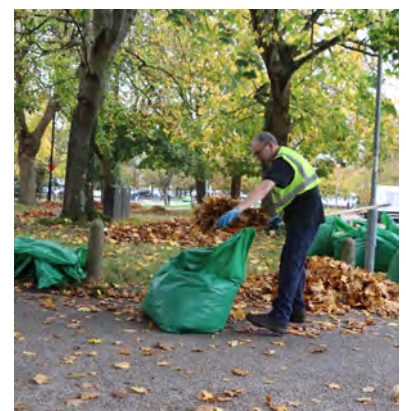
This helps to prevent blocked

drains and reduce slippery surfaces during wet weather, keeping our streets cleaner and safer.

If you want to get involved, you can help by sweeping up leaves

and clearing any away from drains, or report excessive leaf fall to us on Love Clean Streets.

[Croydon.gov.uk/lovecleanstreets](https://croydon.gov.uk/lovecleanstreets)



## CLEANER CROYDON

WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR A CLEANER BOROUGH

# New on-street squad to track fly-tippers

**Croydon Council is boosting its environmental crime crackdown with a squad of on-street officers - after residents overwhelmingly backed tough action to tackle fly-tippers.**

In the summer, we launched a new compliance team to track lawbreakers - those who illegally dump rubbish on our streets and commit environmental crimes that blight our borough.

The officers mean extra boots on the ground and help in our fight against fly-tipping.

The team will use a range of enforcement approaches, ranging from warnings to £1,000 fines, Community Protection Notices (CPN), and prosecution for more deliberate and serious offences.

This follows a recent survey, in which 97% of respondents said they think it's important that the council enforces against environmental crimes.

Last year clearing fly-tips cost the council over £1m. By recruiting more officers, the council will be able to focus on more robust enforcement work - which has seen recent successful prosecutions including a fly-tipper from Thornton Heath who was ordered to pay £7,951, and a business in Kilmartin Avenue, Norbury where three abandoned vehicles were removed.

The survey on the council's

environmental enforcement policy ran from 1 July to 31 August.

When we asked people which environmental crimes are the biggest nuisance, fly-tipping and other waste activities topped the list.

Respondents also told us they wanted to take a zero-tolerance approach to these offences - with a maximum use of fines.

Through the survey, residents reported several hotspot areas where waste on private land is an issue. We'll use this information alongside reports from Love Clean Streets to work with landowners to improve these unsightly areas.

Ken, a member of the new compliance team, said: "The things I see dumped on the streets are shocking - from old mattresses to food waste. It shows a blatant disregard for our neighbourhoods, and can pose a serious health risk."

"Our team will be on street investigating fly-tips and other crimes, and we look forward to working with residents to keep our streets clean and safe for everyone."

Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon, said: "I share residents'

anger about fly-tipping. This is about standing up for decent, law-abiding people and taking our streets back. We are putting more officers on the ground to track down those who think they can get away with trashing our borough - those who blight it will face tough action every time."

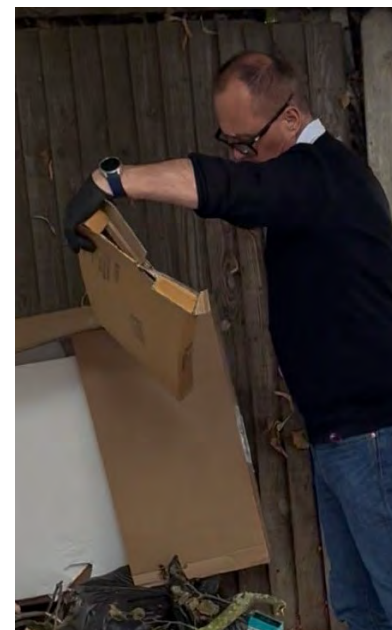


Compliance officer Ken investigates a fly-tip with Executive Mayor Jason Perry

“

Our team will be on street investigating fly-tips and other crimes, and we look forward to working with residents to keep our streets clean and safe for everyone.

”



## What is fly-tipping?

### Fly-tipping is dumping waste illegally.

That can range from a single bag of household rubbish to large amounts of commercial or industrial waste, dumped anywhere it shouldn't be. That could be a street, private land, or alleyway.

Fly-tipping is a major concern for residents. It makes streets look run down and uncared for and can lead to other types of antisocial behaviour.

It is also a serious criminal offence - one that can result in a £1,000 Fixed Penalty Fine (FPN), or an unlimited fine or a prison sentence if taken to court.

Last year we spent over £1m clearing fly-tips in Croydon - money that could be spent on services for local people.

**Seen a fly-tip?** Report fly-tips and other waste issues

on Love Clean Streets.

**Want to help us track down the fly-tippers?** If you have proof of who is responsible for a fly-tip and you are willing to be a witness, you can help. Find out more:

[croydon.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/fly-tipping](https://croydon.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/fly-tipping)

Some residents leave reusable items on the street for others to take as a form of recycling or sharing.

While well-intentioned, this is not effective as it is considered fly-tipping and the items that could be reused may get damaged. Instead, please take to one of our household reuse and recycling centres, or a local charity shop and gift aid them - that's a double benefit.





# Executive Mayor issues warning to fraudsters

**“If you don’t pay your way, expect your car to be taken away”**

**Croydon Council has started removing vehicles on public roads which have had their registration details deliberately hidden or disguised by drivers.**

This is in response to residents’ complaints about the practice.

Motorists conceal their vehicle for a number of reasons, such as avoiding buying parking permits, not having to pay for a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN), or so they can be stored on the road while work is carried out or the vehicle is offered for sale – all of which are illegal.

The new enforcement action is part of the council’s new zero-tolerance approach to tackling antisocial behaviour – making sure persistent offenders are held to account.

Obscuring a vehicle’s registration is a growing national problem, with people sharing online how they think they can get away with it.

Perpetrators mask the vehicle’s ownership by covering number plates and vehicle identification numbers, altering the plates or removing them.

If we find vehicles without registration plates in Croydon, we will issue them with a 24-hour notice to display their identity, or we will remove them.

Once removed, the owner will need to prove ownership and pay a release fee of £280, alongside a daily charge of £55. After 28 days, if the vehicle remains unclaimed, we will either dispose of it or sell it.

Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon, said: Over the past year we have removed many abandoned cars from Croydon’s streets. Now we are also focusing on cars that have their identities

deliberately hidden.

“It is not fair that residents struggle to find parking spaces because illegal cars are in their place. Nor is it fair that others are getting away with not paying for parking in controlled areas.

“Croydon will no longer be seen as a soft touch or a place where people can commit antisocial acts without consequence. If you do not pay your way, expect your car to be towed away.”

## Crackdown on blue badge fraud continues

We’re continuing to crack down on fraudsters who misuse blue badges, taking away valuable parking spaces from those who truly need them.



**Crackdown on blue badge fraud continues. Since May, we have enforced:**

**13** Court summons issued

**59** Blue badges confiscated

**44** Fines issued

**26** Cars towed

# £7k fine for fly-tipper

**Croydon Council has sent a clear message to anyone thinking of dumping waste illegally – we will find you, and we will take you to court.**

A man from Thornton Heath was successfully prosecuted for fly-tipping and ordered to pay £7,951 in penalties by Croydon Magistrates’ Court.

Muhammad Ali, 46, pleaded guilty to the offence, blaming his inexperience as a renovator and his contractors who he claimed had agreed to properly dispose of the waste.

Total penalties included a fine of £890, the council’s full costs of £6,705.71, and a victim surcharge of £356, totalling £7,951.71.

The offence took place in August 2023 when a councillor discovered a fly-tip consisting of waste from a renovation on the green between Pollards Hill West and Pollards Hill South.

