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ISSUE 86 – AUTUMN 2019

Your main source of community news



**Dame Judi Dench at the reopening of
Fairfield Halls – See pages 4 and 5**

Delivering for Croydon

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Exciting times ahead

“As leader of the council, I am proud that in the last few weeks we have seen two of our most-anticipated projects delivered. It was a real honour to welcome Dame Judi Dench and Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, for the reopening of the now wonderfully-refurbished Fairfield Halls. This iconic building is now more than restored to its former glory and the cultural programme truly has something for everyone, so if you haven't visited yet take a look at what's on offer at www.fairfield.co.uk

In September we also opened the amazing Legacy Youth Zone, which is the largest ever youth facility in Croydon's history, with its dance studios, boxing ring, recording studio, outdoor sports pitches and much more. It already has more than 2000 young people signed up - if you want to find out more go to www.legacyyouthzone.org.uk

It was fantastic to see Banksy, one of the greatest global urban artists of our time, set up shop in Croydon. Street art is for everyone – it's free and it's there 24/7. We are proud to have one of the biggest collections in Europe and it was brilliant to have Banksy here too.

The coming weeks and months, will see us undertake Croydon's biggest ever survey. Through the Big Conversation, we are giving you the opportunity to say how you want to see Croydon grow, and tell us your priorities for your local communities, as we look forward to the next exciting chapter in our town's story. So whether it's online or at a local meeting, please do take a few minutes to tell us what your priorities for Croydon are.

As we look to the future, like many councils Croydon has declared a climate emergency, and is committed to playing our part in securing a sustainable planet for future generations. How do we all recycle more? Should we perhaps drive less, and improve air quality, especially around our schools? How can we continue to build affordable homes for all? These, and many more are the questions that face all of us, and it's your views that matter most. Let us hear them at the Big Conversation. ”



Councillor Tony Newman
Leader of the council
[@cllrtony](https://twitter.com/cllrtony)

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Thousands back anti-hate crime campaign



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BANKSY SETS UP SHOP IN CROYDON

A pop-up art installation curated and designed by legendary anonymous street artist Banksy caused a stir when it appeared overnight in Croydon.

Fans from across the globe flocked to the town centre to see Gross Domestic Product – one of the artist's largest UK works to date – displayed in shop windows on the junction of Frith Road and Church Road.

It featured several Banksy works, including a stab vest he designed for Croydon rapper Stormzy's headline set at Glastonbury; a rug of Frosties' Tony the Tiger; disco balls made from police riot helmets and a toddler's counting toy where children can load wooden migrant figures inside a haulage truck.

Other items included welcome mats made from life vests salvaged

from the shores of the Mediterranean, hand-stitched by women in detainment camps in Greece.

Banksy said he was launching Gross Domestic Product as a shop because a greeting cards company was attempting to legally trade using his name, although products would only be available online.

The artist is being advised that opening a shop which sold his merchandise would help him protect the trademark on his art.

Croydon already has one of the largest street art collections in Europe – The Croydon Collection – which can be viewed at locations across the town centre.



Council leader Tony Newman
with Dame Judi Dench

GLORIOUS REOPENING FOR FAIRFIELD HALLS

The celebrations continue as Fairfield Halls, now reopened following its multi-million pound council-led refurbishment, launches more new performance spaces.

Two new companies-in-residence - Talawa, the UK's premiere black theatre company and Savvy, a professional, inclusive theatre company – will officially open their studios and announce their programmes.

As *Your Croydon* went to press last week, the Mayor of Croydon were due to formally reopen the Arnhem Foyer, which will now host a year-round programme of free entertainment.

Last month a series of star-studded events celebrated the formal reopening of Fairfield Halls and spaces including the Ashcroft Playhouse and the Phoenix Concert Hall.

Special guests included Dame Judi Dench, who reopened the Ashcroft Playhouse in honour of her friend and Croydon-born actress the late Dame Peggy Ashcroft and Mayor

of London Sadiq Khan, who formally opened the building on 16 September.

HRH the Duke of Kent was guest of honour at the London Mozart Players (LMP) gala opening concert in the Phoenix Concert Hall.

Dame Judi gave a nod of approval to the renaming of the Ashcroft Theatre as the Ashcroft Playhouse, saying: "I love it. A playhouse – you know where you are with that. A place where you do plays – and that's a great tradition of this town."

She unveiled the People's Picture, a giant commemorative mosaic by artist Helen Marshall, before taking to the Ashcroft Playhouse stage for a live Q and A with broadcaster John Hannam and British author and theatre critic Michael Billington. Darren Randon from Well Versed Ink performed a special

commission.

The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said: "Culture is in the DNA of Croydon, and this fantastic transformation of Fairfield Halls is the perfect example of the exciting creative future that lies ahead for the borough.

"It's testament to the hard work and vision of the council and all those behind this dynamic project, who share an ambition to make sure the next generation can

enjoy the arts."

"They know the arts should be for everyone and the difference it can make to the potential of our young people."

Opening night performances included Silvastone with LMP and Shaniqua Benjamin, spoken word poet and Founder of Young People's Insight, who performed a special commission, *A Palace of Magic and Memories*.



Shaniqua Benjamin performed



LMP's opening gala concert, credit Raf Makda



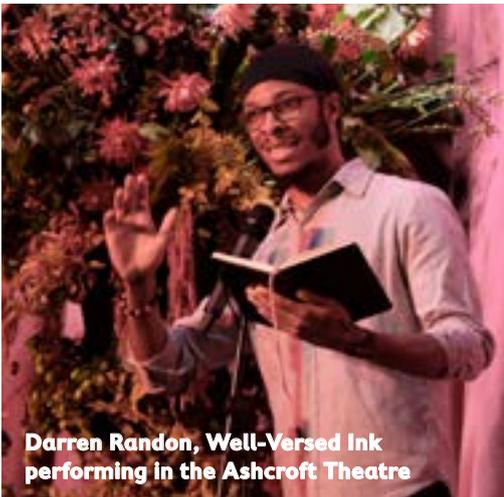
London Mozart Players perform



Silvastone performing at the opening night



The newly-refurbished Ashcroft Playhouse



Darren Randon, Well-Versed Ink performing in the Ashcroft Theatre



Sadiq Khan and Michael Buffong, Artistic Director of Talawa

DANCE UMBRELLA TO MUCH MORE...

