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ISSUE 87 – WINTER 2019

Your main source of community news



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first Croydon residents move into new Croydon Council homes

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A lot to be thankful for this Christmas

“As the leader of Croydon Council I am so proud that as we enter the Christmas holidays, the largest house-building project in our council’s history has reached a significant milestone, and the first residents to benefit from our affordable homes programme have moved into their new homes.

Their individual stories are truly moving (see page 11) because at Christmas - more than any other time of year – we are reminded of the need to ensure everyone has a roof over their head and somewhere safe and secure to call home.

On a lighter note, a wonderful Christmas tradition is returning to Croydon this year, panto at the gloriously refurbished Fairfield Halls. If you haven’t yet got your tickets for Cinderella, they are available at www.fairfield.co.uk/whats-on/cinderella

We should all be proud that we have brought Fairfield Halls back for the people of Croydon and secured its iconic status as south London’s leading cultural venue for generations to come. If you get a moment over the Christmas break, pop in to Fairfield for tea, coffee or maybe something stronger and take a look at the amazing transformation for yourself.

Finally, it is great to see our borough-wide recycling figures up a staggering nine per cent over the last year. Thank you for your contribution to that. Let’s make sure we continue the good work by recycling all real Christmas trees post the Twelfth Night - see page 7 for more information on collection dates.

Have a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. ”



Councillor Tony Newman
Leader of the council
@cllrtony

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BBC1 TO BROADCAST MIDNIGHT MASS LIVE FROM CROYDON MINSTER

BBC1 will broadcast Midnight Mass 2019 live from Croydon Minster in the heart of Croydon this year.

Millions tune in for the traditional Christmas Eve night service, which begins broadcasting from 11.45pm on 24 December.

Croydon Minster, formerly Croydon Parish Church by Reeves Corner, is a Grade I listed building with a long and distinguished history.

It is believed to have been founded in Saxon times, although the first record of a church building is in the Domesday Book (1086).

It had close links with the Archbishops of Canterbury who had a Palace in Croydon - much of that building still stands next to the Minster and is now the Old Palace of John Whitgift School.

Reverend Dr Andrew Bishop, the Priest in Charge at the Minster, said, 'This is very exciting for us at the Minster and a great thing for Croydon.'

"Viewers will see the wonderfully diverse faces of Croydon celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ."



Croydon Minster

The Bishop of Croydon will give the sermon and the Minster choir, who performed on BBC Radio 3 last year and sang at Fairfield Halls for Remembrance Sunday, will be singing Mozart's Great Credo Mass.

All are welcome to join the service and need to be at the Minster by 11pm.

Midnight Mass starts at 11.45pm and will last 70 minutes. Visit Croydon Minster www.croydonminster.org for more information.

GRASSROOTS GIGS CROP UP IN MUSIC CITY

Live music has been making a comeback in central Croydon as a music city initiative links up local musicians with new audiences in fresh locations.

From coffee shops to cocktail bars, a range of venues have been working with Croydon Council's music city team and promoters Big South to host live music nights, in some cases for the first time.

The initiative, Croydon Calling, aims to boost the borough's live music renaissance, championing smaller, 'grassroots' gigs to complement the new large-scale events and venues, such as Cro Cro Land, The Ends, and Fairfield Halls, that are already transforming Croydon's music scene.

Venues can apply for a grant and other support to host initial gigs, with the idea that the revenue this generates will enable them to run more.

Croydon Council's music city officer, Marcus Harris, explained: "We've seen some fantastic new large-scale events arrive, but want a varied live music scene that will suit all tastes and budgets."

"We hope Croydon Calling will do just that, while providing some of our incredibly talented emerging local artists with a chance to shine."

Coffee Shoter in High Street, Mr Fox in Surrey Street and The Front Room in St George's Walk have all hosted gigs as part of the scheme, which has been piloted throughout November.



The funk filled sounds of Brassroots filled Mr Fox for Croydon Calling



Croydon-born Rachel Chinouriri took to the stage at The Front Room

CURTAIN RISING ON PIONEERING PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMME

Croydon Creative Collective (C3) - London's first youth performance partnership (YPP) – launches its Neighbourhood Studios programme in Thornton Heath, South Norwood and New Addington.

Run by industry professionals, it will offer young people the opportunity to train in drama, dance, music production and spoken word, develop their skills and work towards a summer production at Fairfield Halls.

Older members will have opportunities to access work placements and job-shadowing, and participants will be offered free tickets to see shows all over London.

C3 member Tola (pictured right) said: "C3 will help young people access the performing arts, which is great because there isn't much time given to it in school, which makes it more difficult for young people to know they can get a career in the arts."

Croydon became one of only five YPPs in England in March,



after the borough's partnership successfully bid for £1m Arts Council England funding.

Developed by Croydon Music & Arts and Croydon Council, with young people, arts organisations and schools, the three-year programme will create performing arts opportunities for more than 2,000 young people locally.

For information or to sign up contact **020 8681 0909** or **c3@croydon.gov.uk**

RAPPER COMES UP ROSES AT YOUTH EVENT



Nadia Rose

Croydon's MOBO Award-winning Nadia Rose delighted fans when she returned to her roots to headline at Croydon Youth Arts Collective's (CYAC) Youth Takeover.

The day of performances and workshops, created by and for young people, was held at Fairfield Halls last month.

Hussain Raza, 17, said: "The day is a great representation of Croydon and everyone in our community, which is why I look forward to more Takeovers in the coming years."

