

your

croydon



www.croydon.gov.uk

ISSUE 90 – SUMMER 2020

Your main source of community news

**Love Croydon,
shop local**



#CroydonTogether

**Pages 6 and 7 – Join our
shop local campaign**

Delivering for Croydon

CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

Dear resident,

For many of us, the past few months have been among the most challenging in memory. Croydon has stood united, showing strength, resilience, compassion and creativity as we support each other in our time of need.

As a council we have responded swiftly to the health crisis, supporting our most vulnerable residents while continuing to deliver vital frontline services with the minimum of disruption. From setting up hubs to deliver essential supplies to thousands of shielded residents and those in need, to distributing more than £49m in support grants to small businesses, the effort has been phenomenal. We have worked closely with our partners in the NHS, whose staff and ours have been on the frontline; our fantastic voluntary organisations; businesses and you – our residents, who have gone above and beyond. I want to thank and pay tribute to you all.

And the effort continues. We are acutely aware of the impact of this crisis on people's health, jobs, housing, education and wellbeing and are determined to address this. Despite these tough times, there is confidence in Croydon – with Network Rail's proposals to invest in our biggest station and our excellent transport links, and plans by a leading university for a new campus in our town. We're uniting our partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors, at local and regional level, in a new board to tackle the economic crisis head-on and plan for our borough's sustainable future. We are determined that you, our residents, will be the first to benefit from all opportunities.

As lockdown restrictions ease, we are reopening council services and buildings – household recycling centres, libraries and leisure centres. All decisions will be made with our local director of public health and we may have to do some things a little differently for now, to keep everyone safe.

Because while we may be past the peak for now, this pandemic is far from over. Covid-19 is still with us and it is more important than ever that we all play our part to keep our family and friends safe and avoid local lockdowns as we have seen elsewhere. This means wearing a face covering in shops and on public transport, and following social distancing and good hygiene. Like all councils, we have developed a local plan to contain outbreaks, but we need you to make it work. If you have symptoms, you must get tested – it really will save lives (P4).

Finally, if one good thing can come from this health crisis it has been the rediscovery of our neighbourhood gems – the local shops that bring our high streets to life; the beautiful parks on our doorsteps and the people that make up our very special and diverse communities. As lockdown restrictions continue to lift let's not forget how much they mean to us and support them as much as we can. Join our shop local campaign (P6 and 7), help us keep our parks clean and safe (P8), and keep up that fantastic Croydon Together spirit.



Councillor Tony Newman
Leader of the council
@cllrtony

Contacting the council

We're starting to reopen more of our council buildings, services and public spaces. We're having to do things a little differently to help keep you and our staff as safe as possible – some services are appointment-only for now, with new safety measures in our buildings, and some of our services will remain telephone and digital-only for the time being. Find out more in this edition of Your Croydon and we'll be keeping our webpages updated with the latest information – check www.croydon.gov.uk/coronavirus before you plan your visit.

Access Croydon during Covid-19

A limited number of pre-booked appointments have resumed at Access Croydon – but with no drop-in visits as the council handles all other queries online or by phone due to Covid-19 measures.

Most queries will continue to be handled by telephone **020 8726 6000** or via <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/contact-us/online> unless a face-to-face appointment is needed.

If you have an appointment please arrive on time, talk to staff through the intercom before entering, wear a face covering, use hand sanitiser provided and bring no one else unless necessary.

To limit infection risk, the public phones, computers, toilets (except disabled toilet) and baby change, and the children's play area remain closed.

Adult social care

If you are concerned about a vulnerable adult, report it online or call **020 8726 6500**. If the person is in immediate danger call **999**.

Children's social care

If you are concerned about a child at risk call **020 8255 2888** or out of hours **020 8726 6400**. If the child is in immediate danger call **999**.

Tenancy repairs

If you are a council tenant needing repairs, we have now resumed a normal service, making appointments for all repairs reported – call **020 8726 6101** or email: croydonrepairs@axiseurope.com

We have a backlog of non-urgent repairs we were unable to carry out during lockdown, so please bear with us. Some non-urgent repairs may still not be possible if a member of your household is self-isolating.