Dance Umbrella (DU), London's international festival of dance, is coming to Croydon for two days of dance, performance-parkour, baby raves, live music, homegrown-talent, hands-on activities and much more.

Filling - and spilling out of - Fairfield Halls this Friday and Saturday (18 and 19 October), DU Takeover brings top acts and shows including international dancer Mythili Prakash; superstar hip-hop company Boy Blue; Urban Playground, an exciting outdoor parkour act, and Hocus Pocus, a dreamlike spectacle for kids.

They will join local dancers and musicians as together they takeover Croydon's newly-refurbished and reopened arts centre (see pages 4 and 5).

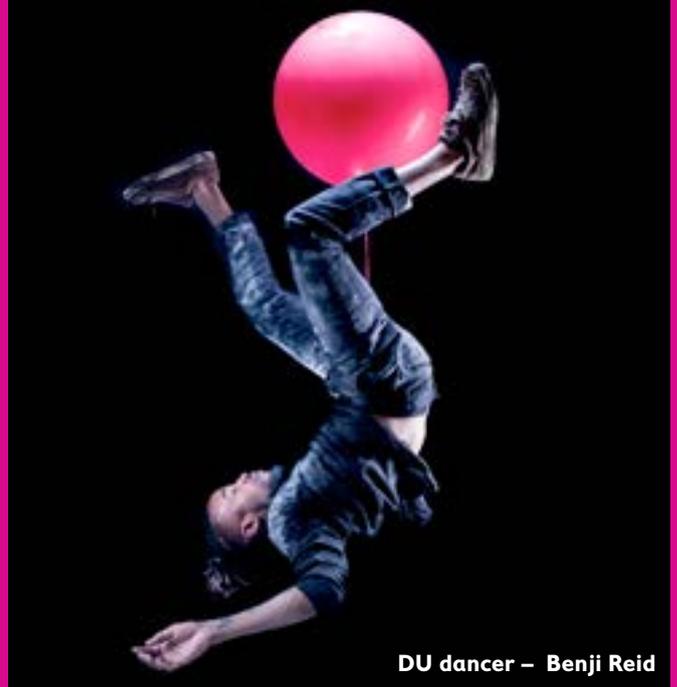
Through a partnership with Croydon Council, Dance Umbrella has been bringing large-scale free dance events to the town centre since 2017.

This year's two-day event is the biggest yet, with events starting from 10am and going through to the end of the day.

Tickets for individual shows start at just £6, offering something for everyone.

There are also plenty of chances to have a go with DIY choreography and dance workshops in different styles.

To find out more, see a full calendar of events and book tickets visit www.danceumbrella.co.uk/event/du-fairfield-takeover



DU dancer – Benji Reid

PUTTING GIRLS IN FRONT THROUGH DANCE

International acts will share the bill with local stars as DU: Fairfield Takeover showcases pioneering projects that have brought free dance classes and performance opportunities to neighbourhoods and communities across Croydon.

Access Croydon, an 18-month programme from Dance Umbrella in partnership with Croydon Council, has been helping local people of all ages, particularly those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to get involved in dance.

Projects include Girls in Front, a DU programme which has been making a difference to young lives locally.

Since October 2018, Girls In Front has offered free weekly dance classes and summer holiday programmes to girls aged 11-18 years at Stanley Halls, helping them to stay fit and develop new skills, while promoting their confidence and self-esteem.

Hundreds of secondary schools have enjoyed taster sessions and 65 girls have taken part in classes.

Over the summer, Girls in Front began a performance project led by choreographer Sara Dos Santos, which the girls will now showcase as part of the Fairfield Takeover on 19 October.



Girls in Front

Girls in Front has been delivered by Dance Umbrella in partnership with Croydon Council and the Palace for Life Foundation.

Renee Thomas, 13, said: "When I found out that I was attending the Girls in Front project I was excited but a little nervous, as I feared I wouldn't know anyone or what to expect.

"As soon as I got there I felt so welcomed and I didn't feel as nervous as I did when I first came in.

"It was a great opportunity being

a part of a team and meeting new people of all ages.

"I loved everything about the project and enjoyed learning the choreography with my new friends."

Other Access Croydon projects performing at DU: Takeover include Dance Festival Croydon, led by Anusha Subramanyan of Croydon's Beeja Dance and Assemble Croydon, a collaborative project bringing together musicians and dancers from across the borough from Drum the Bass.

CREATIVE CROYDON

Creative communities at some of Croydon's newest arts hubs marked their first anniversaries by proudly welcoming the public to open studio events last month.

Over 50 artists, designers and makers at Art House Croydon, Grafton Quarter, hosted the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Humayan Kabir and other visitors at their studio spaces, showcasing a huge range of work from ceramics to painting, sculpture to photography, knitwear design to upholstery and film making.

Run by Artists Studio Company, Art House Croydon comprises 104 brand-new purpose-built art studios and houses a wealth of diverse creative talent.

Conditions studio in Gloucester Road also held a special event to showcase their work in the Whitgift Centre, with exhibitions and performances from 13 artists who have used the space in the last year.

Next door, Turf Project opened a new exhibition of Henrique Paris - this year's Turf x Croydon College artist-in-residence,

Conditions, Turf Project and ASC were all part of Croydon's successful bid, led by the council, to become one of the Mayor of London's first Creative Enterprise Zones in 2018, offering young and emerging creatives subsidised work space.

Other Creative Enterprise Zone initiatives include a subsidy scheme for under 25s to access affordable studio space; Croydon Music City – developing the borough as to a place where music is at the heart of the local economy; business rate relief for creative start-ups and those relocating to the borough, and a pioneering cultural internship scheme for young people.



Art House artist Valerie Savchit © Valerie Savchit

www.arthousestudios.net | www.89gloucesterroad.org | www.turf-projects.com

BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2023

At the reopening of Fairfield Halls I announced that Croydon would be bidding to become London's Borough of Culture in 2023.