Performers included Chineke! Junior Orchestra, See Our 7, Endurance Steel Orchestra and Good Wolf Theatre, with workshops from SAVVY Theatre, White Hut Studios and Croydon Music and Arts.

Macie Greenbrook, 15, said: "We saw lots of young people trying new things and leaving with big smiles on their faces."

SIX MILLION BOOKS BOOST FOR CROYDON LIBRARIES

Croydon's library members can borrow from a catalogue of more than six million books from 300 libraries since the borough joined the Libraries Consortium.

And managing reservations is easier than ever thanks to a bespoke app.

Available from the App Store and Google Play Store, the My Library App allows you to find your nearest consortium library, discover the latest free library activities and events, and renew and reserve items.

Next year, the council will start to make libraries even more accessible with the trial of OpenPlus in Selsdon Library, giving out-of-hours access to members.





Fairfield Halls is celebrating its first Christmas since the venue's multi-million pound revamp with a packed programme for all – including a star-studded panto.

The cast includes Strictly Come Dancing winner Ore Oduba, who will be joined by CBeebies' Cat Sandion and comedian Tim Vine as Buttons in the Imagine Theatre production. The celebs couldn't wait to tread the boards at the newly-refurbished venue.

Ore said: "Fairfield Halls is the beating heart of Croydon - when so much has been put into the

venue, there's a real excitement and anticipation from everybody.

"The first panto is going to be huge and for us it's really exciting to be part of something very special." Croydon's very own James Bisp described getting to play Prince Charming in his local theatre as 'a Christmas dream come true.'

Cinderella is open until Sunday 5 January 2020.



Ore Oduba



James Bisp

NEW THEATRE COMPANIES LAUNCH FAIRFIELD STUDIOS

The UK's premiere black theatre company, Talawa, and inclusive, SAVVY Theatre have now moved into their new studios at Fairfield Halls.

Your Croydon caught up with them both to ask them how they're finding Croydon, and what they hope to bring to the borough.



Michael Buffong, Artistic Director, Talawa

"In the months before moving to Fairfield Halls, I and members of the Talawa team often travelled to Croydon. What struck us all was the way we immediately felt comfortable.

"There's a real buzz in the borough, and an exciting sense of possibility and we're delighted to be part of that.

"We want to start our time here by listening to people, and finding out what their creative needs are as well as engaging with local theatre artists.

"Look out for details of that. And of course we want to present the work we make – the first of which can be seen in March 2020. It's an exciting time, and we want black people in Croydon, and across the country, to be part of this next phase of our story."



Sheree Vickers, Artistic Director, SAVVY Theatre

"We feel honoured to be an official Croydon resident now, contributing to the creative buzz and energy in the borough.

"We have a multitude of groups for all ages and abilities running six days a week at the SAVVY studio. We have some amazing local partners including Croydon Mencap and Crisis Skylight. Our upcoming Christmas Show is already sold out and we can't wait to build our participatory arts programme, helping to build Croydon's reputation as a leading cultural centre for inclusive, diverse and community-orientated work."

For the full programme and tickets visit www.fairfield.co.uk

WE'RE DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

Christmas - as we know - is the most wonderful time of the year; full of good food, gifts and quality time spent with family and friends. But it is also a time that can create a lot of unnecessary waste.

Did you know a massive 277,000 miles of wrapping paper - enough to stretch all the way to the moon - is thrown away by UK households, along with huge amounts of plastic packaging? But it's not all bah humbug; Christmas doesn't have to be a burden on the planet.

Here are our top five tips to enjoy the Christmas festivities in an environmentally-friendly way.

HOME-GROWN TREES: If you opt for a real Christmas tree, try to find one that is UK-grown and has an FSC certification which indicates the tree has been grown sustainably. Be sure to recycle it correctly after the festive break, see page 7 for collection details.

CHOOSE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GIFTS: Purchase experience days, shop second hand or choosing sustainable products there are lots of ways to gift family and friends and the environment. If you are feeling creative you could make your gifts instead of buying them. You might find that whatever you can give to others will be more special to them if they know you made it with your own two hands.

RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE: Don't forget that many common Christmas items including large sweet tins, cardboard boxes and wrapping paper can be recycled. Be sure to remove ribbons, bows, batteries from musical cards, and plastic sticky tape from cards and wrapping paper before recycling them.

CUT FOOD WASTE: It's believed we waste more food at Christmas than at any other time of the year. Avoid food wastage by planning your meals and not buying food that won't be eaten. If you end up with lots of left overs, see what you can freeze or transform them into new meals to save money and cut waste.

HOMEMADE DECORATIONS: Why not get creative and make your decorations this year. You could make your own wreath using a coat hanger, pine cones, ivy and holly or bake biscuit decorations for your tree. If you've had your festive lights for ten years or more, it will be more efficient to replace them with newer LED lights which last longer than traditional bulbs and use less energy.

TACKLING THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

Every year air pollution contributes to 205 deaths in Croydon while scientists estimate 1,000,000 species are at risk of extinction worldwide.

To help tackle this monumental challenge, Croydon Council has launched a new Green Fund to support environmentally friendly initiatives across the borough.

In total £250,000 is available to support projects improving the environment in Croydon.

To be eligible for funding, projects should work towards environmental

protection, green living or promoting sustainable lifestyles.

Visit www.croydon.gov.uk/community/advice/tsfunding/funding/croydon-green-fund for more information.

Also, a new Citizen's Assembly is looking to draw 70 people from across Croydon giving our communities, and especially young people, a strong voice

in helping to shape how we work to meet this global challenge.