Stay in touch via:

www.croydon.gov.uk/coronavirus

e-newsletter: www.croydon.gov.uk/news

I love Croydon

yourcroydon

@yourcroydon

HELP AND SUPPORT

Covid-19 support for vulnerable residents continues

Vulnerable Croydon residents left in major financial hardship as a result of the impact of Covid-19 will continue to get council support after a government scheme ended.

During lockdown almost 6,000 people across the borough received urgent food parcels from Croydon Council working with local community, faith and voluntary groups.

On 31 July the government ended its nationwide support for shielded residents through its own food parcels, including for around 2,500 people in Croydon.

In advance of this date, the council contacted and assessed these shielded or vulnerable residents to identify whether they still needed support to access help.

People who have recently tested positive for coronavirus via the NHS Test And Trace app can also receive council support to help them while they are self-isolating. Visit the council website for an assessment by the council's Gateway service of your welfare, mental health and social care support needs:

www.croydon.gov.uk/support

As of 15 July over 5,900 people, including 1,200 shielded adults and 1,000 children and 750 other households in need, have received food parcels including fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, pasta, dairy products, baby food, nappies, toiletries and tins.

Support for hundreds more residents in need has continued



Council officer Stanley Enyinnaya packing parcels for residents in need

through the borough's four Food Stops and local collection points, set up by the council's Gateway service and local groups alongside charity FareShare to provide £20 worth of fresh food per week for £3.50 alongside information, personal budgeting advice and debt management. The fourth Food Stop opened at Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church in Purley in April.

Wider support provided by the council and its partners during the pandemic has included:

- Welfare advice and Covid-19 support by telephone and email for more than 2,850 residents
- Financial advice for almost 3,000 households
- More than 1,550 households helped via community food support.

Welfare

For help with benefit advice, form filling and benefit appeals contact the Welfare Rights team:

- Email: **WelfareRightsTeam@croydon.gov.uk** – email is our preferred method of contact
- Call: **0800 731 5920** – Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm
- Assessments will be on the phone, rather than face-to-face or home visits. Referrals can still be made for residents who need help filling out their form.

Benefits

Use our online form to work out what help you could be entitled to. Questions? Email: **Croyhben@croydon.gov.uk** or call: **020 8726 7000** Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

Emergency household bills

If you're a borough resident needing help with emergency living costs, from moving home to fuel bills, you can apply to the council's Croydon Discretionary Support scheme.

Visit: **www.croydon.gov.uk/dsupport**

Council tax support

If you need help with your council tax bill as a result of coronavirus, you may be able to get up to £150 off your council tax bill through the council tax hardship fund.

- Council website: **www.croydon.gov.uk/ctax-extrahelp**
- Email: **Croyctax@croydon.gov.uk**
- Call: **020 8726 7000**

Domestic abuse help

Croydon supermarkets are still offering safe spaces where those seeking help with domestic abuse can get access to a phone to call for support and advice.

The campaign is run in partnership between Croydon FJC and the police. Participating stores include Lidl – Thornton Heath, central Croydon and New Addington branches; Aldi – Coulsdon and Selsdon; Tesco – Purley and Thornton Heath; and Waitrose – Sanderstead.

For domestic abuse help and support call Croydon's FJC **020 8688 0100** between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm Saturday or the free 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Hotline on **0808 2000 247**. In an emergency, call the police on **999**. Information at **www.croydon.gov.uk/community/dabuse/fjc**

PUBLIC HEALTH

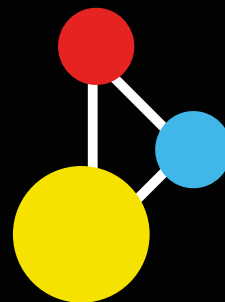
Keeping Croydon safe

Protect your friends and family




With more people out it is more important than ever that we all play our part to protect ourselves and our loved ones from coronavirus.