The multi-million pound heritage refurbishment of our iconic arts centre - the first phase in our development of a new cultural quarter for Croydon – represents a major investment in culture, putting it firmly at the heart of Croydon's regeneration.

But while Fairfield reopening is fantastic, it is just the beginning of our cultural ambitions – so much is already happening, and there is much more to come.

We have been working with a huge range of artists, organisations and venues, locally and nationally, to create new performance spaces and partnerships across our borough.

Our cultural network has flourished as we have helped dozens of grassroots arts groups to grow, with council match-funding to help them leverage grants from organisations like Arts Council England.

As one of the Mayor of London's Creative Enterprise Zones,

we have seen an increase in new studio spaces and creative businesses in our town.

Central Croydon now has six visual arts galleries, while The Croydon Collection of street art is one of the largest in Europe.

As Croydon Music City we have welcomed some fantastic new major events, including Cro Cro Land and The Ends Festival.

And as one of only five Youth Performance Partnerships in England, we are creating thousands of new opportunities in theatre, particularly for young people from BAME backgrounds.

We'll be submitting our Borough of Culture bid this month, but we are already putting Croydon on the map for culture, throughout London and beyond.





A LEGACY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CROYDON

Croydon's new Legacy Youth Zone celebrated its official opening with more than 2,000 members signed up and hundreds heading to the carnival-themed open day

At the stunning new £6.5m facility in Whitehorse Road, young people aged between eight and 19, or up to 25 for those with additional needs, can now access more than 20 different activities seven days a week.

For an annual membership cost of £5 then just 50p per visit, young people can enjoy an indoor climbing wall, four-court sports hall, gym, 3G all-weather pitch, music room with recording suite, training kitchen, dance studio, health and well-being room, arts and crafts and much more. Hot meals are available for £1.

Kayla Pitter-Aryeetey, from Legacy Young People's Development Group, said: "There's so much to do including go in the music studio, dance studio, and more.

"My favourite bit is the gym but there are so many things to do so come along and have a look."

Croydon Council contributed £3.25million to the building costs while OnSide sourced the remainder from founder patrons including the Queen's Trust, the Stone Family Foundation and The Seroussi Foundation via UBS Optimus Foundation.

The council contributes £300,000 towards the annual running costs together with a group of businesses and philanthropists who have pledged more than £1m per year.

Councillor Tony Newman, Leader of Croydon Council, said: "We have 93,000 under 18s in our borough – more young people than anywhere

else in London – and we promised them we would be ambitious for them. "We are proud to have invested in this fantastic facility, together with our partners, to create a true Legacy for young people in Croydon."

Find out more at www.legacyyouthzone.org.uk





YOUNG MAYOR'S JOB FAIR SHOWCASES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

More than 50 young people attended a special jobs fair hosted by the Young Mayor and Deputy Young Mayor of Croydon.

Keen to help their peers unlock their full potential, the duo organised the event as part of the council's Choose Your Future campaign and so young people in Croydon could learn more about the work opportunities available to them in the borough.

Croydon University Hospital, Network Rail, Croydon Council and Axis Europe, a property management firm, were among the employers that attended the event at Boxpark Croydon.

Attendees heard from a panel of guest speakers including Kieran McNeil from Scaramanga Marketing, John McLean from Croydon College, Coleen Cleary from the Croydon Chamber of Commerce and Dexter Simms from Mula Cake Ltd at the event held as part of the Choose Your Future campaign.

Panel members spoke about their experiences in the jobs market and offered their views on different paths to success, before taking questions from the audience which touched on everything from funding and finance to training opportunities and entrepreneurship.



Shea Williams, the Deputy Young Mayor of Croydon, said: "The event was a success! Over 70 people attended - with many of them personally giving me extremely positive feedback. It was so rewarding to see all the young people gaining knowledge about jobs and the working world, especially after the hard work it took to set up.

"I'm looking forward to the future when there may be more events, where more young people can be supported in making the right choices for their futures."

MORE CROYDON RESIDENTS IN WORK AS APPRENTICESHIP CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Croydon residents are beginning a host of new apprenticeships as a council-led campaign to recruit to 100 positions in 100 working days continues.

Since launching in August, 32 positions have been filled across the borough, with employers seizing the opportunity to professionally develop skilled and motivated Croydon residents.

The Croydon Apprenticeship Academy has been providing support to those who have pledged roles within their organisations, making hiring apprentices as simple as possible.

Around 30 employers have pledged apprenticeships and their vacancies are being advertised through the council's job brokerage service Croydon Works, as well as through partners including CALAT, Croydon College, London Learning Consortium, and JACE Training.



Fatima Traore

Fatima Traore, who is a care leaver, successfully applied for the role of business administration apprentice in the council's learning and organisational development team. She was attracted by the opportunity to develop staff and give them the skills needed to better serve residents.

The 22-year-old said: "I've always been interested in developing and training people and I'm looking forward to seeing the impact I can make.

"The academy being part of the council means you have direct access to a wide range of support to help you do well. I'd definitely recommend an apprenticeship to others, as well as learning, I earn enough to live independently and not have any financial stress."

To search for apprenticeship opportunities, or if you are an employer wishing to sign up, visit www.croydon.gov.uk/100in100

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Communities across Croydon have come together to celebrate black culture and heritage as Black History Month (BHM) continues with a month-long programme of events throughout October.

From InstaPoetry competitions, to lively, interactive African Drumming sessions, storytelling, creative sessions with guest authors, talks and crafts, libraries across Croydon are offering an exciting BHM-themed programme for all ages.

This Saturday (19 October) Surrey Street Market will host a special Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) market day, in partnership with local businesses and entrepreneurs.

At Croydon's newly-refurbished arts centre, visitors can enjoy the free Windrush: Portrait of a Generation exhibition by Jim Grover in the Arnhem Foyer until January 2020, while ticketed events include performances by stars Lenny Henry, Alexander O' Neal and Ruby Turner.