Council officers investigated and found evidence

which led them to Mr Ali whose business was in London Road. Building works were taking place. Despite requests, Mr Ali did not provide details of how waste from the works was being disposed of.

This and other prosecutions in the pipeline are part of the Executive Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry’s priority of making Croydon cleaner, safer and healthier, and restoring pride in the borough.

Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon, said: “Whether it’s abandoned cars, selling illegal tobacco products or fly-tipping, we won’t tolerate this behaviour in Croydon, and we will make those responsible pay for their actions. The Council is actively working to reduce these crimes, with several prosecutions planned over the coming months.”



**Fly-tipped waste from the building works**



# Turning the page: introducing our new community bases

Plans are under way to transform four of Croydon's former libraries into new community bases, making sure these much-loved buildings continue to serve our residents in the heart of their neighbourhoods.

These four library buildings became community hubs as part of a redesign to improve the library service and ensure every library was able to be open at least five days a week.

The Executive Mayor of Croydon Jason Perry, committed to making sure the buildings remained as community spaces, inviting local

groups to apply to run their services from the buildings.

The successful organisations have now been chosen, with each one offering something unique for residents and marking the start of a new chapter for these local landmarks.

## The Story Sanctuary: A new creative home in Sanderstead Library



A Collective has previously run some brilliant activities for neurodivergent children in the Whitgift Centre.

**The former Sanderstead Library will reopen its doors as The Story Sanctuary, a new creative health and wellbeing hub, offering a space for people of all ages to connect through stories and creativity.**

The centre will be run by a non-profit organisation that helps people get involved in the arts, A Collective. The founder, Jill Finch, lives in Sanderstead, and she and her team have extensive experience of co-designing community arts projects. She plans to develop a rich and joyful programme of events and services, shaped with and for those in the village and Croydon's wider neurodivergent and LGBTQIA+ communities.

Jill said: "The new use for the building acknowledges its legacy as a library but evolves it to support a broader range of community needs - a space to make, share, rest, laugh, and reconnect.

"Throughout autumn and winter, we'll be in a gentle settling in stage - meeting the neighbours, trying things out and preparing for a full launch in spring 2026.

"It's going to take time and money to transition the empty building into a vibrant space full of joy. For now, we're working to get the doors open so everyone can come and meet us, see what we're up to, and contribute to the plan - we'll put the kettle on!"

If this sparks something in you - curiosity, ideas, excitement, or a wish to help - Jill would love to hear from you.

Email:

[jill@acollective.org.uk](mailto:jill@acollective.org.uk)

To find out what's on, visit:

[thestorysanctuary.org.uk](http://thestorysanctuary.org.uk)

## Shirley Library set for a new lease of life with Play Place



This much-loved building will remain at the heart of the community in Shirley.

**Plans for community interest company, Play Place Innov8, to take over the running of the former Shirley Library building are gathering speed.**

Play Place provide a range of educational and fun activities for children, young people and communities and have a great vision for the centre.

They plan to maintain traditional services like book loans, study areas, and computer access, and create a community space offering activities for all, including hobby groups and creative arts clubs.

There are plans to offer a stay and play session and a small café area. There will be a focus on interactive education and creating relaxed user-friendly pod areas and cosy corners.

Chris Hennis, Business Director at Play Place, recognises the importance of the building. He said: "We have been overwhelmed by the support. We've benefited greatly from our collaborations with the Friends of Shirley Library, the Spring Park Residents' Association, the Friends of Millers Pond Fête team and other resident groups. Their backing continues to build the community spirit this project needs."

11 December marks the 88th anniversary of the library. Play Place hope to plan something special to honour the library's legacy while looking ahead to its bright future.

If you belong to a local interest group and would like to get involved or find out more, visit the website or email Becky Murray:

[playplace.org](http://playplace.org)

[becky.murray@playplace.org](mailto:becky.murray@playplace.org)



# A new future for Broad Green Library with Croydon's Asian Resource Centre

**Broad Green Library is set for an exciting transformation as the Asian Resource Centre of Croydon (ARCC) takes on the long-term lease of the building.**

This marks a significant step in securing the building's future as an inclusive space shaped by the community.

ARCC is a well-established local charity with over 25 years of experience supporting Croydon's diverse communities. Their vision is to create a dynamic hub where learning, wellbeing, and cultural exchange can flourish.

Jay Patel, Chair of ARCC, said: "We see Broad Green Library as more than just a building - it's a place where community comes to life."

Chief Executive, Ima Miah, added: "We're delighted to have the opportunity to revitalise the building and create a space that reflects the needs and aspirations of local people. We want to make

sure people of all ages and backgrounds feel welcomed, supported and inspired."

They will offer a wide range of services and activities, from educational programmes and health support to cultural events and outreach services.

Sustainability and inclusivity are central to ARCC's approach, with improvements planned to make the building more environmentally responsible and accessible.

As plans progress, ARCC wants to hear from local residents and partners. Your feedback will help shape the future of Broad Green Community Base. To share your views, complete their short survey on their website:

[arccltd.com/community-space-survey](https://arccltd.com/community-space-survey)



These are some of the community activities organised by ARCC

## Exciting plans for Bradmore Green Community Hub

**The former Bradmore Green library will house Bradmore Green Community Hub, a non-profit community interest company, providing a range of community focused activities.**

The hub will aim to help tackle isolation, strengthen community connections, and create opportunities for volunteering and skills development.

They hope to offer a range of services including neonatal classes, baby weigh-in sessions, sewing and music classes for teens and tutoring, while continuing to offer some library services. A new term-time preschool, Meadows, is also planning to open for children aged nine months to four years, with a focus on special educational needs.

Stacey Humphrey, the new director, said: "We are delighted to be opening the new Bradmore Green Community Hub CIC in Coulsdon. The hub will be a vibrant and inclusive space where local people can come together to learn, connect, and support one another.

"From family activities and youth projects to wellbeing sessions and community events, there will be something for everyone. We are proud to be working with residents to make this a hub that truly reflects local needs and aspirations, and we can't wait to get started."

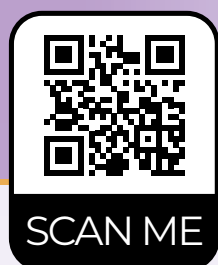
Find out more at:

[bradmoregreen.org.uk](https://bradmoregreen.org.uk)



Stacey and her team were delighted to get the keys to the Bradmore Green Community Hub.





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## LIBRARY STORIES

Croydon Libraries

# New digital discovery zone launches

**Croydon was successful in a bid for £150,000 of government funding to create an accessible digital zone, where residents can use computers and free WiFi in a fit-for-purpose space.**

The zone is now open at Central Library in Katharine Street. We are working with our partner, ClearCommunityWeb, to provide digital skills support for adults and hope to reach the borough's most vulnerable residents who may struggle to access online services and resources.

A launch event is being held on 23 October, from 2-5pm, as part of

Get Online Week. All are invited to see the new space, join workshops and get advice on online safety.

Residents can discover more about Croydon's history with access to museum and archive collections online and a new exhibition space with local Croydon history. There will also be a new activity space and meeting room which will host library

events and can be hired out by community groups.

During Get Online Week, CALAT Croydon (Croydon Adult Learning and Training) will be providing taster workshops and introductions to AI (artificial intelligence), WhatsApp photos and more. You can find out more about Croydon Libraries' FREE digital offer of 60,000+ ebooks and eaudiobooks,

hundreds of magazines and thousands of newspapers in 130 languages - all available online with a library membership card.

The digital project was made possible through a successful grant funding bid from The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport funds LIF, which is administered by Arts Council England.



## Rhymetime brings songs, stories and smiles

**Rhymetime is an important part of Croydon's library services and a fun activity to do with young children.**

As part of our library outreach - taking books and library services into community spaces - children from Old Coulsdon have been enjoying Rhymetime at Tollers Community Centre.

