



OPENHOUSE

The newsletter for Croydon Council tenants and leaseholders

summer edition #105

100 YEARS OF COUNCIL HOUSING

CROYDON MARKS A CENTURY OF RESIDENT MEMORIES

Welcome to this special commemorative edition of Open House in which we are marking the one hundred year anniversary of the 1919 Housing Act, which gave rise to the widespread construction of social housing after the war.

Don't miss our exhibition celebrating 100 years of council housing on show in Croydon Clocktower between 2-31 August. Photos of estates under construction from the Museum of Croydon archives, residents' stories and memorabilia will be on display. (Read Centenary Stories p2-3).

BIDS INVITED FOR COMMUNITY HOMES

Croydon community groups can now put forward bids to build their own affordable homes on a council-owned plot of land. In January the council approved a project where local groups can design and develop their own community-led homes on borough land. Bidders will also receive design and development support from Brick by Brick. (Continued on p8 of OH eXTRA).



OPPORTUNITY TO BUY YOUR OWN HOME UNDER SHARED OWNERSHIP SCHEME

Croydon Council has welcomed the first batch of affordable homes now available to Croydon residents through developer Brick by Brick.

Work is being finalised on turning the site of a derelict former care home off Chipstead Avenue in Thornton Heath into Flora Court, a scheme consisting of 24 shared ownership flats and three affordable rented flats.

The shared ownership part of the scheme is now available. Prices for homes start from £315,000 but will only cost £78,750 for those buying a 25% share.

The three affordable rented homes will go to people on the council's housing waiting list.

The council set up housing development company Brick by Brick in 2016 to boost local housing supply by developing more than 2,000 good-quality homes, including affordable homes, with any profits from development to be returned to the council to reinvest in the borough.

www.bxbdevelopment.com



Delivering for Croydon

CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

CENTENARY STORIES

FOR MORE PHOTOS CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
www.facebook.com/croydonresidentinvolvement

RESIDENTS REMEMBER CHANGING TIMES

The 100 years of council housing exhibition will feature a range of memorabilia including first hand accounts from people who lived in council homes and their relatives. Croydon has provided homes to many families over the years. Here, we give you a taste of the exhibition as some of our residents look back on their experiences, bearing witness to a changing town.

ALBERT & LAURA'S STORY

Paul Bradshaw contacted us through our Facebook page to share a moving account of his grandparents who lived in a council house in 26 Granden Road in Norbury for 54 years, from 1919 to 1973.

"My grandmother came to London from Bedfordshire to be a cook in a family home of a pianist. She met my grandfather in London who was an electrician on the trams.

My mother and her sister were both born in that house. My grandmother, Laura Price nee Brand, was 43 when she had my mother with my grandfather Albert Price, aged 45.

I can remember the neighbours next door. The Rickets were on one side at no. 28 and Mrs Peters on the other at no. 24.

The inside of the house was very old fashioned. It had a 'copper' (a tank to boil water) in the kitchen. If you wanted a bath, you only had a cold tap and took your hot water from the copper in a bucket to tip into the bath. They had a coal fire which changed to gas once they made London a smokeless zone.

I remember my grandfather telling me about a time he was at his front door talking to a friend and five minutes after going indoors, a bomb blew the front door off its hinges and broke all the windows. Luckily everyone inside was OK.

I loved staying at my grandparents house. I always woke up to the smell of bacon frying. My grandmother was a great cook who made brilliant pies. I have very happy memories of that house."



Albert and Laura Price

BRIGID'S STORY

Brigid has lived in a Croydon Council property since moving in with her husband in 1969. It has been her home ever since.

"We were living in a flat above the South End Road post office, opposite the Swan and Sugar Loaf pub. We stayed there until I had my sixth child but the landlord wanted the flat back for his own family, so he forced us out by turning off the electricity and gas. It was December. It was really nasty as he made us homeless and we had to farm out the children to friends while we stayed in a hotel. The council offered us a flat in Moorland Road but although we were

desperate it just wasn't suitable. In those days you were only given two chances but luckily the second time the council offered us this house in Thornton Heath and I've been here ever since."