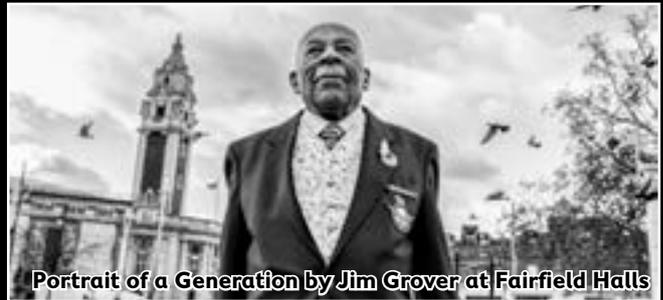
And throughout the month, Croydon BME Forum is hosting a series of workshops and talks, exploring topics from ancestry to mental health. The theme of this year's event is Rid the Stigma.

For the full programme of events at venues across the borough, including film showings, exhibitions and celebrations, visit www.croydon.gov.uk/ccbh

Andrew Brown, Chief Executive, Croydon BME Forum,

said: "Each member of the BME community has a rich and vibrant story to tell. Black History Month is an opportune time to share these stories and in doing so we enrich the entire Croydon community and help to rid the stigma. Croydon BME Forum are as always happy to lead on this year's activities

"It's great that Croydon Council have taken the initiative to get involved in this."



Portrait of a Generation by Jim Grover at Fairfield Halls

INVESTING IN LIBRARIES

Young bookworms were welcomed back into Selsdon library as the treasured community building starts a new chapter in its history.

Selsdon is the first of the borough's 13 libraries to be upgraded and the new facility recently welcomed residents to a special opening.

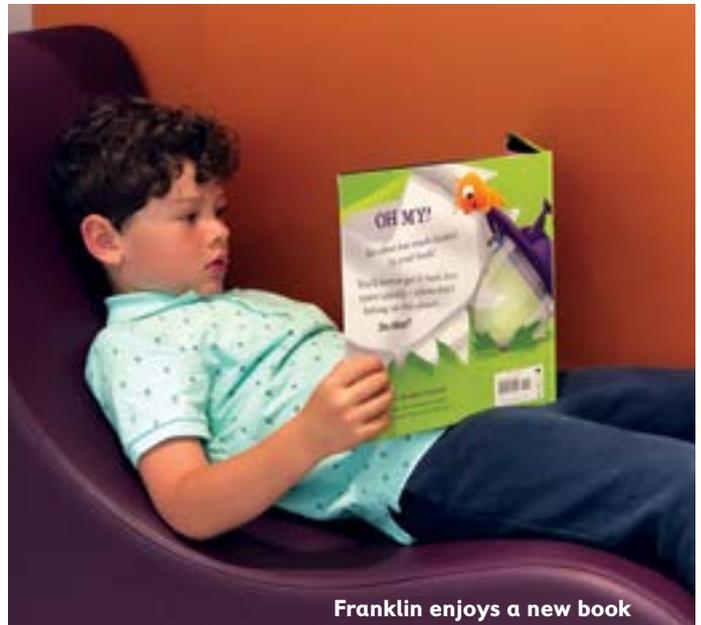
Children were able to join in special rhyme time events, as well as enjoy the new spaces and the refreshed book stock.

Franklin, one of the young attendees, spent the event joining in the activities and reading some new books. "I like Selsdon library because it's really fun," he said.

As part of the refurbishment, the library was fitted with open plus technology which will allow residents out of hours access with their library card, which will be trialled later this year.

As part of the programme of works, Norbury Library is currently being refurbished and will reopen in spring 2020 with new books, a new community space and a faster IT network.

During the closure residents can use two nearby pop-up



Franklin enjoys a new book

libraries or Broad Green Library, which will open for an extra day each week.

South Norwood will be the third library to undergo an upgrade when it relocates to its new home 26 Station Road.

The design will take into account residents' priorities and is set to feature a children's library, a teen zone, flexible community space as part of the main library and a host of new books.

For more information about the library refurbishments visit www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/find-your-library/norbury-library/norbury-library-refurbishment

TENANTS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF COUNCIL HOMES

Tenants' memories and memorabilia used in a celebration of 100 years of council homes are set to become a permanent part of the Croydon's heritage collection.

Dozens of residents gathered at the Museum of Croydon in August to mark 100 years since the 1919 Housing Act, which heralded a nationwide council housebuilding programme, including 25,000 in Croydon.

The milestone was celebrated with a photo exhibition

and a display of vintage day-to-day objects, tenants' case studies and council archives, some of which are now being considered for inclusion in the museum's permanent collection.

LOCAL STORIES



Tenant Eve White, 73, moved into Stockbury Gardens, Addiscombe in 1975 with husband Bob and their seven children. She said: "When we moved here everybody knew everybody, we had street parties. I still like it around here and wouldn't move!"



Jean Wayman, 84, who attended the event and has lived in council properties for 61 years in New Addington and Waddon, said: "It has given me a home, stability and a place to bring up my children, and some people have not had this. I've always been very lucky."



Oscar Jennings, 80, who grows communal fruit and vegetables with neighbours at Laxton Court in Thornton Heath, including tomatoes, melons and pumpkins said: "The communal garden for residents here gives us a quality of life because people can sit outside and enjoy the flowers and see things grow. It has really drawn people together."

Jemima Foxtrot and Bernard
Humphrey-Gaskin from Crystal
Palace CLT

COUNCIL CHOOSES WINNING COMMUNITY HOUSING BID

A community group from Crystal Palace has been chosen to develop its own affordable homes after winning a council-run competition.

Crystal Palace Community Land Trust (CLT) was selected out of four shortlisted applicants for its commitment to turn council land at The Lawns in Upper Norwood into high-quality, low-carbon affordable homes by working with residents to provide a scheme that best fits the local area.

The winning group, formed of local residents with professional specialisms including architecture, transport, housing management, planning and sustainability, submitted a bid that aims to:

- Meet low-carbon Passivhaus building standards
- Build a community food garden available to site residents and their neighbours
- Explore volunteering and job opportunities

Crystal Palace CLT's outline proposals will become more

detailed as the scheme progresses, but their outline plan is to have a mix of affordable homes of different sizes, an eco-friendly design, off-street parking and a new footpath that links with Grange Road.