To stop the spread of coronavirus:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or use hand sanitiser/wipes when out
- Keep your distance – where possible stay 2 metres from others.
- Wear a face covering in enclosed spaces – **this is a requirement in shops and on public transport, including Croydon trams**
- If you or anyone in your household has any of the coronavirus symptoms, you must book a free test immediately at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call **119** and self-isolate while you wait for the results.



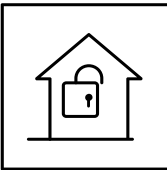
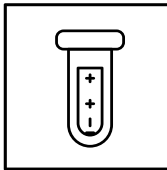

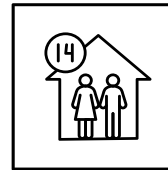
What are the symptoms of coronavirus?

 <p>A new, continuous cough</p>	 <p>High temperature</p>	 <p>Change in sense of smell or taste</p>
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NHS Test and Trace - why it's important to get tested

Getting tested protects your family, your friends and community by quickly identifying who has the virus and stopping it spreading further. By following these steps, you can help to save lives, keep Croydon out of a local lockdown and allow us to continue returning to normal life.

What should I do if I have symptoms of coronavirus?

STEP 1	STEP 2	If your test is negative	If your test is positive
 <p>Start isolating immediately (do not leave home unless it is to get tested)</p>	 <p>Book a FREE test Visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus Call 119 Test results usually available within 2 days</p>	 <p>You stop isolating if you feel well. Your household can stop isolating immediately</p>	 <p>You isolate for 7 days in total Your household isolate for 14 days in total NHS Test and Trace will ask you to share information about recent close contacts</p>

NHS Test and Trace will contact you if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus. If they need to contact you they will:

- Get in touch by email, text or phone.
- Text messages will come from 'NHStracing' and calls will come from **0300 0135000**.
- Children under 18 will be contacted by phone wherever possible and asked for their parent or guardian's permission to continue the call.
- Ask you to sign in to the NHS Test and Trace contact tracing website

They will never ask you for:

- Bank details or payments
- Details of any other accounts, such as social media
- To set up a password or PIN number over the phone
- To call a premium rate number, such as those starting 09 or 087
- Anyone to visit you at home

BUSINESS

Council steps in to fill funding gaps for businesses

Businesses who have fallen through gaps in government support can claim up to £10,000 to help recover from the impact of coronavirus under a new council scheme.

Since the start of this pandemic, the council has distributed around £49m in government grants to more than 4,000 businesses, including £906,000 to 243 local businesses through the council's discretionary grants scheme.

The council has now opened a second round of applications for one-off discretionary support grants, with a total of £1,964,250 available for local firms.

To be eligible they must have been trading on 11 March and not yet received other funding to help with the impact of the pandemic.

Businesses with a rateable value of more than £51,000 can receive grants of up to £10,000; those with less than £51,000 can receive up to £5,000 if they have property costs of more than £1,000, or up to £2,500 if their property costs are less.

Find out more at www.croydon.gov.uk/business



Simone Irving

Mobile juice bar and Surrey Street regular Fruiture Juicery is among those who have received discretionary grant scheme support.

Simone Irving, founder and CEO, said: "The cash from the discretionary fund helped me to buy stock to start up again after the initial lockdown and invest in the website."

Now Simone finds herself the busiest she's ever been, thanks to her commitment to keeping in touch with the community via her colourful social media accounts.

Leapfrog Day Nursery had to close its doors at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and for owner Amina Bryant, re-opening on 1 June felt like 'starting from scratch'.

But discretionary grant funding of £5,000 enabled them to purchase equipment, such as steam cleaners, to help them welcome children back safely, and new educational resources about hygiene.

Amina said: "The funding has really helped us to be able to continue doing what we love; caring for Croydon's children and keeping them safe."



Amina Bryant

JOBS AND TRAINING

Are you looking for work or keen to upskill?

From basic skills in numeracy and literacy to degree-level courses and apprenticeships, we're working with our partners across the employment and skills sector to signpost you to the right place for support.