JEAN'S STORY

Jean is a resident in one of Croydon's sheltered housing and has lived in Croydon all her life.

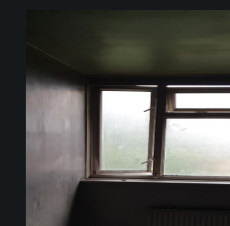
"We moved from Wentworth Road when I was a year old, after my dad spoke to somebody who worked at the council. He was digging his garden in the Swan and Sugarloaf pub and my dad asked him if we could get a council house. Two weeks later we were given a three bedroom house in Waddon. You couldn't do things like that these days. My dad used to tell me that story. He was born in Wentworth Road. My gran was pregnant with my dad when my grandfather died of tuberculosis. She brought up four boys on her own. We had an open fire which was a black stove with different ovens and cupboards to heat the room and warm our clothes, and a chimney. My dad used to find bits of old wood and coal as he worked on the railway. You didn't have the money then to buy a lot of coal. It was so cold at night we had coats on the beds. The milkman, baker and greengrocer used to come round on cart and horses but we couldn't afford to use them every time. There were no local shops, except a grocers who would deliver by bicycle but with rationing there wasn't a lot to buy. We used to take a barrow to the market and had to walk because there weren't any buses." (Read more of Jean and Brigid's memories on p8 OH eXTRA).



Images from top, left to right: Tylecroft Road; Northbrough Road; Beulah Grove; Northbrough Road, bombed housing prior to building of the Handcroft Estate, prefabs in Auckland Rise; Violet Lane

KEEP YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE

Friday 14 June marked the two year anniversary of the Grenfell Tower tragedy in which 72 people lost their lives. Since then Croydon Council have been working hard to ensure that your homes are safe from the risk of fire. Croydon have been a pioneer in the installation of sprinkler systems to high rise blocks across the borough. In June, a chip pan fire in one of these blocks was successfully suppressed by the sprinkler system.



After fire caused by candle

But over the last few months there have been several other incidents where tenants have contributed to the spread of the fire. Please help to ensure both yours and your neighbours' safety by:

- Never leaving an open flame unattended
- Putting candles and cigarettes fully out
- Never propping open a fire door or removing internal doors
- Making sure communal areas are clear or items could:
 - o Burn
 - o Block the fire brigade from moving through the building
 - o Slow your escape

For more information please follow the link to advice from www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/

Join our new online resident health and safety panel, covering all aspects of health and safety including fire, gas and electrical safety, asbestos, legionella/water and potential hazards such as trips and falls. Contact residentinvolvement@croydon.gov.uk to find out more.

FIND OUT
What's on
 in Croydon libraries, museums and parks
SUMMER OF FUN GUIDE
 for lots of free and low cost activities

PICK UP A COPY FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY
 Or go online at: www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/libraries-news-and-events

INVOLVED RESIDENT

YAW NEW TLP CHAIR



At April's Tenant and Leaseholder Panel (TLP), Yaw Boateng was elected to chairperson. He tells us why he took the position and what he gets out of becoming an involved resident.

"It's an honour to be elected to this role, a position my predecessor Marilyn Smithies executed with such dedication and commitment. I've been involved with resident participation since 2013, serving on the council's housing scrutiny panel, complaints panel and now TLP. I am also a member of ARCH, (Association of Retained Council Housing) Tenant's Group and sit on the See the Person (formally Benefit to Society) national committee.

Getting involved has helped me understand how the council works and influence how it delivers housing services. The Tenant and Leaseholder Panel represents all council tenants and leaseholders, so I love that I am able to make a positive difference not only for myself, but also for the community around me.

TLP is held at the Town Hall and is open for anyone to attend. It's also broadcast live on the council's website at (www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/broadcasts). If there's something you'd like raised at the next meeting, on 15 Oct at 6.30pm, just email residentinvolvement@croydon.gov.uk or call 020 8726 6100 ext.