Parent Tulika Gupta said: "It's a wonderful way for children to learn while having fun. I loved how we sang about crocodiles and then painted them afterwards. It really brings the learning to life and makes it stick, even for me as an adult. It was a great experience and we will be attending more often."

The sessions involve nursery rhymes, action songs and percussion music and are great for language and speech development. The team have introduced a craft corner for little ones too. No need to book, just turn up and enjoy the fun - Fridays, 10-11am. Find a Rhymetime near you:

[libraries.croydon.gov.uk/events](https://libraries.croydon.gov.uk/events)

## Puppets, poetry and a pigeon: a magical Green Libraries Week

**Children aged five to 10 are invited to a performance of Pigeon and The Peacock in Croydon Central Library as part of Green Libraries Week.**

The show is about a pigeon who wants to be a poet but is mocked by other birds and hatches a plan to win them over. The key messages in the story which is animated through puppets are empathy, confidence and judgement.

Green Libraries Week starts on Monday 27 October:

[libraries.croydon.gov.uk/events](https://libraries.croydon.gov.uk/events)



For children aged 5-10 and their families



# Support for your family, all in one place

Family Hubs offer support for families from pregnancy through to young people turning 19 years, or 25 if they have special educational needs or a disability.

**Free help and support for families in Croydon –  
scan to find out more**



SCAN ME



COMMUNITY | CONNECTION | SUPPORT



**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

# Free expert parenting support now available 24/7 with new app

**Croydon families can now get expert help and advice at any time of the day or night, thanks to a new partnership between Croydon Council and Anya Healthcare.**

The Anya app offers round-the-clock support during the crucial early years, from pregnancy through to a child's second birthday.

It provides practical, personalised guidance on breastfeeding, infant feeding and child development - all based on NHS-trusted information.

Parents and carers can use Anya's interactive features, including 3D animations to help with breastfeeding positions, live webinars and drop-in sessions with midwives and lactation consultants. The app also has a library of articles, tailored programmes, and virtual communities where families can share experiences and support each other.

Because most questions from new parents arise outside of working hours, Anya's mix of instant AI responses and access to health professionals means help is always available, even in the early hours of the morning.



The new app will support the in-person support for families, available at Croydon's Family Hubs



The scheme is part of Croydon's virtual Family Hub offer, funded by the Department for Education. Families can download the Anya app, register with their postcode, and if eligible, receive free premium access.

Find out more and download the app by scanning the QR code.



## ADVERTISE IN OUR CROYDON

Our Croydon newsletter is delivered to 170,000 homes across Croydon with extra copies in council buildings. If you would like to advertise in Our Croydon, or find out more information, please email [ourcroydon@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:ourcroydon@croydon.gov.uk)

### OUR ADVERTISING RATES ARE:

Size	Dimensions	Rate
Full page	215mm wide x 281mm high	£2,500
Back cover	215mm wide x 281mm high	£2,750
Half page	215mm wide x 138.5mm high	£1,300
Quarter page	105mm wide x 138.5mm high	£700



# Could you support a Croydon baby?

## You don't need a spare bedroom to foster babies

**Croydon has a pressing need for foster carers to look after babies and toddlers aged 0–2 years. And the good news is: you don't need a spare bedroom to foster little ones.**

Babies come into care for many different reasons and they need stable homes where they can be loved and nurtured during their crucial early years.



Licensed image

### What it involves

Fostering a baby means being home full-time to provide round-the-clock care feeding, changing, cuddling, and attending appointments. It's a flexible but deeply rewarding role.

### Who is it perfect for

If you have more time at home - perhaps your children are grown - this is a meaningful 'work from home' role where your care can shape a child's future.

### Fostering in Croydon offers essential support for carers of babies and toddlers, including:

- Ongoing professional training
- 24/7 support from a dedicated supervising social worker
- Support groups for shared experiences
- Generous weekly pay, start-up grants and holiday allowances.

**You'll have a strong support team to ensure you feel confident throughout the process.**



Resident Charlene Dry has been a Croydon foster carer for five years

**If you have experience of caring for babies, either your own or in a professional capacity, we would love to hear from you.**

Call: **0300 222 2112**

Visit: [www.croydon.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/fostering)

Email: [iwanttofooster@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:iwanttofooster@croydon.gov.uk)

**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

**Croydon**  
Fostering

# Standing united against gender-based violence



**Since 2020, 10 Croydon residents have been murdered by an abusive partner or family member.**

More needs to be done to end male Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and prevent the devastating impact this crime has on families, children and the wider community – and we can all play our part.

As part of Croydon's Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan 2024-2027, the council is working with partners across the borough to prevent violence, support victims and pursue perpetrators.

The 16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence is an opportunity for Croydonians to come together and show our support.

It will start with an awareness walk through Croydon town centre on 25 November and there will be training and advice activities happening all the way through to 10 December. A calendar of events will be available on the council website and updates on social media channels.

Christabel Yeboah is the Chief Vision Officer at HERSANA CIC, a Croydon partner supporting survivors of gender-based violence, and the chair of the Croydon Global Majority Heritage Domestic Abuse Partnership Forum.

She encourages all members to get involved in the 16 days and beyond. She said: "Male violence against women and girls is not a 'women's issue', harmful behaviours are not an 'ethnic problem' – these are societal problems that require us all to be part of the solution."

Find out more - search 'VAWG' on [croydon.gov.uk](https://croydon.gov.uk)



ADVERTISEMENT

## COULD YOU SPOT A PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENT?

**Many people do not realise they may already know a child living in a private fostering arrangement. By law, the parent or carer must inform Croydon Council so we can ensure the child is safe, happy, and well supported.**

Private fostering happens when a child under 16 (or under 18 with a disability) lives with or plans to live with someone who is not their parent or a close relative for 28 days or more.

Even a cousin or family friend counts as a private foster carer. If you're not sure, let us know we'll check and offer support.

### SPOT IT, REPORT IT, KEEP A CHILD SAFE.

**If you know about a private fostering arrangement in Croydon, please contact:**

**Tel: 020 8255 2888**

**Email: [mash@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:mash@croydon.gov.uk)**

**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](https://www.croydon.gov.uk)

### "I FELT ALONE"

MARIA, 15

When Maria was 15, her parents arranged for her to stay with a family friend during a difficult separation. Because the council wasn't informed, no one checked if she was safe or coping. Over time, she withdrew, missed school and was struggling.

It was not until her school raised concerns that Croydon's Private Fostering Team stepped in. We acted quickly to:

- Check Maria's safety and wellbeing through regular visits
- Support her carers with guidance, advice and training
- Connect Maria to counselling services to help her cope

**With the right support, Maria began to rebuild her confidence. Without support, her situation could have worsened. Reporting is a legal duty that can protect a child's future.**



## OUR CULTURE

# Croydon celebrates 150 Years of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor with music, art and heritage

**In 2025, Croydon celebrates the anniversary of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. The composer of mixed English and West African heritage spent much of his life in Croydon. Although he died tragically young, he leaves a profound legacy.**

150 years since his birth, Croydon is marking the anniversary with a vibrant programme of music, visual arts, heritage, exhibitions and performances.

Croydon Gladi was a weekend of celebrations in August, with incredible performances of live music, including from King Masco and Collins Pratt, from Sierra Leone, who brought their joyful music to the High Street. There were displays by giant puppets, an upcycled musical playground, speed painting and more - all made possible by artists, performers and Croydon's many partner organisations.