This assembly will be created with the help of an independent consultant. Work is also under way to set up a Sustainable Croydon Commission to work with a cross-section of residents to create long-term goals for reducing Croydon's carbon emissions.

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR YOUNG RECYCLER

Thornton Heath schoolboy Zachary Tompson's Christmas wish came true when he was treated to a spin in his favourite vehicle - a bin lorry.

On collection day, four-year old Zachary always waits excitedly at his window for the bin crew to arrive so he can give them a wave and thumbs-up.

Proud mum, Heidi Tompson, says her son is a little eco-warrior and is obsessed with recycling, making sure everyone in the family does it properly. He even has his own recycling box.

So when Veolia driver Jeff and supervisor Wayne heard about Zachary's passion, they whisked him off for a tour of Croydon's Factory Lane depot.

The youngster was amazed at the amount of recycling collected and was excited to see all the different bin lorries lined up and ready for their rounds.

Veolia's general manager for south London, Scott Edgell said: "It's great to see such enthusiasm for the work we do.

"Our industry offers so many opportunities and we hope he'll put his passion for recycling to good use in the future.

"He'd certainly make a great member of our team."

Zachary was presented with his very own recycling truck toy to take home, along with a Don't Mess With Croydon school kit.

The delighted schoolboy said: "Today was the best day

ever. There was lots and lots of paper to be recycled- it looked like a snow mountain. The two dustmen were very nice to me and I have the best toy in the world."



Zachary Tompson with Jeff (left) and Wayne (right)

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTIONS

**DON'T MESS
WITH CROYDON
TAKE PRIDE**

If you decide to have a real Christmas tree this year then it will be collected between **Monday 13 January and Monday 27 January 2020.**

All you have to do is remove the decorations and tree pots then place your tree as close to the front boundary of your property as possible, making sure that it is visible from the kerbside, without blocking access or the pavement at the start of the two-week period.

Alternatively if you subscribe to the garden waste collection service, cut it up and put it in your bin and present it on your normal garden waste collection day.

Properties with communal bins should put their trees outside the bin store but make sure they do not block access.

If your property has no frontage then present your tree with your normal rubbish on your collection day.

If your tree is missed during this two week period you can:

- Take it to the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre at Factory Lane, Fishers Farm or Purley Oaks
 - Put it out next to your rubbish bin on your next collection day (please note your tree won't be recycled)
 - Cut it up and put it in your garden waste bin if you have a subscription
- Trees must not be dumped outside a recycling centre.

XMAS TREE COLLECTIONS

- Place your tree out on Monday 13 January 2020 for collection
- Remove all decorations, stands and pots

HAVE YOUR SAY ON PLANS TO RENEW LANDLORD LICENSING

Residents are being urged to take part in a public consultation now open, on whether private rented homes in Croydon should continue to need a property licence.

In October 2015, the council introduced a five-year scheme requiring all private landlords to be licensed and ensure their tenants' homes meet key housing, environmental and safety standards.

The council's landlord licensing team has:

- Received over 35,000 licence applications
- Inspected more than 8,000 properties
- Served more than 3,700 improvement notices
- Banned landlords of 51 properties from holding a licence
- Fined or prosecuted 33 landlords.

Most issues, from fixing appliances to ensuring fire safety, are resolved by the council's team without needing an improvement notice or prosecution.

In October, magistrates fined a landlord and two related companies after a council prosecution for failing to apply to license a New Addington flat or answer requests for information.

The council also issued an improvement notice because the property had no smoke detectors and defective electrics.

With the current five-year scheme due to end on 30 September 2020, on 16 December a consultation began on options around renewing it for another five years.

After the consultation ends on 9 March, the council will consider all feedback before submitting a final scheme for Government approval.

To view the consultation, visit the council website www.croydon.gov.uk/betterplacetorent

STILL TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

There is still time for you to have your say on the Local Plan review, with the consultation open until Monday 13 January 2020.

You can have your say online by visiting www.croydon.gov.uk/localplanconsultation

The consultation is based around three spatial strategies, sites and planning policies, which are necessary to ensure Croydon's growth and delivery of much-needed new homes, jobs and community facilities over the next 20 years is managed correctly, so it is important as many people living and working across the borough have their say.

Using government methodology, up to 46,040 homes are needed within Croydon between now and 2039. There is the chance to comment on how these should be delivered, along with how each of the borough's 16 places will change as Croydon grows. The council is also looking for views on how it can best respond to the climate emergency.

CROYDON REMEMBERS TRAM DERAILMENT THREE YEARS ON



Croydon's community gathered in New Addington for a civic ceremony to mark the third anniversary of the Sandilands tram derailment.

More than 60 people were injured and seven people – Dane Chinnery, Donald Collett, Robert Huxley, Philip Logan, Dorota Rynkiewicz, Philip Seary and Mark Smith – sadly lost their lives, when the tram derailed close to Sandilands tram stop on the morning of 9 November 2016.

A minute's silence was held in memory of those who died and floral tributes were laid at the memorial plinth during the short ceremony, which was led by the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Humayun Kabir.



Loyle Carner performs at the Nature Needs Heroes launch event



Residents were welcomed into the space to give feedback on proposals

LOYLE CARNER LAUNCHES GLOBAL GREENING CAMPAIGN IN CROYDON

Hip hop star Loyle Carner returned to his home borough to launch a global campaign to revitalise urban areas with more greenery – starting with one in Thornton Heath.

The former BRIT School student joined outdoor-wear giants Timberland and London National Park City Foundation to launch Nature Needs Heroes at Ambassador House forecourt in October.

The campaign - which includes a commitment from Timberland to plant 50 million trees over the next five years – will transform the forecourt into a green space for residents.