GET INVOLVED

JOIN OUR TEAM OF INVOLVED RESIDENTS

Sign up to get involved at:

www.croydon.gov.uk/residentinvolvementform

JOIN OUR NEW GROUP

We're on the hunt for residents with an eye for detail to join our new performance monitoring group. You'd look at how your housing services are performing and work with council officers to improve them. Interested? Contact residentinvolvement@croydon.gov.uk or call 020 8726 6100 ext. 47350.

HOUSING ROUND UP

STAR SURVEY

Over the coming months we're conducting a survey in partnership with Acuity to find out what you think about the housing services you receive from us. A random selection of residents will receive a phone call asking for feedback on a range of issues from safety to repairs. We'll feedback what you tell us and how we'll address any issues you've raised in Open House. Watch this space!

SURE TO SAVE

The WaterSure Plus scheme is Thames Water's social tariff that gives low-income households a discounted rate on their water bill. This year, the discount is 50%. A low income is considered below £19,201 for Croydon residents. In order to qualify, we will need to do some data checks to verify your income and ensure eligibility. For more details visit: www.thameswater.co.uk

PLUG IN PARKING

New charging points for electric vehicles are currently being installed across Croydon, as part of the borough's commitment to have 400 public charging points by 2022. To request a charging point location near to your home or business, please record your suggestion at: www.powermystreet.co.uk. (Continued on p5 OH eXTRA)

OH eXTRA!

To continue reading p5-8 of our new online supplement, or to download this edition, visit: www.croydon.gov.uk/housing/residents/ohnews

To sign up to receive Open House online and our e-newsletters visit www.croydon.gov.uk/residentinvolvement.

QUICK FIX TIPS # 1: HOW TO TEST A CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM

(Please note: to play this video you will need Adobe Reader software which uses a Flash player)

INTERACTIVE FEATURE

OH GIVES YOU eXTRA

This is the first in a series of instructional videos brought to you by the council's repairs team and Axis to help you with a range of every day DIY tasks.

The videos, presented by Axis apprentices, explain the tasks in an easy to understand step-by-step way.

The advantage of this is that you get to rewatch the video as many times as you like!

If you have any ideas for future videos, contact our repairs team: repairs.surveys@croydon.gov.uk

PLUG IN PARKING (Continued from p 4)

The first eight new Source London charging points have been installed on Edridge Road, Tavistock Road and Colson Road. In potentially popular locations, Blue Point London will install one or two charging points, and prepare the ground to add more as needed.

Rapid (50kW) charging points are being installed by Transport for London on the main Red Routes, including London Road, Thornton Road in Thornton Heath, Brighton Road in Purley and Godstone Road in Kenley.

Registered private hire vehicle drivers can email strategictransport@croydon.gov.uk for details of lower cost cab charging.

Government grants are available for households with off-street parking and businesses. www.government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles



RESIDENTS CLEAN UP THE TOWN

Local residents came together to clear historic fly tipping and vegetation from the green space at Wingate Crescent (leading to Mitcham Common). During the two hour clean up, the group filled almost two caged vehicles with waste. The team were helped by the housing bulk refuse crew and Veolia, who collected the waste.

Dumped tyres which were found will be used as part of a community planting project. www.croydon.gov.uk/environment/dontmess/dont-mess



TAKE PRIDE.

WALL TOGETHER NOW

COMMUNITY VALUES INSPIRE TOLLERS YOUTH ART PROJECT



HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS!

A portrait of Croydon rapper Stormzy with his mother is drawing crowds to a FREE exhibition at the Museum of Croydon from 4 June-28 September celebrating 'home'. It's on loan to the museum from the National Portrait Gallery. You too can become part of the exhibition by writing what home means to you on one of the cardboard 'bricks' which spells out the word 'HOME' on the outside of the exhibition space. www.museumofcroydon.com



During Easter half term, the council's youth engagement team joined up with young people living on the Tollers Lane Estate, aged 11-19, to create a mural on building hoardings around the temporary community centre on Goodenough Close. Participants discussed what the mural would look like and what it should represent, agreeing that identity, community and friendship were key themes. The mural depicts a cherry blossom tree because these are a celebrated natural feature on the estate. The mural was created with the help of professional artist A. Dee (the Artful Dodger) and supported by Brick by Brick, who engaged with local residents.