Visit our jobs and training page, www.croydon.gov.uk/advice/jobs-and-training-0 for information and links, or the Department for Work and Pensions' local page for south London for events, support and job vacancies – www.jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/south-london or www.findajob.dwp.gov.uk

If you're interested in an apprenticeship or traineeship, visit the Croydon Apprenticeship Academy at www.croydon.gov.uk/apprenticeshipacademy or contact Croydon Works info@croydonworks.co.uk.

Steps to Success

From 13-21 August, Croydon Council's Steps to Success event will offer over 16s and adults leaving school or college a mix of online, virtual and face-to-face socially distanced support to help them decide their next steps. Speak to staff, training organisations, employers and education providers about opportunities, and get advice and guidance for your individual situation.

Follow [@yourcroydon](https://twitter.com/yourcroydon), [@Young_Croydon](https://twitter.com/Young_Croydon), [@VirtualSch_LBC](https://twitter.com/VirtualSch_LBC) and [@CroydonWorks](https://twitter.com/CroydonWorks) on social media for more information.

CROYDON
WORKS

SHOP LOCAL

Love Croydon, shop local: join our campaign

We are so pleased to have more of our Croydon businesses back in their stores and communities.

Local shops were a lifeline for many during lockdown – from offering deliveries to help people stay at home, to finding new ways to serve their community in the most challenging of times.

Their resilience has been amazing and we've loved seeing the innovation and creativity they have used to adapt – we've highlighted a few examples below.

It's been an opportunity for many of us to rediscover the gems in our neighbourhoods and high streets.

They have been there for us – and now we can be there for them.

The council has supported thousands of businesses during the pandemic, with information and guidance to help them stay strong and reopen safely.

We're asking you to join our shop local campaign, and support and celebrate our community and high streets by keeping it local.

This means using our businesses as much and as safely as you can – and always respecting any new measures they have in place.

You can give them a shout out on social media with the hashtag **#LoveCroydonShopLocal** or get in touch with us at **communications@croydon.gov.uk** if you think anyone deserves a special thanks.

When our shops and businesses thrive, our community thrives – **#CroydonTogether**.



Dennie Smith

Vintage 62 Unisex Salon

Dennie Smith, owner of Vintage 62 Unisex Salon, brought Selsdon's business community together during Covid-19 by setting up a WhatsApp group for them to share information and support each other.

Vintage 62 has now reopened and Dennie has supported staff and customers to ensure safety instructions are understood. All customers are asked to make an appointment and customer contact details are recorded, not only for Test and Trace, but to follow up on the customer experience and ideas for improvement.

Get Fired, Purley

Owner Lisa Downham has been helping the community get in touch with their creative side through pottery painting for 17 years, and during the pandemic she felt people needed this outlet more than ever.

When she had to close her shop, she quickly developed packs of pottery, paints and brushes for local delivery or collection. Lisa said: "It's important to keep serving people and let them know we are still here, but it's also important to me that we are a place our customers come to renew their creativity and keep a check on their wellbeing. A lot of people I was delivering to were using our packs to stay sane and in a happy place – it's one of the reasons I have been there from the very beginning and I didn't want them to miss out." Get Fired is now open Saturday and Monday 12-4 and Wednesday 10-2 for visits (by prior booking only) with social distancing measures in place.



Lisa Downham

SHOP LOCAL

Jason Alden photography



Andrew and Aiste

Mr Fox Croydon

Located at the heart of Surrey Street Market, this cocktail pub linked up with UberEats and Deliveroo to provide Sunday roasts, burgers and bottled cocktails every weekend.

They also teamed up with market traders to provide hot meals for NHS workers during the peak of the pandemic.

Working with Croydon BID, Mr Fox has also been part of #RaiseTheBar, a national lobbying campaign, aimed at raising the rateable value threshold for businesses so more can receive Covid-19 government grants.

Burgess Boys Pet Care Centre

Burgess Boys Pet Care Centre has been at the centre of the New Addington community for over 40 years and has stayed open throughout lockdown as an essential service.

They swiftly put in place new measures to protect staff and customers so that they could continue serving the community – and even saw an increase in footfall as residents rediscovered their neighbourhood shops.