This October the events continue and will be part of Croydon's Black History Month programme. Students from the world-renowned BRIT School take over Croydon Clocktower on 18 October, with new performances inspired by Coleridge-Taylor, a new exhibition at the Museum of Croydon will uncover his life and, on 19 October, a unique concert will be held at Fairfield Halls that will pay tribute to the composer. Among the line-up are the London Mozart Players, violinist Braimah Kanneh-Mason, Croydon SDA Gospel Choir and composer and kora-player, Tunde Jegede, who is composing a special piece of music that draws on both classical and African sounds.

In our town centre, a trail of street banners in High Street and North End feature new artworks inspired by the composer. The art was created by nine Global Majority artists and will be on view until the end of October. Finally, don't miss the hoardings in Croydon High Street to discover Coleridge-Taylor's remarkable story!



Photography by Crispin Blaze

## Forge: Industries of Croydon

**The iconic Bubble Car, made in Croydon's Trojan factory in the 1960s, is on display in the Museum of Croydon as part of a new exhibition celebrating Croydon's industrial history.**

Forge is a free, fun and interactive exhibition celebrating the people, places and innovations in Croydon through the years, from bell-making and clockmaking to cosmetics and brewing!

See amazing photography by Lee Williams of the Addington blacksmiths Forge, which remains in full use today.

Visitors can delve deeper into Croydon's industrial past and present with a guided photography walking tour, beer tasting and talks. Tickets for adult events can be booked online.

Open every Wednesday to Friday with regular free family craft sessions. Find out more:

[museumofcroydon.com](http://museumofcroydon.com)



Visitors enjoy the artefacts at Forge

Photography by Holly Revell



# Tunde Jegede: Coleridge-Taylor had an immense impact on the musical world

**Like Coleridge-Taylor, Tunde Jegede's unique approach draws on musical styles from both Europe and Africa.**

Ahead of the celebratory concert at Fairfield Halls on 19 October, we spoke to Tunde Jegede to find out more about his music, being part of the anniversary celebrations and what to expect from his new commission by Croydon Council...

**You've had an amazing career as a world-renowned composer, producer, cellist and kora player – where did your passion for music begin?**

My passion for music began as a child from before I could talk. My father had a poetry and percussion group and I was playing a hand drum from the age of one. My mother listened to classical music, as her father was a pianist and church organist, and I loved the music of Bach. I also spent a lot of my childhood at the Keskodee Centre, Britain's first Black Arts Centre where I

was immersed in music such as reggae, Dub poetry and Calypso. So, in my childhood one could say I was exposed to an eclectic mix of African, classical and the music of the African-Caribbean experience.

**How do you feel about being part of the Samuel Coleridge-Taylor anniversary celebrations in Croydon?**

It is an honour... he was a pioneer who etched a path in classical music that had not been trod before. There had been Black classical musicians before, but not composers, and he was one of the first to overtly create music that truly brought together European and African elements within his compositions. It seems that his work and contribution to British music has been quite understated and I am happy to be part of project that really



Tunde Jegede

helps to bring his story and legacy back to the forefront, particularly in his home borough of Croydon!

**Tell us about the concert and the new piece of music you are creating for it.**

For this piece I will be featuring the voices of the Croydon Seventh Day Adventist Choir and the London Mozart Players with European and African classical influences including the sounds of the kora, West African harp-lute. The piece will be drawing on both classical and African sound-worlds reflecting the musical ideals of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor himself.

It is great that Croydon Council have really got behind celebrating Samuel Coleridge-

Taylor with this special concert to mark his anniversary. It should be a great concert with pieces that explore all the cultural references and elements that were such an integral part of Coleridge-Taylor's work.

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor at 150**

The anniversary concert will be performed at Fairfield Halls, Croydon 19 October 2025 - 6.00pm.

**Tickets are priced from £5**

For more information and to read Tunde's interview in full, visit: [culturecroydon.com](http://culturecroydon.com)



Photograph by Mike B Designs



## Croydon's historic walnut fair revived in harvest celebration

Our town centre will come alive with the sights, sounds and spirit of autumn, as the Croydon Harvest, featuring The Walnut Fair, returns on 4 and 5 October, 12pm-5pm.

This free, family-friendly event invites residents and visitors to celebrate the gifts of harvest through storytelling, dance, outdoor arts, facepainting, craft workshops and global folk traditions.

Vauxhall City Farm will return with its beloved goats, sheep, rabbits and chickens, offering children and adults alike the chance to meet and interact with farmyard friends in The Queen's Gardens. Croydon Harvest takes its inspiration from The Walnut Fair, one of three major Croydon trade and pleasure fairs dating back to 1314.

## Christmas is coming.....save the date!

A Very Croydon Christmas returns this year to bring communities and faiths of Croydon together for a winter celebration. Over the weekend of 5-7 December, there will be magical days of free and ticketed events including music, dance, crafts and arts activities for all ages. See the Culture Croydon website for further updates: [culturecroydon.com](http://culturecroydon.com)





## OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

# School children buzzing about community garden

**We've been working with the local community to create a new learning garden in Thornton Heath, giving children a new green space to learn about nature.**

Colliers Water Garden, in Colliers Water Lane, was formerly unused and overgrown land. Secured by new fencing, it now has bug hotels, raised planters with edible and sensory plants, areas for play, a small amphitheatre for outdoor classes and a shed for a water harvesting tank and compost area.

We worked with the local community on the project and garden designs, including Whitehorse Manor Primary School-Brigstock Site. The garden will also be made available to the local community who wish to get involved, by arrangement with the council.



Executive Mayor Jason Perry explores the herb garden with Whitehorse pupils.



Pupils inspect a bug hotel in the new garden.



Pupils enjoy exploring the space which encourages play as well as learning.

Nicole Stephenson-Tye, Headteacher of Whitehorse Manor Primary School-Brigstock Site, said: "This community garden will really benefit our school. It offers a place in nature for everyone, a place to enjoy the outside world. We can't wait to continue being a part of this wonderful project."

Thornton Heath is one of several district centres the council has invested in as part of Executive Mayor Jason Perry's priority to create a cleaner and safer Croydon and restore pride. This is supported by UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding for 2023-25.

## UKSPF-funded district centre regeneration projects (2023-25):

- **Purley £50k:** new public art, lighting and green space improvements, working with Purley BID (Business Improvement District).
- **Selsdon £90k:** celebrated 100 years of the village with a history exhibition, blue plaques on shopfronts and new signage and maps to direct people to the high street and green spaces.
- **New Addington £223k:** resurfaced the market square stage, made repairs to the boundary walls in Central Parade and improvements to the Octagon façade.
- **West Croydon (London Road) £250k:** electrical works to support community events and a new night and weekend market organised by London Road Traders Association.



# Croydon lands London's biggest grant to boost local growth



**Croydon is celebrating a major win after securing the largest UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) grant in London – a total of £1.4m. The funding will support a wide range of initiatives aimed at boosting local businesses, enhancing public spaces, and delivering events that bring the community together.**

Building on the success of the 2024-25 programme, new projects are launching across the borough this autumn. These initiatives form part of Executive Mayor Jason Perry's Growth Plan to restore pride in Croydon and make it a place that residents are proud to call home.

Executive Mayor Jason Perry said: "This funding is a big win for Croydon. It's about giving people the tools to succeed, improving the places we live, and celebrating the amazing diversity of our borough. I am delighted to be kick-starting these projects and invite our residents to take up the many opportunities they offer."



## Key projects funded by the UKSPF grant include:

### • Green spaces (£325k)

- Five parks will receive new outdoor gyms, offering free fitness facilities to residents - check out page 6.
- Continued investment through the Mayor's Parks Fund, supporting projects led by Friends groups and local volunteers.
- Builds on previous successes like the revamped Colliers Water Garden in Thornton Heath.

### • District centre regeneration (£600k)

- Upgrades and improvements in Norbury, Addiscombe, South Croydon, and Coulsdon to revitalise local high streets and public areas.