The works are due to be completed next year and build on improvements the council has already made with the help of the community.

Residents had the opportunity to feedback on proposals, as well as enjoy performances by local musicians, curated by Loyle with Croydon's Music City team and See Our 7.

Landscape architects Urban Growth were present, giving people tips to make their own spaces greener.

Loyle said the campaign was an opportunity to give back to the place that raised him, and added: "What we've done right now is begin to change Thornton Heath.

"It's wicked. This is one of the rare brand partnerships that you see where you're actually able to create an actual change and activate a change."

Landscape architects Urban Growth give residents tips to help make their own spaces greener



Loyle Carner performs

The BRIT School has also benefited from the partnership, with a new meditation garden.

London National Park City Foundation and Timberland are searching for 50 volunteer London National Park City Rangers to kick-start more projects across the capital.

STUNNING NEW LEISURE CENTRE LAUNCHES NEXT MONTH

A state-of-the-art health and fitness facility will open in New Addington early next year following a multi-million pound investment from the council.

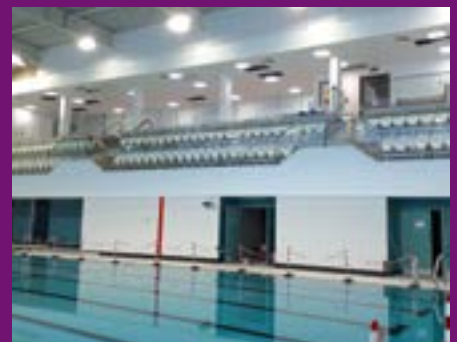
The New Addington Leisure and Community Centre opens next month, with Better, the council's leisure centre operators, currently fitting out the facility.

Drawing in natural light in its communal areas, the three-storey building will include a six-lane, 25-metre pool and a learner pool; indoor sports courts including

basketball, badminton and football; a 55-station gym and a large studio for classes including spin.

The development also includes a multi-purpose community hall, community café and eight homes on Chertsey Crescent.

To find out about membership or to sign up visit www.better.org.uk/new-addington



ANOTHER FOOD STOP UNVEILED

A church has teamed up with Croydon Council and partners to launch a new Food Stop that supports families struggling to make ends meet.

The Community Connect/Food Stop model saves low-income families up to £700 a year on household bills, reduces their debts and boosts their job skills.

A year after the council launched a pilot scheme with Fieldway Family Centre in New Addington, a new Food Stop is now also at St Francis's Church, Monks Hill.

Each Food Stop offers around £15 to £20 worth of fresh food and groceries for £3.50 a week to residents struggling financially, especially those affected by welfare reforms or in debt.

They also run a jobs club and Croydon Council's award-winning Gateway service helps with budgeting and skills training.

Councillor Alison Butler, deputy leader and cabinet member for homes and Gateway services, said: "Rising prices and benefit cuts have burdened thousands of local low-income families, which is why the Food Stops we have created with community partners make such a difference."

The Reverend Peter Wyatt at St Francis's Church in Monks



The Reverend Peter Wyatt with Councillor Alison Butler at the new Food Stop

Since 2018, the New Addington Food Stop has:

- saved over £52,000 in residents' combined shopping bills
- prevented 54 rented households from becoming homeless
- helped over 40 people into work or training
- supplied 5.3 tonnes of fresh discounted food

Hill, said: "Hopefully people will see this as an opportunity to feed their families better and get other support while they are here."

For more information on the St Francis's Church Food Stop, visit www.stfrancismonkshill.org.uk

HOMELESSNESS HUB OPENS

A 24-hour, 365-day homeless assessment hub to prevent rough sleeping has opened in Croydon.

The project between the council and specialist provider Evolve Housing + Support offers up to 15 people a bed for up to 72 hours and a same-day assessment of their financial, health and housing circumstances.

Rough sleepers, or people about to sleep rough, are referred to the hub by the council and partners including Croydon Reach and Crisis.

They receive help into settled accommodation and with their finances and job skills.

Croydon Council was granted £622,000 to run the hub, following a successful funding bid from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The council and partners already provide wider support



A volunteer greets a rough sleeper at the hub

to rough sleepers, from accommodation for single homeless people to the Croydon Churches Floating Shelter and an emergency winter shelter hosted by Crystal Palace Football Club.

The council's Gateway service has also placed vulnerable rough sleepers in 11 one-bedroom flats under the principles of Housing First, which offers long-term accommodation to homeless people with specialist wraparound support.

To refer a rough sleeper, contact StreetLink by calling **0300 500 0914**, visiting their website or downloading their app on iOS or Android.

If you're concerned a rough sleeper needs urgent medical help, dial 999.

HOME IN TIME

FOR CHRISTMAS

The first Croydon residents have moved into brand new affordable rented council homes built by Brick By Brick in time for Christmas.

Croydon Council set up the developer in 2016 to boost local housing supply with more than 2,000 good-quality homes, including affordable, with any profits reinvested in the borough.

In November three residents - who had all been in temporary accommodation while on the housing waiting list - signed up to the new flats at Flora Court in Thornton Heath and moved in earlier this month.

The three one-bed flats are part of a 27-home, 100% affordable development on the former site of a derelict care home, which is named Flora Court after local First World War soldier Flora Sandes.

It also includes 24 shared ownership flats starting at £315,000, meaning those buying a 25% share will pay

£78,750 and put down a 5% deposit costing £3,688.

Brick By Brick has another 24 schemes either on site or coming into contract, with more in the pipeline.

Its first private flats in Upper Norwood went on sale earlier this year.