Jemima Foxtrot from Crystal Palace CLT said the group was set up to take part in the council-run bidding process, and they plan to make all homes as affordable as possible and available to local Crystal Palace residents.

She said: "We're trying to do something for the local community as there's not enough affordable and social housing and in this area there is a real need for it.

"One of the things that made our bid successful was engaging with the local community and finding out what they think.

"It's great that Croydon Council have taken the initiative to get involved in this."

NEW HEATING SYSTEM CUTS COSTS TO COUNCIL TENANTS AND ENVIRONMENT

The council is piloting a low-carbon, ground-source heat pump system which should reduce council tenants' bills while helping the environment.

The heat pump installed at a 10-storey block in Chertsey Crescent, New Addington will reduce carbon emissions, help improve air quality, and save up to £300 per home per year on more than 40 households' heating bills.

The pump works by extracting the natural heat stored more than 200 metres beneath the ground, and then piping it into residents' homes.

The block in Chertsey Crescent is first to get the technology, which will replace the existing electric storage heaters.

As well as saving each home between £260 and £300 a year off their bills, the ground source heat pump should cost the council less to maintain.

The project aims to contribute towards a local carbon emissions reduction target - 34% by 2025 - set by the council as it declared a climate emergency this summer.

Removing electric storage heaters cuts enough carbon emissions equivalent to a 4,150-mile car journey. The average night storage heater produces approximately 1,092kg of carbon dioxide per year, compared to the new system that produces around 396kg per year.

Specialist company Kensa expect to complete the works by spring 2020, which have been timed to coincide with an 18-month, £3.2 million refurbishment to the block including new insulation, a replacement roof and windows, landscaping and new parking.

The £700,000 heating system will be funded through the council's ring-fenced housing budget and via energy credits from energy regulator Ofgem.

CROYDON
2030

THE BIG CONVERSATION

"To create a joint vision for
Croydon together with our
residents and communities"

JOIN THE BIG CONVERSATION: CROYDON 2030

The Big Conversation asks what we want our borough to be like in 2030? We take a look at some of the challenges we face now, how Croydon is changing and how everyone has a part to play.

We've highlighted six topics to talk about:

- 1 Culture at the heart of regeneration
- 2 Decent homes for all
- 3 Safe and secure communities
- 4 Caring for each other
- 5 Creating a sustainable Croydon
- 6 Jobs and economy

We will set out the challenges for each topic, what the council has done and is doing to tackle them. Are we getting it right? What other things could we be doing? What might you be able to do?

The Big Conversation starts this month and will run into 2020. We'll take time to focus on each topic – starting with your views about culture as we embark on our bid to become Borough of Culture 2023 (see page 7). Follow the conversation on social media and online as it develops.

We want everyone who lives, works and spends time in Croydon to join in. We're listening.

HOW DO I JOIN?

- Complete the survey
- Take part in other online activities
- Host a conversation with your friends or community group and tell us about it using the DIY toolkit
- Email your thoughts to bigconversation@croydon.gov.uk
- Be social on Twitter and Instagram using [#bigconversationcroydon](https://twitter.com/bigconversationcroydon) or share your thoughts on Facebook [@ILoveCroydon](https://www.facebook.com/ILoveCroydon)

Find out more at bigconversation.croydon.gov.uk

Rebecca and Danny from SAVVY Theatre



Kayla Tyrell and Chinelo helped set up the Legacy Youth Zone



Rose and Portiah at the dementia tea dance



CARNER LOYLE TO CROYDON WITH GREENING CAMPAIGN

NME Award-winning musician Loyle Carner is returning to his home borough to help kickstart a global campaign to create green spaces in urban areas.

Loyle, who grew up in Croydon, leads Timberland's Nature Needs Heroes campaign, which is being supported by National Park City (NPC) to transform three urban spaces in Croydon into green community hubs.

This is part of the outdoorwear brand's commitment to plant 50 million trees over the next five years.

Loyle will launch the campaign at a community event this week (Thursday 17 October) on the public space outside Ambassador House in Thornton Heath, one of three Croydon locations undergoing urban greening.

Loyle's input will build on the work already undertaken by the council and the local community to revitalise the space, ensuring the space becomes a healthy, green



Loyle Carner

space to be enjoyed for generations to come.

The event will mark the first phase of the urban greening development, with

entertainment by local artists, food stalls and a glimpse of the transformation concepts.

It will also provide the local community with the chance

to give further feedback and input on the development.

Loyle will attend and there will be the chance for people to find out more about becoming part of the network of Volunteer National Park City Rangers in London.

The garden of The BRIT School, where Loyle was once a student, will also be transformed, along with a selection of flats in the borough.

Loyle said: "I know how much potential these areas have and I feel pretty lucky to be part of a movement trying to bring the community together through 'urban greening'.

"A lot of the reading I've done recently shows there's a strong connection between greenery, creativity and mental wellbeing."

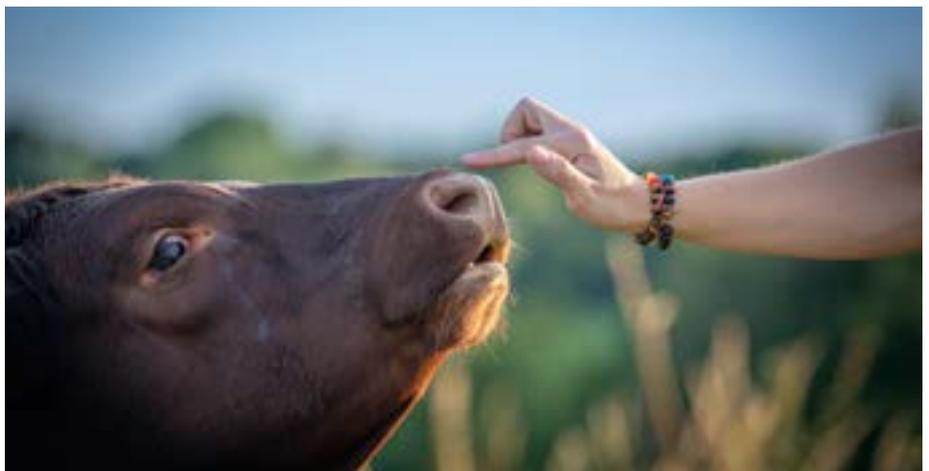
GETTING SOUTH LONDON DOWN WITH NATURE

A newly-declared nature reserve in south Croydon is offering the chance to get involved with a host of outdoor activities.