### • Business and entrepreneurs (£274.5k)

- Support including workshops, 1-2-1 advice, and targeted help for female-led businesses.
- The Executive Mayor's Young Entrepreneurs Academy for residents aged 18-35, offering guidance and resources to start their own ventures.

### • Arts and culture (£165k)

- A packed programme of events delivered by Croydon Council in partnership with local creatives.
- Celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of Croydon-born composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor - see pages 17 and 18.
- Funding for creative health activities that promote wellbeing through the arts.

## CROYDON REGENERATION

UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2022-25



**100**

Jobs safeguarded



**7,220** sqm

Green spaces improved



**1,807** sqm

Public Realm improved



**162**

Volunteering opportunities supported



**636**

Businesses received non-financial support



**7**

Local events supported

## Print to street: Harris Students' art revives Selhurst Road

**The South Norwood Regeneration Programme continued its collaboration with Harris Academy South Norwood this summer.**

Students from the Year 10 art class discovered their work has found a new lease of life when they visited the Selhurst Road footway project, where the council made improvements earlier this year.

Prints made by students in their print zine project in 2023 are now decorating the new shopfront planters, installed as part of the Mayor of London-funded project.

Their stunning artwork recalls elements of South Norwood's past, alongside items which connect the young people with life on the high street.



(Left to right) Harmony Wallace, Alesha Mistry and Shanise Orlowska



# 50%

More households have come to us for support in the past two years.

# 400+

New households ask us for help every month.

# 3,600+

Households are in temporary accommodation.

# 8,600+

People are on the housing waiting list.

Average waiting times are:

- Five years for a one-bedroom
- Eight years for a two-bedroom
- Nine years for a three-bedroom
- Eight years for a four-bedroom or more

Sadly, only about one in 10 people on the list get housed each year.

# Busting housing myths in Croydon

**Finding a home isn't easy right now. Like many places in London, Croydon is seeing more people needing support, and there just aren't enough affordable homes for everyone.**

It's a difficult situation, and we know it can feel confusing or frustrating. That's why we've pulled together some of the things we hear most often, along with the facts to help clear things up.

**Myth: "I didn't think the council could help until I was actually homeless."**

**Fact:** You don't need to wait. If you're at risk of losing your home, we can support you early on. That might include helping you stay where you are, speaking to your landlord, or finding somewhere else. The earlier you come to us, the more we can do.

**Myth: "If I become homeless, won't I be given somewhere to live?"**

**Fact:** If you're homeless, we'll assess your situation and may offer temporary accommodation. This is often a private rental and might not be in Croydon. Social housing homes are very limited and are usually only offered to people in the most urgent situations.

**Myth: "Once I'm in temporary housing, do I stay there until I get a social housing home?"**

**Fact:** Temporary accommodation is just that – temporary. It gives you somewhere safe while we look at longer-term options with you. It doesn't mean you'll be offered a council home, and it doesn't affect your place on the waiting list. Most people in temporary housing will move on to a longer-term home in the private sector.

**Myth: "I didn't realise there was help with private renting."**

**Fact:** We can support people to rent privately if it's a suitable option. This might include help with deposits, rent in advance, or short-term support through Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). We can also look at your income and help you plan for the move.

**Myth: "I'm not on benefits, so I don't think I'd be able to get support."**

**Fact:** You don't need to be on benefits to get help. If you're struggling, you might be able to access the Household Support Fund for help with food, energy bills or essential items. If you're moving or need help with rent, we may also be able to offer a Discretionary Housing Payment, even if you're working.

**Myth: "I've been on the list for a long time, doesn't that mean I'm due an offer?"**

**Fact:** We understand it's frustrating, but being on the list doesn't mean you'll be offered a home quickly. There are over 8,600 people waiting, and only around 800 council homes become available each year.

**Myth: "Can I turn something down and wait for something better?"**

**Fact:** If you turn down a home that's suitable without a good reason, it could affect your application. We know it's not always easy, but there might not be another offer available. Turning down a suitable home could mean losing your place on the list or missing out on further help.

**Myth: "I really want to stay in Croydon – can I just wait for a home here?"**

**Fact:** We understand wanting to stay near family, work or school. But there aren't enough homes in Croydon to meet the demand. If you're open to moving, we can support you through schemes like Homefinder UK, which helps people find social housing in other parts of the country where homes are available sooner. We also work with private landlords to offer longer-term homes, and these might be in or outside Croydon.

If you're worried about your housing situation, please visit our website for advice and support.

[croydon.gov.uk/housing/housing-support/homelessness](https://croydon.gov.uk/housing/housing-support/homelessness)





# Awaab's Law – protecting renters, making homes safer

**Awaab's Law comes into effect this October. It was introduced after the tragic death of two-year-old Awaab Ishak, who lived in a flat with serious damp and mould in Rochdale, Greater Manchester.**

It means every landlord - from the council to housing associations and private landlords - must act quickly when there are serious problems like damp or mould. Tenants are better protected, and landlords know exactly what is expected of them.

#### **If you report a problem:**

- Your landlord must inspect within 10 working days
- They must tell you the outcome within three days
- If there is a serious risk, the home must be made safe within five days
- If that isn't possible, safe temporary housing must be offered.

In Croydon, as part of our drive to raise standards in council homes, we've already taken steps to protect people from damp and mould.

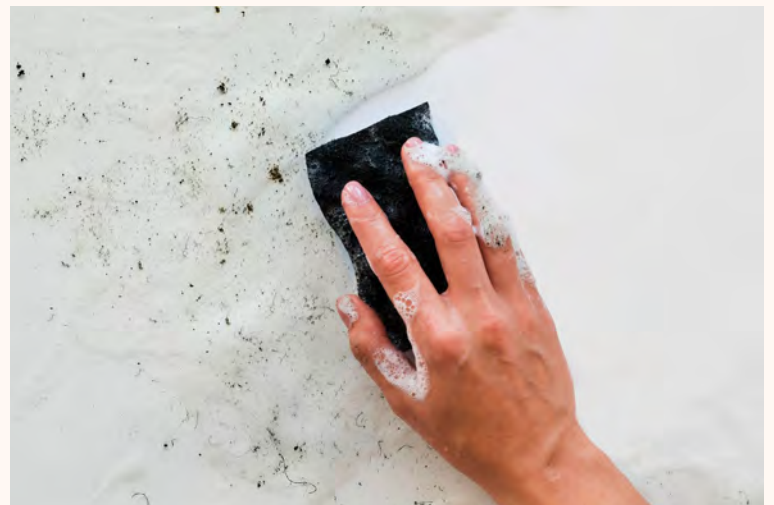
#### **This includes:**

- A new system to make sure urgent cases are picked up quickly
- Closer working between our contact centre and surveyors for faster inspections
- Resident liaison officers to support people with more complex cases
- Extra inspections in blocks where damp and mould have been a regular problem
- Updating our damp and mould policy to fully meet the new rules.

#### **Top tips to reduce damp and mould at home**

- Keep kitchen and bathroom doors closed when cooking or bathing
- Use extractor fans if you have them, or open a window to clear steam
- Wipe away condensation on windows and doors when it appears
- Leave space behind furniture so air can flow around your home
- Try not to dry clothes indoors if you can avoid it

Report any problems as soon as possible so action can be taken quickly.



# Restoring pride in our estates together

**Through our estate action days, we're helping to tidy up estates across Croydon - while bringing communities together.**

Dumped rubbish and fly-tips get removed, bushes cut back, graffiti scrubbed away, estate signage cleaned leaving the estates looking brighter.