Councillor Alison Butler, Croydon Council's deputy leader and cabinet member for homes and Gateway services, said: "These are top-quality, genuinely affordable homes in Croydon for local people who need them, which is why the council set up Brick By Brick in the first place."

"I'm delighted for these residents, and I look forward to many more affordable Brick By Brick homes going to people on our waiting list and boosting much-needed local housing supply."



Blanche Takwi

"I'm just so happy, really excited and grateful."

Blanche Takwi, 46, had to move into temporary accommodation last year because a serious illness meant she could no longer continue her job as a qualified care support worker or stay in her old flat.

Her new home in Flora Court means she is close to the hospital and her GP as her recovery continues.

She said: "I'm just so happy, really excited and grateful. When I was told I would have a flat I didn't think it would be big like this."

"I'm really looking forward to Christmas now."

Jonelle Bernasko spent four years living in cluttered conditions with family after being evicted by her private landlord.

The 41-year-old teacher now has plenty of room to mark pupils' schoolbooks in her new Flora Court flat, which is less than half a mile from where she grew up.

She said: "This means a lot - it means regaining my independence. It is spacious, modern and affordable.

"I'm really looking forward to Christmas now. I think that a new flat is the biggest present for me."



Jonelle Bernasko



THE BIG CONVERSATION

The Big Conversation asks what we want Croydon to be like by 2030.

We've highlighted six topics to talk about and we want to know if we're doing enough, what more could be done and what people might be prepared to do themselves for their communities.

Our current topic is 'Jobs and the economy'. With Christmas coming will you be shopping locally rather than online? Would you consider helping our next generations by speaking or mentoring a young person in a local school? Have your say. Join the conversation and see what others have been saying about some of the other topics below.

Culture at the heart of regeneration

Following the reopening of Fairfield Halls and the announcement that we would be running for Borough of Culture 2022, we're asking people what culture means to them and to Croydon. Here are some comments so far:

Culture is...

"... important not just to me, it's central to our lives, it brings people together, it's about shared experiences and breaking down barriers."

Neil Chandler, Managing Director of BH Live



Ruth Olorunnisomo and Neil Chandler

"... at the heart of what everyone does. It's so important to people because it helps form your identity and makes you feel proud of where you're from."

Ruth Olorunnisomo, Croydon resident

"... a buzz, a vibe, a sense that this is a place where good things are happening and where there are good things to see and do"

'nojw' on the online discussion

HOW CAN I JOIN IN?

- Have a conversation with your friends, family or community group – download the discussion guide or see some of the videos online for inspiration
- Complete the survey online or pick up a paper copy from your local library
- Take part in other online activities
- Email us at bigconversation@croydon.gov.uk
- Be social on **Twitter**, **Instagram** and **Facebook** using **#bigconversationcroydon**

Opportunities for Croydon...

"I saw a massive surge of energy when The Ends was here. It was so much fun to be around. It was so cool."

Ben Szuts, a Croydon resident and local apprentice



Ben Szuts and Paula Murray

"There's lots of opportunities in Croydon for people to participate - lots of choirs and societies. We've got a cultural partnership scheme, grant schemes, and we've got people you can talk to about supporting you if you're an artist."

Paula Murray, Director of Culture at Croydon Council

"We're opening up Croydon Clocktower to a year of exhibitions and activities all led by Croydon's very own artists, community groups and organisations. By getting involved ... you're helping us to understand more about what people want from this amazing cultural landmark."

Marie Rose-Tulley, Museum and archives manager

Decent homes for all

Our second topic gets people talking about the challenges of making sure Croydon is a place that everyone can call home and looks at how housing in Croydon needs to change.

How homes will be different...

"In 2030 I feel like homes will need more solar panels."

Nazifa Chowdhury Croydon resident and council apprentice.

"I think one of the main things that we're going to need is really improved data and internet speed for new homes..."

Alex Hall, Senior Development Manager, at the Hub

"Wifi, self-heated homes (eg solar power), safe communal spaces, somewhere green for those without their own garden."

Anonymous survey response

"Emissions from the heating and powering of homes make up the largest portion of a Croydon residents' carbon footprint, so we are looking at ways we can prioritise the use of clean sources of electric energy and reduce the use of gas infrastructure."

Colm Lacey, Brick by Brick chief executive

How to build them...

"As a society we've been failing to build enough houses of the right kind for several decades. The Community Land Trust model is very different to that of the traditional private sector or even the public sector."

Rob Shaw, from the Crystal Palace Community Land Trust

"There's obviously an issue with affordability at the moment and one of the great things we've been able to do at Taberner House is work with the local authority and the GLA to deliver over 50% affordable housing."

Alex Hall, Senior Development Manager at the Hub



Alex Hall and Nazifa Chowdhury

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healthystartsupport@croydon.gov.uk



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Every aspect of our new care home has been planned with the people we care for in mind – whether it is the personalisation of their care plans, the careful selection of the décor in their room, their dining experience, hobbies or personal preferences...

At Rokewood Court, people will always come first.

To find out more, phone 0203 627 0975 or call in to our
Information Centre at: 10 Godstone Road, Purley, CR8 2DA
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 10am-6pm & Saturday, 10am-3pm.

Residential Care | Dementia Care | Respite Care



Luxury Care Home in Kenley

Rokewood Court Care Home, 20 Roke Road, Kenley, Croydon CR8 5DY
t: 0203 627 0975 e: rokewood.haa@cinnamoncc.com w: cinnamoncc.com

RESIDENTS' CHOICE AWARD WINNER UNVEILED AT STAFF AWARDS

The winner of Croydon's Residents' Choice Award as voted for by the public was recently unveiled at a staff awards ceremony.