Ken Burgess



Ciara Watson

The Yoga Mela

This South Norwood-based yoga studio moved their classes online while their studio was closed, allowing for sessions to continue.

Owner Ciara Watson used online booking systems to book and pay for classes and Zoom for the broadcast.

She's now reopened with safety measures in place but will be keeping some of her online classes, giving her customers new ways to enjoy yoga.

Julian's Artisan Bakery

Julian's Artisan Bakery, a regular in Surrey Street Market selling artisan continental sourdough breads and patisserie, had to totally rethink its business model due to Covid-19 and introduced a contactless delivery service.

They successfully operated this new delivery service throughout the borough and surrounding areas to their customers' homes and places of work.



Julian & Laura

DON'T MESS WITH CROYDON – TAKE PRIDE

Be a street champion and take pride in Croydon

Do you have a new-found love for your local park? Do you want help keep it clean and tidy from litter? Then why not join our Street Champions network and take part in socially-distanced litter picks?

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, our 127 parks and open spaces have never been so popular.

From families out for their daily walks to people exercising, the benefits of the outdoors have been a highlight for many.

However, like many local authorities up and down the country, Croydon has had to deal with excessive littering throughout lockdown – over seven extra tonnes were collected from April to June.

Whilst our parks' maintenance team have been working very hard to stay on top of this, we need our residents to help us by taking pride in their areas.

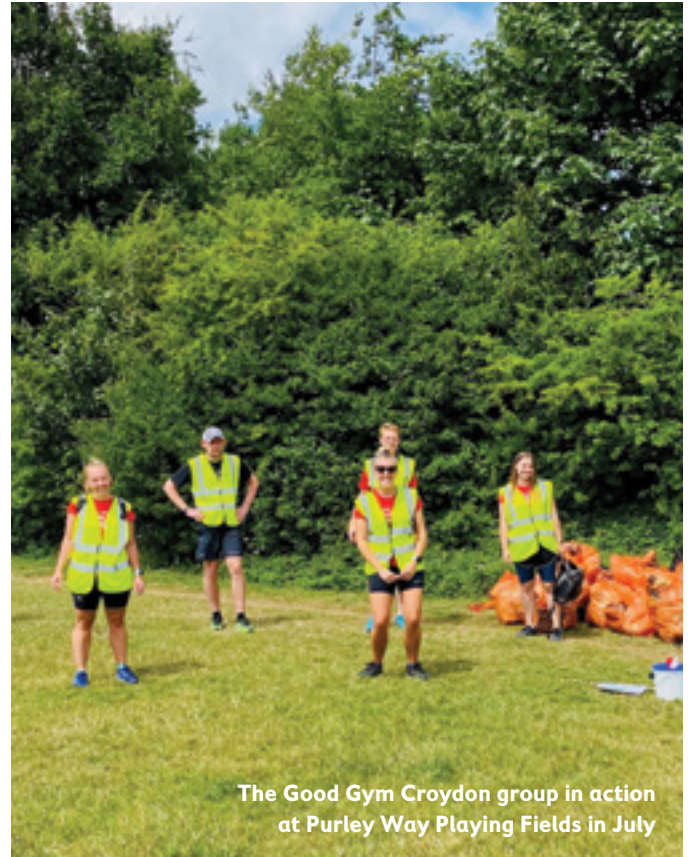
You can do your bit by always putting your litter in the bin at our parks and if the bin is full, taking it home with you.

Or, join the Street Champions to organise or take part in a clean-up in your area.

All our equipment, including litter pickers, are cleansed before and after use, with full safety measures in place.

With this year's national Keep Britain Tidy clean-up campaign taking place in September, let's work together and show how Croydon cares about its parks.

To find out more about becoming a Street Champion, call **07825 103788** or email champions@croydon.gov.uk. For full details, visit our website at croydon.gov.uk/environment



The Good Gym Croydon group in action at Purley Way Playing Fields in July



Playgrounds and outdoor gyms

Playgrounds and outdoor gyms across Croydon are now open - however, our equipment is not sanitised so if you use them it is at your own risk.