Natural England has now declared Happy Valley and the surrounding area a National Nature Reserve – one of just three in the capital - in recognition of the work Croydon Council and City of London do to manage the site.

The two organisations will continue to work together to help people access and enjoy the fantastic scenery while preserving the rare plants and animals that call the reserve home.

Turn to page 23 for more details of nature activities and guided walks across the borough.



RECYCLING RATE ROCKETS

Recycling in Croydon has rocketed since major changes to waste collections were introduced last year.

Dedicated residents have helped get the borough's recycling rate up to 48 per cent – an increase of nine percent – since the changes in September 2018, initial figures show.

The new bin collections were a major service change, designed to boost the borough's recycling rate to more than 50 per cent by September 2020.

The changes have helped people recycle more of their waste, and with a whole year still to go, Croydon is already just two percent off its final target.

The changes saw most homes in Croydon given a new blue-lidded 240-litre wheelie bin for paper and a 240-litre wheelie bin for plastic, metal and glass, giving them

significantly more space to recycle.

At the same time, changes to 75% of residents' collection days made the system more efficient across Croydon and neighbouring boroughs.

Missed collections should be reported online through the My Account system on our website at my.croydon.gov.uk



STREET CHAMPIONS THANKED WITH SPECIAL HOME-COOKED MEAL

Twenty-five community heroes who voluntarily litter picked at a Thornton Heath sheltered housing block, were rewarded with a special home-cooked meal.

The Street Champions collected 70 bags of rubbish when they came together recently to help clear a community garden at Laxton Court.

Their efforts were so appreciated they were treated to a warming bowl of vegetable soup made by the residents that live there, using food grown in their communal garden.

Croydon has nearly 400 Street Champions who are helped by the council to organise litter picks throughout the year.

Earlier this year, the Street Champions' hard work won national recognition during the Great British Spring Clean.

To find out more about the Street Champions work or how to volunteer with them email champions@croydon.gov.uk

Croydon has nearly 400 Street Champions who are helped by the council to organise litter picks throughout the year.



NEW SCHOOL STREETS MEAN SAFER JOURNEYS FOR HUNDREDS OF PUPILS



SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR

Pupils are enjoying less congestion, improved air quality and better road safety on their journeys to and from four Croydon schools, after an innovative scheme expanded to three new sites.

New School Streets - pedestrian zones operating outside schools at the start and end of the school day - have come into effect at Norbury Manor Primary, Downsview Primary & Nursery, Harris Academy Purley and Regina Coelie Catholic Primary School; with two more schemes set to come into effect at Harris Primary Academy and West Thornton Academy later this month.

The new School Streets, build on three successful pilots across the borough leading to 250 fewer children travelling to school by car.

A larger scheme is set to be trialled at Meridian High School and Fairchildes Primary School.

Samantha Gadsby, a year six junior travel ambassador for Fairchildes Primary School welcomed the plan and said: "I think a School Street is a good idea because if people are trying to cross the road and there are not so many cars it will be easier, safer and you wouldn't have to wait as long."

Jo Hussey, head of Fairchildes Primary School, said: "We want our children and families to be safe going to and from school and hope that with a safer road parents will be happier for children to ride their bikes to school or come on their scooters."

"We want our children and families to be safe going to and from school and hope that with a safer road parents will be happier for children to ride their bikes to school or come on their scooters."



DISCOUNTED PARKING PERMITS DRIVE CROYDON'S GREEN AGENDA

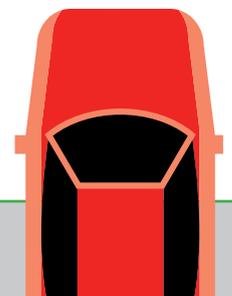
Drivers with less polluting cars now receive substantial discounts to the cost of their parking permits thanks to a new scheme designed to improve air quality across Croydon.

The emissions-based charging scheme takes account of how much CO₂ a vehicle generates per kilometre to determine the permit cost across five bands.

When a permit is due for renewal residents will need to provide the parking team with their registration number, this will then be used to inform drivers

how much their permit will cost.

The new charges currently only apply to residential parking permits, but the scheme will expand to include business and all other permits from April 2020.



WE'RE DOING OUR BIT, ARE YOU DOING YOURS?

DON'T MESS WITH CROYDON
TAKE PRIDE

Croydon has declared a climate and ecological emergency in a bid to improve the environment for current and future residents. Air pollution in Croydon has a dramatic impact on everyone's health and poor air quality contributes to an extra 9,400 deaths a year across London. Meanwhile pollution fuels climate change, driving species across the globe towards extinction. Here we look at what we're doing and what you can do to help make Croydon more sustainable.

WHAT WE DO

CYCLE HANGARS

Cycle hangars provide secure storage for bicycles in the street. Each hangar has space for up to six bicycles to be stored, and are smaller than a car parking space. Visit www.cyclehoop.rentals to find existing hangars or to suggest a location near you.



ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS

We've pledged to install 400 electric charging points across Croydon by 2022.



CYCLE LANES

Cycling is an easy way to make more sustainable journeys across the borough, which is why we are creating safe and segregated cycle lanes for cyclists to use. Our newest cycle lane is in Bedford Park making moving through the town centre easier.

BACKING OUR BEES

Bees are key to the health of plants across Croydon and rely on bees and wild insects to pollinate and grow. To help our bees carry out this important job, grass verges across the borough will be allowed to grow with wild flowers, offering a better habitat for the insects.