At Fieldway in March, two refuse trucks were filled with fly-tipped waste, walkways were cut back and shared spaces were opened up. In June, Walton Green had a full tidy. Litter was cleared, green spaces refreshed, and hedges trimmed to make the estate more welcoming.

At Shrublands in July, we removed bulky items and gave

communal areas a spruce up. In September, Handcroft saw over 30 bin stores jet washed. More than 20 tonnes of green waste were cut back and removed, signage was cleaned and graffiti scrubbed away.

These days are about more than cleaning - staff from across the council volunteer to support them.

Kehinde Adigun, a customer service advisor dealing with repairs, said: "Residents often talk to me about the estate, so being here in person helped me to really visualise it and connect with people

face-to-face."

The resident involvement team come to action days to meet residents to share their views and raise any issues directly.

Nancy Mungai, a resident from Walton Green told us:

"I'm so happy. The housing team came to our estate to hear our grievances and sort things out. My issue was bushes growing on my window - they've cut it back and I'm really pleased. They said they will also look into my other issues. I hope the council keeps coming

out and hearing us. Thank you so much."

Over 100 staff from across the council volunteered their time, working alongside our contractors Mulalley, Wates, Veolia, Greener Solutions and Mears. Together they cleared waste, painted railings, cut back hedges and tidied shared spaces, making estates look and feel better for residents.

Our action days will be back next year, bringing people together, tackling problems and restoring pride in our estates.

## OUR JOBS

# Perfect match!

## Volunteers help revamp Croydon's Garwood Centre

**Croydon's Garwood Centre in Bramley Hill has received a fresh new look, thanks to volunteers from Hays Recruitment Agency and the council's new Match My Project programme.**

Match My Project is an online platform, connecting community groups with businesses willing to offer support -whether that's materials, labour, or expert advice. It's part of our commitment to making sure the organisations we work with support local causes.

In this case, staff from Hays helped to redecorate the Garwood Centre in Bramley Hill - a vital space used by at least 36 adults with disabilities every day.

Chris Simpson from Hays said the project was especially meaningful to him as a lifelong Croydon resident, calling it, "a great opportunity to combine my work life with my personal values

and give something back to my community".

Thanks to the volunteers, the centre was able to stay open throughout the redecoration, avoiding disruption to its essential services.

Centre Manager Khaled Mechergui explained that, as a charity, they rely heavily on the generosity of donors and volunteers. He said the fresh coat of paint was much needed as it helps keep the centre welcoming and uplifting.

He said: "We are truly grateful to the Hays team for giving their time, and to the Crown Decorating Centre who donated the paint."



Users of Garwood Centre enjoying some activities

Councillor Robert Ward, deputy cabinet member for contract management, also attended and said the volunteers had made a visible community impact and it was a positive experience for all involved, showing the value of the Match My Project programme.

Could your organisation benefit from some social value matchmaking? Community groups in Croydon can register online, outlining what help they need.

Businesses can also sign up to offer resources, time, or skills.



Volunteers from Hays Recruitment Agency hard at work

[matchmyproject.org/lb-croydon](https://matchmyproject.org/lb-croydon)

# Work with us

**Whether you're just beginning your career or are looking for something new, we have lots of different career options and roles on offer.**

We work alongside many great partners, community organisations and resident groups - join us and make a difference in Croydon's communities. Meet Jafar, information systems administrator.



Jafar

“

**I joined local government because I enjoy helping people. I love that I get to solve challenges to help improve things in the council and in the community. At Croydon, you get to make meaningful change. You're surrounded by passionate people who find ways to make people's lives better every day.**

”

## Why choose Croydon Council?

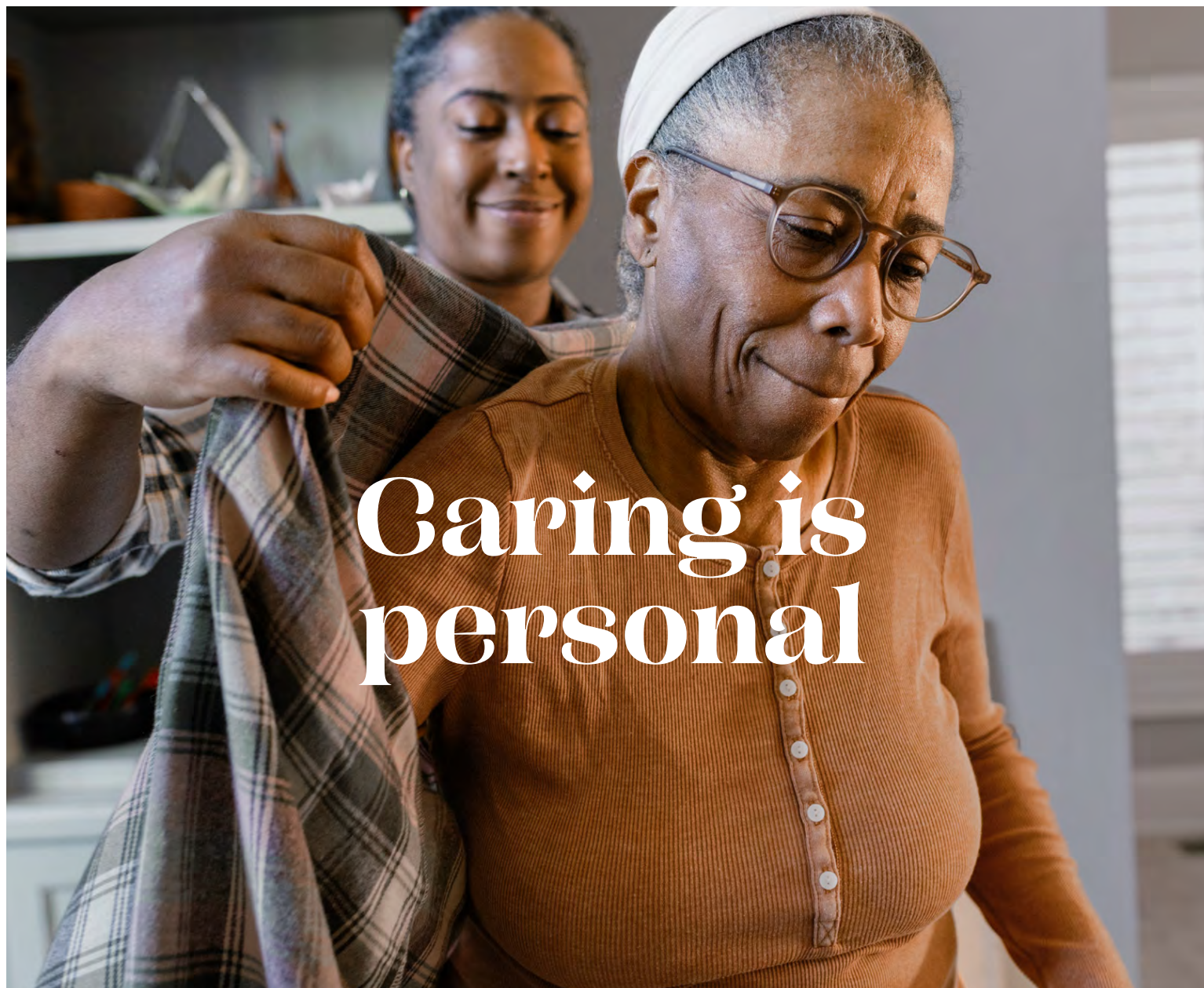
- **An inclusive workplace:** We value diversity and inclusion. We want to be a workforce that represents our communities, where you can be yourself at work. We've maintained a 0% gender pay gap since 2022.
- **Proud to be Croydon:** Over 60% of our staff live in the borough.
- **Total reward package:** We offer competitive salaries and employee benefits, including membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), shopping discounts, and much more. We're also a London Living Wage employer.
- **Work/life balance:** We understand the importance of balance and offer roles with flexible, hybrid working options. We offer good parental leave and paid volunteering days; as well as special leave to support you when you might need it most.
- **Growing talent:** We take training and development seriously and offer on the job training and access to our diversity talent development programmes.
- **Changing for the better:** We're working to transform how we do things, to provide the best possible services to our residents. Our transformation is a chance to be part of the future council, putting customers first, investing in digital channels and restoring pride.