Croydon's youth engagement team offer a range of services for young people in the borough, including free community outreach sessions. To find out more visit: www.youngcroydon.org.uk; email youngcroydon@croydon.org.uk; tel 07729 445 983.

TOLLERS RESIDENTS WIN FUNDING

A community group on the Tollers estate are celebrating following news that they've twice won bids for community funds. £10,000 awarded by the All National Lottery fund will go towards supporting local projects. Young people who participated in the CYPHER Music Project and submitted an application to Croydon Young Mayors Fund, have a conditional offer of £2,000 to reimburse a grant from Play Place Innov8 to set up music and media projects and a community channel. Find out more about Community at Tollers: c.a.t.residentsgroup@gmail.com.

CENTENARY STORIES

(Continued from p2)

BRIGID'S STORY "When we moved into our council house it had no furniture and in those days there was no central heating so it was very cold.



A man from the council used to collect the rent in person. They helped us to decorate our homes. We had to choose what wallpaper we wanted in each room from a book of samples with a set number of patterns. The front doors in our street were limited to four different colours. Ours was pink but I repainted it, which you weren't supposed to do. There was a very uniform look to the street as there was a hedge outside every house and they were all a similar height. Back then there were no fences

between gardens, just some posts with wire between them."



JEAN'S STORY "I left school to work at 13 to work. My first job was at Woolworths. My mum used to put my bus fare on the mantelpiece. I walked one way and took the bus back because I was tired after being on my feet all day. I got married when I was nearly 18 in St George's Church, Waddon. I also worked as head cook in a school for children with disabilities. I asked one of the men who worked for the council to get my husband a job with the schools repairs team. I had my first baby when I was 21 and we got new flat in Lodge Lane in Addington in the 1950's. There was a pram shed downstairs because prams were so heavy in those days. Then when I fell pregnant with my third child, we moved into a two bedroom house in Windham Avenue in Addington, where we lived for 12 years. It was much bigger with a long lounge and a nice garden. Then we moved to Waddon, where I began to foster children. I've been here for 21 years. Waddon hasn't changed a lot but Croydon has."

FROM FRONT TO BACK

BIDS INVITED FOR COMMUNITY HOMES

(Continued from cover story)

The first such site is at The Lawns in Upper Norwood, and is suitable for around four houses. The eight-week bidding process is available via the Greater London Authority (GLA)'s Small Sites Small Builders online portal, after which a shortlist will be drawn up and bids for The Lawns will be assessed for viability, design and the council's other community-led housing criteria. The scheme is open to all kinds of interested organisations, which can range from residents' associations to faith groups.

www.croydon.gov.uk/planningandregeneration/regeneration/developing-new-homes-in-croydon/community-led-housing

COUNCILLORS MARK MILESTONE IN NEW LEISURE CENTRE BUILD

A traditional construction ceremony celebrated a major milestone in the development of New Addington's brand new leisure and community centre. The 'topping out' marked the completion of the building's outer structure and was the latest step in the major regeneration project which will radically transform the area.

The modern leisure centre, with extended sports and leisure facilities, will include a 25-metre, six-lane main swimming pool and a learning pool, a fitness suite, sport halls and multi-purpose activity studios.

FREE HOLIDAY KIDS CLUB BOOST

Thousands of Croydon children will get free summer holiday activity clubs and healthy meals after Croydon Council and national charity Family Action, jointly won Government funding to offer sports activities, healthy food classes and welfare support for up to 9,000 young people and their families throughout the summer holidays. This £657,000 programme is funded by the Department for Education and will include around 7,000 children who qualify for free school meals. Organisations interested in applying to be involved can email haf@family-action.org.uk.



GET MORE, GET ONLINE

Get the latest housing news with our free monthly e-newsletter, Open House Online. www.croydon.gov.uk/housing/residents/ohnews