Iara Barroso, a social worker in the council's children's services department, was crowned the winner at a glittering staff awards ceremony – which was entirely funded through sponsorship and at no cost to the taxpayer – on Thursday 28 November.

Described as an 'inspiration going above and beyond' for young people and their families, Iara secured the most votes from Croydon residents.

Her nomination highlighted the positive impact she had made on the lives of two young girls who overcame a tough start, but are now in higher education and fondly remember the support she gave them.

Iara was selected from a shortlist of finalists that also included Chekesha Phillips, a contracts monitoring officer within waste and recycling who was nominated for showing huge amounts of 'care, patience and understanding' when

helping residents; and Diane Webb, a principal officer within residential licensing who was praised by a resident for providing a level of service "at its best" when dealing with a complex issue relating to a license application.



Residents' Choice Award winner Iara Barroso with the Mayor of Croydon



NOMINATE A COMMUNITY HERO FOR A MAYOR'S CIVIC AWARD

Do you know of an unsung hero hidden among Croydon's community who deserves recognition?

Nominations are still open for the 2020 Mayor's Civic Awards, which recognise the achievements of amazing local people and organisations.

Nominations can be made across 10 categories: Business in the Community; Contribution to Sport and Healthy Living; Don't Mess With Croydon – Take Pride; Good Neighbour; Outstanding Contribution to Foster Care; Stronger Together; Young Achiever; Volunteer of the Year; Voluntary Group of the Year, and a new category for 2020, Charity of the Year.

The glittering ceremony will also see the Mayor's Lifetime Contribution Award presented, which recognises a resident or group that has devoted many years of outstanding service to the community.

All entries must be submitted by midnight on Wednesday 15 January.

To nominate an individual, group or organisation, visit www.croydon.gov.uk/civicawards

2020 **MAYOR OF
CROYDON
CIVIC AWARDS**



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courses@londonlc.org.uk

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- We also do a range of standalone solutions like GPS trackers

If you would like to discuss any of the options available, please call us on **0208 654 7166** or email **careline@croydon.gov.uk**

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT YOUNG MAYOR OF CROYDON?



Future-leaders can apply now for the chance to become Croydon's next Young Mayor or Deputy Young Mayor when young people across the borough head to the ballot boxes next spring.

The successful candidates will represent around 400,000 young people, including 93,000 under-18s.

Nominations for the role are open at www.youngcroydon.org.uk/young-mayor

Candidates need to live in the borough and be aged 14-17, inclusive, on 31 August 2020.

They will need support from 10 other young people to champion their application and help them campaign.

Schools and community

organisations can also nominate candidates.

The Young Mayor election will take place in spring, and voting will be open to young people aged 11-18 who live, work or study in the borough.

Croydon's first ever Young Mayor William Awomoyi was elected in 2018.

He said: "Being the Young Mayor, has provided me with skills like public speaking, confidence and organisation.

"However, the experience demands



Croydon Young Mayor William Awomoyi and Deputy Young Mayor Shea Williams

a strong character, determination, critical mind and adaptability.

"If you feel you fit the criteria, then you should apply to be the next Croydon Young Mayor."

The Young Mayor elections support the aims of the council's Choose Your Future campaign, which supports young people to make positive life choices and gives them a voice. For more information and nomination deadlines visit the website.

INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG STARS SHINE

More than 150 young people, children in care and care leavers were celebrated for their achievements at a glittering ceremony for Croydon STAR Awards 2019.

The awards are open to the hundreds of children and young people who are looked after or have been looked after by Croydon Council, with 15 categories from academic and sporting achievement, to inspiring others and personal journeys.

All nominees were invited to the event, with trophies and certificates for all.

They were accompanied by the carers, social workers, teachers and members of the community who had nominated them.

Two young people received special awards, including a care-leaver who had travelled to the UK unaccompanied to seek asylum.

Despite these challenges, she had excelled at school and university.

The second special award was presented to a young person who had



Host Pauline pictured with Mayor of Croydon

remained 'kindness personified' despite battling a serious health condition.

Awards were handed out by Councillor Alisa Flemming, cabinet member for children, young people and learning, the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Humayun Kabir and Rob Henderson, executive director for children and families.

The event was sponsored by Servelec.

Host Pauline said: "The STAR Awards are important because they make young people feel appreciated, cared for and valued.

"They feel better, because they are doing something for the community."

100 IN 100 ON TRACK

An innovative Croydon campaign to get 100 residents into a range of apprenticeships in as many working days ends this week (20 December).

At the time of going to print, 93 of the vacancies were filled thanks to pledges from local employers through the Croydon Apprenticeship Academy, a virtual partnership made up of Croydon Council, businesses and training providers.

To find out more about further apprenticeship opportunities visit www.croydonworks.co.uk

CROYDON
APPRENTICESHIP
ACADEMY

100 APPRENTICES IN 100 DAYS



JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON POLICING



Hi everyone

Have you noticed the increased police presence in our town centre in recent weeks? Croydon BID, the council and police have all committed to doing more in and around our busiest areas and there is much more to come over the festive period and in the coming months.

We have done a lot of work recently across Croydon to target drugs supply and stolen property markets which has already seen hundreds of arrests and charges for various offences. This work won't stop just because it's Christmas,

and we continue to plan warrants to pop into peoples' homes and say "Hi" when we know they are involved in drugs supply on our streets.