## Apply today

Take a look at our current vacancies.  
Visit: [croydon.gov.uk/jobs](https://croydon.gov.uk/jobs)  
or scan the QR code.







# Caring is personal

**Right now, many in our community are supporting someone with their health, mobility or everyday needs.**

**There is a local helpline that offers practical advice on how to access support that you might not be aware of – like respite care or help navigating the system.**

One phone call connects you to a real person who listens and understands. No forms. No judgement. Just a conversation to help you keep doing what you do – with support.

We understand that Caring is Personal. So we won't tell you what to do. But we can help you keep doing what you are doing, supported.

**Call Carers First Croydon:**

0300 303 1555 or find out more at [www.carersfirst.org.uk/caringispersonal](http://www.carersfirst.org.uk/caringispersonal)

Our helpline is open from 9–5pm, Monday to Friday. If you call outside these hours, please leave a message and one of our team will call you back.

**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)



## OUR HEALTH

# Our health: time to prepare to keep well and warm this winter

**The colder weather is fast approaching, and autumn is the right time to take steps now to protect your health and the health of those around you.**

Winter brings an increased risk of illness, especially for older adults, young children, and people with long-term health conditions. Here's how you can stay well during the winter months.

## 1. Get vaccinated

Vaccines help prevent serious illness and reduce the risk of hospital admissions. The NHS offers free flu and Covid-19 vaccines every autumn and winter to those most at risk. If you're eligible, the NHS will let you know when you can get your flu and Covid-19 vaccines. To book your vaccination you can use the NHS App, ask at your pharmacy or contact your GP practice. For more information see:

[nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine](https://nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine)

[nhs.uk/vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine](https://nhs.uk/vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine)

## 2. Keep warm

During winter, staying warm can help avoid colds, the flu, and more serious health issues like depression, heart attacks, strokes, and pneumonia. To stay warm:

- Heat your home to at least 18°C in rooms you use regularly
- Wear layers of clothing rather than one thick layer
- Keep bedroom windows closed at night
- Eat hot meals and drink warm fluids
- Check your heating appliances are safe and serviced by a Gas Safe engineer
- Simple steps like using draught excluders and closing curtains at night can help retain heat.

You can also spend time in heated, safe and friendly locations across Croydon that you can visit for free to keep warm. To find out more see:

[croydon.gov.uk/community-and-safety/warm-spaces](https://croydon.gov.uk/community-and-safety/warm-spaces)



## 3. Look after your mental health

Winter can affect your mood. If you're worried about your mental health, it's important to speak to someone. This could be a friend or family member, but it's also a good idea to get support from your GP. If you're feeling low, anxious, or struggling to cope:

- Visit Every Mind Matters for tips

[nhs.uk/every-mind-matters](https://nhs.uk/every-mind-matters)

- Speak to your GP about NHS Talking Therapies
- Contact Mind in Croydon - For better mental health

[mindincroydon.org.uk](https://mindincroydon.org.uk)

- In a crisis, call NHS 111 and choose the mental health option.



## 4. Help from pharmacies

Pharmacists can offer advice on a range of illnesses, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, ear infections and aches and pains. To help you and your family during winter, ask your pharmacist what medications you should keep in your cabinet.

There are over-the-counter medications, such as ibuprofen and paracetamol available to treat the symptoms of typical winter ailments like sinusitis, colds, and middle ear infections (earaches).

Ensure you have enough prescription medication before holidays and keep rapid Covid-19 tests at home if you're eligible for treatment.

## 5. Support others

Cold weather and icy conditions can make it hard for older neighbours, friends, and family to get out and about. A quick check-in or a helping hand can make a big difference. Stay connected, offer support, and help keep everyone safe and warm. Keep in touch and check in on elderly neighbours, friends, and family. Make sure they:

- Have enough food and medication
- Are warm and safe at home
- Know how to get help if they feel unwell



# Winter is coming - but we're ready



## During the long hot summer, we have been preparing for winter on our roads and paths.

During a typical winter season, we use around 3,000 tonnes - the equivalent of 30 blue whales! - of salt on the highway, although this varies depending on the severity of the winter conditions.

In freezing conditions, it is not economical nor practical to cover all 726KM of highway in the borough, so we prioritise certain roads and footpaths.

These form 30% of our network and include: main roads; roads

leading to hospitals, ambulance and fire stations; main approaches to rail, bus and tram stops; steep gradients; footpaths around town centres, local shopping areas and other heavily used paths; and cycle paths that share these priority routes.

We use rock salt on our roads to help prevent and clear ice. It lowers the freezing point of water to about -8C. For it to work properly, it needs to be compacted by vehicles and feet going over it.

We use weather forecast data to make sure we only grit when we need to. However, if the weather is colder than forecast, or there is an unexpected event, like a burst

water pipe, we will be able to react quickly and get our gritters on the road.

You can help our gritters by making sure you give them space to manoeuvre if you park your vehicle on a priority route.

Alongside our eight gritters, we have 578 salt bins dotted around the borough to help keep pavements and junctions free of ice. Residents are welcome to use the salt contained within the bins for public footpaths. We will refill them regularly.

During wet weather, residents are encouraged to unblock any blocked drains.

“

We use weather forecast data to make sure we only grit when we need to.

”

## 726KM

of highways across the borough.

## 3,000

Tonnes of salt used on the highway, depending on the severity of winter conditions.

## 578

Salt bins dotted around the borough to help keep pavements and junctions free of ice.



Find out more about what we are doing this winter:

[croydon.gov.uk/gritting](http://croydon.gov.uk/gritting)



# Bin Collections

Please make sure your bin is presented as close to the pavement as possible by 6am on your collection day.



Please leave your bin:

- Out by 6am on your collection day
- Where it can be seen easily
- At the edge of your property where it meets the public highway

**THANK YOU!**



# Croydon disability sports programme wins Club of the Month



RAP Programme coach Linda Palmas with two members

**An inclusive programme of sports and activities run by Croydon Council for people with disabilities was awarded Club of the Month by Every Body Moves, ParalympicsGB's grassroots participation programme.**

Croydon's sport and leisure team run the Recreation Activity Programme (RAP) for children and young people aged 5-25. Activities include swimming, rebound therapy, powerchair football, dance, and more.

The clubs are designed to be accessible and inclusive for young people with a wide range of disabilities and special needs, and provide an opportunity for parents to meet other carers.

Felicia is the parent and carer of Cameron, 22, who attends RAP sessions. She said: "Cameron likes doing sports, so whenever RAP is happening he wants to go. He enjoys racket sports, like tennis, and basketball and he enjoys being able to try new things."

Lily has been taking her 16-year-old daughter, Sydney, to RAP clubs for seven years. She said: "For us as a family it means a lot."

"While she is swimming I can go to the gym and that gives me the strength that when she comes out I can take care of her and support her in the best way."

RAP won Club of the Month for August. Baden Knifton, Every Body Moves Engagement Officer at ParalympicsGB, said: "We're proud to honour the RAP programme with this award. For their meaningful work in creating fun and inclusive opportunities for disabled people to be more physically active in ways that suit the individual, and for fostering a supportive, social community around the sessions."

RAP is fully funded by Croydon Council and delivered in partnership with local organisations. Last year the programme delivered nearly 600 hours of sessions and engaged over 250 children and young people.