WORKING TO A CARBON NEUTRAL FUTURE

As part of our commitment to minimising our impact on the environment, we have pledged to make Croydon Council carbon neutral by 2030.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

LEAVE THE CAR AT HOME

It can often be quicker to walk, cycle or take public transport over short distances.



CAR CLUBS AND CAR SHARING

Car clubs and car shares are a novel way of making sure you still have access to a car to make key journeys, for example to work, but can help you look at other appropriate ways to make a journey.

DRIVE YOUR CAR GREENER

Are your tyres inflated to the right pressure? There are many ways to drive your car more greenly, removing roof and cycle racks when not in use, accelerating and braking smoothly, avoiding over-revving and using higher gears as early as possible can all help to reduce impact on the environment.

CHOOSE CLICK AND COLLECT

Why not use click and collect instead of getting your food shop delivered? Collecting your shopping while already out, helps to reduce the number of trips made by delivery vehicles across the borough.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE RETURNS TO FAIRFIELD HALLS

This year's Remembrance Sunday service will return to the reopened Fairfield Halls ahead of a wreath-laying ceremony at the war memorial on Katharine Street.

The memorial event will take place on Sunday 10 November with anyone wanting to pay their respects welcome to attend.

The event will begin with a parade from the military and other uniformed groups marching from North End to the Halls shortly before 10am.

They will arrive before the Remembrance Service which is due to begin at 10.55am in the auditorium.

The service will be led by the Vicar of Croydon, Reverend Canon Dr Andrew Bishop, and last for around an hour.

A second march will leave from Fairfield Halls to Katharine Street for a wreath-laying ceremony which is due to begin at around 12.30pm.



There will be a short ceremony with a two-minute silence by the Katharine Street war memorial at 11am on Armistice Day, Monday 11 November.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES BECOMING 'CONSISTENTLY BETTER' OFSTED SAY

Social care for children in Croydon is becoming 'consistently better' and improvements to the service are happening at 'accelerated pace', a recent Ofsted inspection has found.

Inspectors published their findings following their most recent monitoring visit in July, and praised the drive and direction provided by the two directors leading the service, which they noted has 'created the conditions that are enabling steadily improving practice and outcomes for children'.

The inspectors' visit focused on how the team responds to referrals to their services and assesses risk, as well as services offered to children with disabilities and children who are privately fostered.

While highlighting many examples of improvement, Ofsted agreed with the council's own assessment that services for children with private fostering arrangements - when a parent or carer has arranged for another adult, who is not a close relative to foster their child - are inadequate and need strengthening. However, they noted the council is already prioritising this work and a dedicated improvement plan is under way to address this.



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We see you.

INTRODUCING NEW VIOLENCE REDUCTION DIRECTOR

Everyone has a role to play in preventing and reducing violence in Croydon, according to the council's new director of the violence reduction network (VRN).

Sarah Hayward is spearheading the council's new network, which is one of the first of its kind in the capital and will build on its strong partnership work with the police and other colleagues across education, health, criminal justice and the voluntary sector.

Since joining the council in August, Sarah has been out meeting local partners and speaking with community groups to learn more about the work they are doing to combat violence and how it can be further supported by the VRN's approach.

Sarah said: "It has been really interesting meeting community organisations. It is clear to me there is a huge amount of capability in Croydon, and I am committed to drawing on this to help continue to drive down crime across the borough.

"I'll also be looking to work closely with the borough's schools as they can play a key role in our work. Children who experience trauma are more likely to develop health-harming and antisocial behaviours, perform poorly at school and be involved with crime, so we will be looking at how we can work with schools to tackle the root cause."

As well as working to combat serious youth violence, knife and gun crime, the VRN will apply its holistic approach - which will see violence treated as a public health issue - to reduce domestic abuse, modern-day slavery, hate crime and violent extremism.



Sarah Hayward

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON POLICING



Hi everyone

Autumn has seen our presence in the town centre and across communities increase, and you will see more policing operations over the next few months aimed at further reducing crime and disorder.

We continue to work alongside partners and many of you individually, to make the borough safer, and I want to personally thank the many hundreds of volunteers, such as the special constables, Croydon Neighbourhood Watch and others that work so hard to the benefit of us all locally.

As the dark nights draw in we normally see a rise in burglary offences across the country. It's so important everyone locks doors and windows, sets alarms and tells us if they see anything suspicious. We can reduce burglary if we take basic crime prevention advice which is available online or from your local officers.

We always welcome your views and concerns about local policing, and are now offering the chance for you to have your say about our service online. You can join the conversation and ask questions to police leaders by using

our online police panels which are held every fortnight on the Croydon Police Facebook page. Don't forget to follow the page to receive regular safety tips and local police news.

Craig Knight

Chief Inspector 240237
Neighbourhoods and Partnership
South Area Basic Command Unit



THOUSANDS BACK ANTI-HATE CRIME CAMPAIGN

More than 7,000 people have signed anti-hate crime pledges and others are being urged to follow suit for National Anti-hate Crime Awareness Week.

More than 7,000 people have signed anti-hate crime pledges and others are being urged to follow suit for National Anti-hate Crime Awareness Week.

Throughout the week (12 to 19 October) the council will be raising awareness of hate crime and sharing the pledge, in a

Hate crime demonstrates hostility towards the victim's:

- Race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality or national origins
- Religion or belief
- Gender or gender identity
- Sexual orientation
- Physical disability or mental health

bid to strengthen Croydon's inclusive community against these offences and encourage reporting of this type of crime.

Our anti-hate crime message will be shared with Croydon and Coulsdon Colleges, The Bridge LGBT Youth Club and St Chads Church in Selhurst.

The council team is also supporting TellMAMA, who work to address anti-muslim hatred by offering online hate-crime awareness training in Shirley, and attending the MET's hate crime police conference to share Croydon's work.

Anti-hate crime information will also be displayed in borough libraries and at community hubs.

The pledge is for everyone, whether you sign as an individual, or as part of an organisation including businesses, community groups, private sector or statutory.

To sign please visit www.croydon.gov.uk/saynotohate

To find out more about hate crime or report a hate crime at www.met.police.uk/true-vision-report-hate-crime

You can also call 101, or 999 in an emergency.