There is of course much more we need to do. One victim of crime is one too many. So my plea to each of you is to think a little about your home and possessions to keep them safe. The longer nights mean burglars can operate more easily so take simple crime prevention measures to make life difficult for the bad guys.

As always I would ask you to please come forward if you know anything

that might help us, anonymous reporting via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 is fine, the more we know the more we can help.

With just a few days to Christmas enjoy the break if you have one. I hope Santa brings you all you deserve.

Craig Knight

Chief Inspector 240237
Neighbourhoods and Partnership
South Area Basic Command Unit



BE SAFE ON THE ROADS THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time for generosity and giving, family, friends and celebration, but unfortunately, it is also a time when we see an increase in road traffic collisions.

Last year, crews attended 65 collisions in Croydon between December and February. Fortunately no-one lost their lives, but people were injured and many of these collisions could have been avoided if people had taken precautions.

To stay safe on the road, our advice to drivers is use your lights when visibility is poor, keep your distance, always wear a seatbelt and don't drive

tired or under the influence of alcohol.

At this time of year, we also see fires caused by Christmas tree lights, cheap and cheerful electrical items and overloaded plug sockets. Make sure your lights carry the British Safety Standard sign and always switch them off before you go to bed; never place candles near your tree or other materials that can catch alight easily and don't attach decorations to lights

or heaters. It is also worth checking that your smoke alarms are working properly.

Wishing you a safe and very merry Christmas.

Andrew Williams

London Fire Brigade
Borough Commander Croydon



WHEN DIGITAL STALKING IS DOMESTIC ABUSE

Tech abuse is a growing trend as perpetrators of domestic abuse use online tools to coerce and control their partners, local experts have warned.

Croydon Council's FJC team offers support against domestic abuse and sexual violence, and is seeing a lot more cases of these crimes.

This coercive and controlling behaviour can include bugging phones with spyware and online trolling – and some victims don't recognise the danger signs.

Susan sought FJC support when her ex-partner continued to harass and stalk her after the relationship ended.

She had been in a violent relationship for five years and later found that, throughout that time, her ex-partner had closely been monitoring her movements without her knowing.

He'd used a tracking app on her phone to access her messages and emails and could see who she was with via her phone camera.

The app enabled him to listen to her conversations.

He had also placed a tracking device on their car to ensure he knew where she was at all times and was able to test her when she returned home, to feel reassured she was telling the truth.

More recently, she'd started receiving abusive texts detailing information about her life that he should no longer know, and found he'd hidden a listening device in her living room so he could continue to hear her conversations.

The Christmas holiday period can be particularly difficult for people experiencing domestic abuse.

It's harder to access support when an abusive partner is spending more time at home monitoring their behaviour closely, and the abuse can intensify.

It can also be the only time of the year victims see friends and family, which can give rise to the additional angst of hiding their injuries from loved ones.

Parents also want to keep it together for their children over Christmas, so they wait until the holidays are over to call for support.

Croydon's FJC helped 89 people in December 2018, and in January 2019 this figure rose to 131.

To contact, or visit the FJC, please call **020 8688 0100** or email fjc@croydon.gov.uk

The centre does not share its address online for the safety of its service users.





See your Croydon pharmacist at the first sign of illness, don't wait until it gets worse.

They're healthcare experts who can help with many minor health concerns.

🔍 Search 'NHS find a pharmacy'

HELP US
HELP YOU
STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Croydon

TALKING

Therapies

We are a **free** and confidential NHS service and offer workshops, group sessions, online courses or one-to-one support.

We can help support you to:

- ✓ manage stress and anxiety
- ✓ handle low mood and depression
- ✓ cope with difficult times



WORRY LESS

ENJOY LIFE MORE

FEEL MORE RELAXED

Search for 'Croydon Talking Therapies' or call 020 3228 4040 to find out more



Help is at hand for Croydon residents who want to make a positive change to their health this New Year.

Based at health hubs and venues borough-wide, Croydon's Live Well advisors have supported around 2,800 residents to date.

Of these, 62% have either lost weight, quit smoking or are still exercising after three months.

Croydon resident Collen was supported by Live Well advisor Tami to stop smoking.

She said: *"I was so breathless and fed up, I could hardly walk and I feel fantastic now. I had tried and failed many times to stop smoking. I have a lung condition, arthritis and I could only walk 50 yards before getting breathless.*

"I was also juggling my household bills and realised that smoking is not cheap. Tami always encouraged me and was great as I had a setback early on. She was there every step of the way and helped me to walk more, which I now do daily.

"I also learned how to cope with the cravings and stress caused by trying to quit. I have lost weight, my skin feels better and I am taking pride in my appearance - there's no going back! The help and encouragement I have had has been a life saver."



Collen has been supported to stop smoking



Top tips for winter wellness

As the weather gets colder, you can take preventive action to fend off the flu and other winter illness. You should:

- Get a flu vaccination – this is really important for young children, pregnant women, people over 65 years old and those with a long-term health condition.
- Seek a quick remedy for symptoms such as coughs, colds and sore throats.
- Ensure your home is adequately heated.
- Wear warm clothes and suitable shoes in icy conditions.
- Check on elderly people as they are more susceptible to ill-health in the cold – ensure they are warm, and have enough medication and food.

Do speak to your GP, a local pharmacist, or call NHS 111 in the first instance for winter health advice before you get ill or symptoms worsen to help ease pressures on hospital A&E departments, which can get busy at this time of year.

Find more winter health advice at www.nhs.uk/staywell

Being healthier can reduce your risk of major illnesses, such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer by up to 50%, and lower your risk of early death.