Deputy Mayor Councillor Lynne Hale and Councillor Andy Stranack, cabinet member for culture and communities with RAP Programme basketball club members, parents, coaches and council and GLL staff

## INCLUSIVE DANCE

Join inclusive dance sessions, specially designed for children and young people with learning disabilities, who are neurodiverse and/or autistic. Delivered by the fantastic SLiDE Dance team and part of Croydon's RAP Disability Sports Programme.

It's a great opportunity to be active, make new friends, and enjoy the freedom of dance. Mondays, 5pm-6.15pm, at The Cherry Hub, 171 St James's Road, Croydon, CR0 2BY (parking available). Search 'RAP Programme' on the council website or email:

[sdo@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:sdo@croydon.gov.uk)

# A summer of stories as hundreds complete Reading Challenge

**It has been bumper year for young bookworms across Croydon – as more than 1,700 took part in our Summer Reading Challenge.**

Each child was invited to read six books of their choice during the holidays. Everyone who completed the challenge received a medal, certificate and was entered into a prize draw.

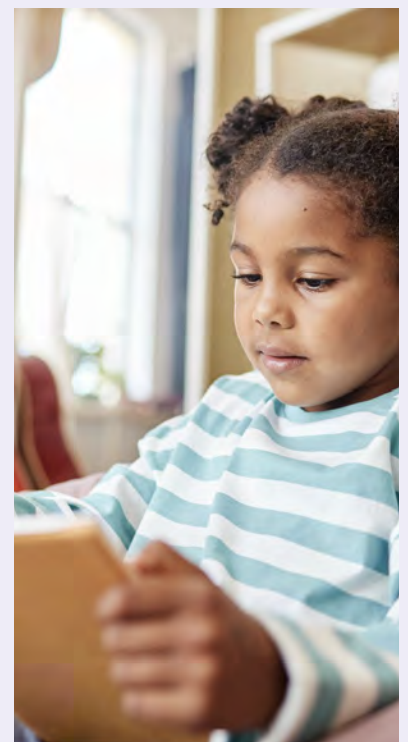
The winning children, drawn at random, will receive their prizes at Central Library on Saturday 11 October. The celebration event

is open to all and visitors will have the chance to meet local children's authors.

Thank you to all our partners who donated prizes: Palace for Life, Godstone Farm, Fairfield Halls, New Wimbledon Theatre, David Lean Cinema, Wild Ones Forest School, The Arc Centre, Better Leisure and Flip Out

Croydon.

Palace for Life provided a school award. The Croydon primary school who has the highest percentage of children completing the challenge, will be offered a special event at their school or at Crystal Palace Academy Ground.







# TIME TO SHINE

Let's quit smoking together

Join millions of people  
who have quit smoking  
with Stoptober.

Scan for  
free support



Get local support to help you quit.  
[croydon.gov.uk/livewell](https://croydon.gov.uk/livewell)





# Fireworks and sparklers



Fire Borough Commander  
Chris Davidson

## Dear Croydon residents

**During the month of October registered organisations and shops will begin selling fireworks and sparklers.**

We want our Croydon residents to stay safe while enjoying fireworks and at LFB Croydon we would always advise you to go to a registered fireworks display rather than use fireworks at home. However if you do intend to purchase fireworks, please read our top tips on fireworks safety.

## Who can buy fireworks

- To buy and let off fireworks, you must be an adult aged 18+.

## When can you buy fireworks

You can only buy fireworks and sparklers from registered sellers for private use on selected dates in the year:

- Between 15 October and 10 November
- Between 26 to 31 December
- Three days before Diwali
- Three days before Chinese New Year

You can buy fireworks outside these dates, but only from shops with a special licence.

## When can you let off fireworks

For most of the year, it is illegal to set off fireworks (including sparklers) between 11pm and 7am.

However, for Bonfire Night the curfew is extended to midnight and for New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year the cut off is 1am.

## What fireworks to buy

When buying fireworks, always look for a CE or UKCA mark to make sure they're safe to use and only buy fireworks up to Category 3.

## Fireworks come in 4 categories,

- **Category 1** fireworks are low hazard fireworks. They pose the least danger, make very little noise and are for use in a limited space (including indoors). Examples include party poppers and Christmas crackers.
- **Category 2 and 3** are adult fireworks and are available in shops and supermarkets. These will have Category F2 or F3 on the box.
- **Category 4** fireworks are banned for sale to the public and are for professional displays only. These are available at specialist suppliers.

## Safety tips for bonfires and fireworks

- If you're having your own fireworks display, plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable, and ensure it finishes before 11pm
- Only buy fireworks which carry the CE or UKCA mark, keep them in a closed box and use them one at a time
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire
- Build your bonfire clear of buildings, sheds, fences and hedges
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving
- Don't leave bonfires unattended. An adult should supervise it until it has burnt out. If it has to be left, damp it down with water
- Always keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe nearby in case of emergency

## Sparkler safety

Sparklers are often viewed as being harmless, but they burn at fierce temperatures, equivalent to a welding torch. Follow these top tips for sparkler safety:

- Don't give sparklers to under-5s
- Make sure everyone handling sparklers wears gloves
- Hold sparklers at arm's length while being lit and light them one at a time
- Don't wave sparklers about close to other people
- Never hold a baby in your arms while you're holding a sparkler
- When the sparkler has finished put it in a bucket of cold water

Stay safe and well,

**Chris Davidson**

Fire Borough Commander for Croydon  
For more fire safety tips visit:

[london-fire.gov.uk/safety](https://london-fire.gov.uk/safety)



londonfire



londonfirebrigade





**Central Library**

Katharine Street, CR9 1ET

Monday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Tuesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Thursday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

✉ [croydoncentrallibrary@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:croydoncentrallibrary@croydon.gov.uk)

☎ 020 7884 5140



**Now open at least five days a week, including every Saturday.**  
Explore Croydon Libraries for books, wi-fi, PCs, study space, events and more.

[libraries.croydon.gov.uk](http://libraries.croydon.gov.uk)**Croydon Libraries**

\*self-service opening hours

**Ashburton Library**

Shirley Road, CR9 7AL

Monday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Tuesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Thursday: CLOSED

Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

✉ [ashburtonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:ashburtonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk)

☎ 020 7884 5175

**Coulsdon Library**

Brighton Road, CR5 2NH

Monday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Tuesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

✉ [coulsdonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:coulsdonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk)

☎ 020 7884 5180

**New Addington Library**

Central Parade, CR0 0JD

Monday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Tuesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

✉ [newaddingtonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:newaddingtonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk)

☎ 020 7884 5205

**Norbury Library**

Beatrice Avenue, SW16 4UW

Monday: 9:00am - 7:00pm\*

Tuesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am - 7:00pm\*

Thursday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

✉ [norburylibrary@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:norburylibrary@croydon.gov.uk)

☎ 020 7884 5215

**Purley Library**

Banstead Road, CR8 3YH

Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Thursday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

✉ [purleylibrary@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:purleylibrary@croydon.gov.uk)

☎ 020 7884 5160

**Selsdon Library**

Addington Road, CR2 8LA

Monday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Tuesday: 9:00am - 7:00pm\*

Wednesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Thursday: 9:00am - 7:00pm\*

Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

✉ [selsdonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:selsdonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk)

☎ 020 7884 5190

**South Norwood Library**

Lawrence Road, SE25 5AA

Monday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Tuesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

✉ [southnorwoodlibrary@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:southnorwoodlibrary@croydon.gov.uk)

☎ 020 7884 5195

**Thornton Heath Library**

Brigstock Road, CR7 7JB

Monday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Tuesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Thursday: CLOSED

Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

✉ [thorntonheathlibrary@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:thorntonheathlibrary@croydon.gov.uk)

☎ 020 7884 5185