COUNCIL TACKLES ONLINE COMPANIES OVER ILLEGAL KNIFE SALES

UK businesses are being warned to tighten their online checks after several were prosecuted and fined thousands for illegally selling knives to children.

UK businesses are being warned to tighten their online checks after several were prosecuted and fined thousands for illegally selling knives to children.

In June, Croydon Council began taking businesses across the country to court for selling knives online to a child aged under 18, which is illegal under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 as amended by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996.

To date, five companies have pleaded guilty to illegally selling a knife online to a minor, leading to magistrates

imposing fines ranging from £8,000 to £40,000, plus court costs.

In all cases the buyer was a 13-year-old volunteer test purchaser for the

council's trading standards team, who are leading a national pilot online knife sale clampdown backed by the Home Office and National Trading Standards.





Croydon Council is required to review its local plan every five years, to ensure it meets the changing needs of our diverse borough and those who live and work within it.

The review will mean the local plan, which was adopted last year, is updated to the year 2039.

It will respond to England's housing crisis, which is particularly acute in London and the south east. Across the capital, nearly 65,000 homes need to be built every year to meet housing needs. The review will take an environmental approach, looking at how the council can lead from the front and address climate change, after declaring a climate and ecological emergency in July.

The revised plan also sets out to respond to the Mayor of London's emerging London Plan, which will require every London borough to provide more homes than currently stated. It looks to strengthen Croydon's sustainability, create healthier places and support further employment, educational, leisure and retail opportunities.

The review will also explore options to lessen the impact of growth on the character and nature of Croydon's suburbs.

It will also include a dedicated chapter on the Purley Way, seeking to protect the commercial future of the area while facilitating a step change in residential and mixed-use development, supported by the necessary physical and social infrastructure.



WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR:

The council started the review process in June when it asked residents to have their say on the importance of the borough's green spaces.

More than 8,000 people responded to the surveys, of which there were three:

- Asking residents to submit evidence as to why their listed local green space was important for additional protection against development;
- Asking residents, if their local green space wasn't listed, why it should get additional protection, and;
- Asking for sites that could be put forward for future development.

The results of these surveys are being analysed by Croydon Council's planning department to form part of a consultation later this year. The proposed local green spaces will be shared with the government planning inspectorate to try and secure Local Green Space designation, a further protection to development.

If areas proposed for future development are acceptable, they will be included as potential sites in the local plan review document.

NEXT STEPS:

This month, cabinet will discuss a document setting out the issues facing the borough and potential options to respond to them. If approved, a public consultation will take place from November.

The consultation results will be analysed, and in late 2020 there will be another public consultation, on the council's preferred options. This will then be publicly examined in spring 2021, with adoption taking place in 2022.

Council meeting dates

Full council meetings start at 6.30pm and are held in the council chamber of Croydon Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX.

Meeting: Monday 2 December **Deadline:** Monday 25 November

Questions for consideration at a full council meeting, can be emailed to democratic.services@croydon.gov.uk; alternatively, write to **Questions for the council, Democratic Services, 7C Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA.**

Unless otherwise stated, cabinet meetings start at 6.30pm, in the council chamber of the Town Hall.

Meeting: Monday 21 October

For information on meetings, minutes and agendas, go to www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings For information on cabinet and shadow cabinet members, go to www.croydon.gov.uk/cabinet

Unless otherwise stated, scrutiny meetings start at 6.30pm, in the council chamber of the Town Hall.

Meeting: Tuesday 29 October

For information on scrutiny, go to www.croydon.gov.uk/scrutiny or email democratic.services@croydon.gov.uk

Meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Board are held in the venues indicated.

Meeting: Thursday 28 November 6.30pm F10 Town Hall

For further information, check www.croydononline.org/safer-neighbourhood-board Details of all Croydon Council meetings can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings

Useful contacts

For police, fire brigade, ambulance, call: 999 or 112, Text phone 1800

**Croydon Council general enquiries
020 8726 6000**

**Croydon NHS Walk-in Centre
020 3040 0800**

Non-emergency urgent care - 111

**Croydon University Hospital
020 8401 3000**

Get in touch

To get in touch with the *Your Croydon* editorial team, email: yourcroydon@croydon.gov.uk

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Central Library and Museum of Croydon Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET

Open: Monday to Saturday (see website for daily hours)

Library – www.croydon.gov.uk/central-library **Museum – www.museumofcroydon.com**

Telephone: **020 8726 6900** Telephone: **020 8253 1022**

Email: libraries@croydon.gov.uk Email: museum@croydon.gov.uk

Guided Walks

For full details, visit: www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/parksandopenspaces/walks

There are 127 parks and green spaces across Croydon just waiting for you to discover them. You can explore them at any time, but if you would rather be guided through the parks and landscapes or join in with a special activity there are a host of opportunities over the coming months.

OCTOBER

Sunday 27

Happy Valley Explorer – Happy Valley

Join the warden to discover the history and wildlife of some of the hidden nooks and crannies of Happy Valley. This walk covers some steep, uneven ground and overgrown areas so please wear appropriate footwear and long trousers.

The walk will take around one and a half hours. Meet at 2pm by the noticeboard near the five-bar gate in the Happy Valley car park.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 2

Autumn leaves – Selsdon Wood

Join the Friends of Selsdon Wood for a gentle stroll and marvel at the colours of the leaves and the fruits on the bushes and trees. Meet at 1pm by the wooden bear in the Selsdon Wood car park.

Sunday 24

A nature trail with the warden – Happy Valley

Walk the scenic Happy Valley section of the Happy Valley and Farthing Downs Nature Trail. Recently relaunched as a high-tech smartphone-guided nature trail, this time you can leave your phone at home as the warden will be your guide.

The walk will take between one-and-a-half and two hours. Meet at 2pm in the Farthing Downs car park. The nearest bus stop is served by the 404 and 60 and the nearest train station is Coulsdon South.



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Find out more at our
Crystal Palace Park Campus Advice Session
Tuesday 19 November 2019, 5 - 7.30pm

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