70% of people who have visited a Live Well advisor reported that they were eating the recommended five-a-day fruit and vegetable portions and almost 40% have maintained their weight loss target.

There are fewer smokers in Croydon, with increasing numbers ditching the habit each year, and people are three times more likely to quit with help.

Find your nearest Live Well Advisor on the council's health website www.JustBeCroydon.org

FESTIVE SEASON OPENING HOURS

Access Croydon, Bernard Weatherill House

Monday 23 December	9am – 4pm
Tuesday 24 December	9am – 4pm
Wednesday 25 December	Closed
Thursday 26 December	Closed
Friday 27 December	Closed
Monday 30 December	9am – 4pm
Tuesday 31 December	9am – 4pm
Wednesday 1 January	Closed
Thursday 2 January	9am – 4pm
Friday 3 January	9am – 4pm

Croydon Council call centre

Monday 23 December	9am-4pm
Tuesday 24 December	9am-4pm
Wednesday 25 December	Closed
Thursday 26 December	Closed
Friday 27 December	Closed
Monday 30 December	9am-4pm
Tuesday 31 December	9am-4pm
Wednesday 1 January	Closed
Thursday 2 January	9am-4pm
Friday 3 January	9am-4pm

Croydon libraries

Monday 23 December	Open as usual
Tuesday 24 December	9am-1pm
Wednesday 25 December	Closed
Thursday 26 December	Closed
Friday 27 December	Closed
Saturday 28 December	Open as usual
Monday 30 December	Open as usual
Tuesday 31 December	Open as usual
Wednesday 1 January	Closed
Thursday 2 January	Open as usual
Friday 3 January (onwards)	Open as usual

Customers can renew their library books online and use a free 24/7 offer of eBooks, eAudiobooks, magazines, newspapers and more at www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/online-library

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR RECYCLING AND REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Recycling and waste collections will change during the weeks commencing 23 December 2019, 30 December 2019 and 6 January 2020.

NORMAL COLLECTION DATE	REVISED COLLECTION DATE
Wednesday 25 December	Friday 27 December
Thursday 26 December	Saturday 28 December
Friday 27 December	Monday 30 December
Monday 30 December	Tuesday 31 December
Tuesday 31 December	Thursday 2 January
Wednesday 1 January	Friday 3 January
Thursday 2 January	Saturday 4 January
Friday 3 January	Monday 6 January
Monday 6 January	Tuesday 7 January
Tuesday 7 January	Wednesday 8 January
Wednesday 8 January	Thursday 9 January
Thursday 9 January	Friday 10 January
Friday 10 January	Saturday 11 January

Please remember to put your bins out for collection by 6am at the front edge of your property. Collections will return to normal from Monday 13 January 2020. If your collections is missed you can report it online via My Account at www.croydon.gov.uk/myaccount or by calling **020 8726 6200**.

AND... RELAX WITH OUR CHRISTMAS PARKING PLANS

Last-minute Christmas shoppers and people calling in on friends and family over the festive period will find it easier thanks to relaxed parking restrictions across Croydon.

Restrictions in council-controlled car parks and parking bays will be relaxed on six days over the festive period.

Drivers should still park sensibly and show consideration for pedestrians and other road users.

The restrictions will be lifted on Tuesday 24 December, Wednesday 25 December, Thursday 26 December, Friday 27 December, Tuesday 31 December and Wednesday 1 January.

Normal parking enforcement will apply on all other days and other restrictions including yellow lines, camera-controlled restrictions as well as bus and pedestrian lanes and yellow box junctions will apply as normal.

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 27 January **Deadline:** Monday 20 January

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 16 December 2019, Monday 20 January 2020

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 14 January

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

There are no meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Board scheduled at present. 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 GP hubs and 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

If anybody you know isn't receiving the online *Your Croydon* weekly, tell them that they can ensure delivery by subscribing at www.croydon.gov.uk/subscribe

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

Telephone: 020 8726 6900

Email: libraries@croydon.gov.uk

Museum –

www.museumofcroydon.com

Telephone: 020 8253 1022

Email: museum@croydon.gov.uk

Winter walks

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

Step into the New Year with a little help from our wardens. They're leading a host of activities across Croydon's parks and green spaces in case you want a little extra help exploring the fantastic spaces Croydon has to offer. Croydon Council maintains 127 parks and open spaces that you can enjoy for free throughout the year but also run a series of special events.

DECEMBER

Sunday 22

Happy Valley Winter Solstice Walk

Forget the Christmas shopping for a while and discover the myths and folklore behind the trees and shrubs that you can find in Croydon. You'll also learn how to identify them from their barks, buds and twigs.

Meet at the Farthing Downs car park on Ditches Lane at 2pm.

JANUARY

Sunday 26

Happy Valley and Chaldon Winter Ramble

Join the Happy Valley Countryside Warden and explore the beautiful countryside around Happy Valley and Chaldon, learning about the labyrinth, Pilgrim's Way and the Chaldon Doom mural. The seven mile walk will include muddy paths and take around three to four hours. Dogs on leads are welcome.

Meet at the Farthing Downs car park on Ditches Lane at 11am.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 23

Great British Hedgerow Survey – Happy Valley

Join the Countryside Warden and help survey Happy Valley's hedgerows. These provide vital habitat for wildlife and natural 'corridors' for animals to move around. The survey will help decide how the hedgerows will be managed over coming years.

Meet at the Farthing Downs car park on Ditches Lane at 12pm.

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Find out more at our
Crystal Palace Park Campus Advice Evening
Monday 27 January 2020, 5 - 7.30pm

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