Please keep social distancing and follow the rules on the safety guidance posters which are attached to all our playgrounds.

We've also now opened toilets at a number of our parks. Whilst they are cleansed and restocked daily, please only use if urgent and at your own risk. Keep social distancing and wash hands thoroughly after using. Before leaving home, remember to pack hand sanitiser or wipes and use before and after touching any equipment.

For full details on the guidelines, visit croydon.gov.uk/parks or email parks@croydon.gov.uk.

Reuse and recycling centres

Croydon's household reuse and recycling centres are now accepting all materials as well as allowing more vehicles onto the sites.

Our three sites at Factory Lane, Purley Oaks and Fishers Farm are extremely busy so please only make essential trips,

maintain social distancing and follow all the rules.

Additional traffic management is in place - please follow the instructions given by site staff.

For full details visit croydon.gov.uk/hrrc

LEISURE



New Addington Leisure Centre

Leisure centres welcome you back

Croydon's leisure centres have begun a phased reopening for you to enjoy a range of socially-distanced activities and exercise.

The council's leisure operators GLL have reopened the gyms, swimming pools and exercise classes at New Addington Leisure Centre and Thornton Heath, and the gym and running classes at Waddon and South Norwood.

Indoor sports facilities at those four centres will be open from 8 August, with swimming resuming at Waddon and

South Norwood from September.

GLL have introduced new measures to help keep everyone safe, including pre-booked time slots to use the facilities, one-way systems in the buildings and stepped-up cleansing routines.

Find out more and book slots via the Better UK App or www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/Croydon.

Purley, Ashburton Hall and Monks Hill leisure centres will reopen in due course.

Discover our neighbourhood walks

If you're looking for something to do outdoors this summer, why not download one of our new neighbourhood walks and discover some of the beautiful woodland and history of our borough?

Take a tour of historic Addington Village and see the home of past Archbishops of Canterbury and one of the oldest settlements in Croydon.

Or explore Selsdon and the tranquil woodland of Littleheath Woods, learning how the area transformed from hillside to high street. www.croydon.gov.uk/neighbourhoodwalks



Walk and cycle Croydon

We're continuing to make it easier and safer for you to walk and cycle around our borough, with a raft of new schemes on our streets and in town and district centres.

As part of our Croydon Streetspace Plan we've introduced a new cycle lane and 20mph limit between St James's Road and Thornton Heath Pond on London Road – a major route into central Croydon – with funding from government and Transport for London.

Croydon Streetspace was developed to provide safer roads and more space for people to walk, cycle and exercise outdoors during Covid-19 and since March the team has put in place 16 low traffic schemes and closed 13 roads to through traffic.

You can suggest new Streetspace locations and give feedback on existing ones using our online mapping tool at www.croydon.gov.uk/streetspace

School Streets

Even more pupils are set to have safer and healthier journeys to school when 10 further School Streets are introduced in September, taking the total in Croydon to 21 – the most in London.

School Streets ban most traffic from the road immediately outside the school gate at the start and end of the school day,



Croydon Street Space

making it safer for children to walk to school while at the same time reducing air pollution.

They will also give pupils more room to socially distance when schools return in September.

Visit www.croydon.gov.uk/school-streets

More cycle parking

We've also installed 70 new cycle storage spaces in the town centre, and earlier this year we began to install more than 300 new secure bike parking spaces in cycle hangars across the borough.

If you feel your street would benefit from on-street cycle parking, contact cycling@croydon.gov.uk

CULTURE

Borrow books from five libraries

Five Croydon libraries are now offering residents the chance to borrow books or ask for recommendations.

Simply phone and leave a message, or email one of the libraries offering Select & Collect services:

• **Ashburton Library** ☎ 020 7884 5175
✉ ashburtonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk

• **Coulsdon Library** ☎ 020 7884 5180
✉ coulsdonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk

• **Croydon Central Library** ☎ 020 7884 5140
✉ croydoncentrallibrary@croydon.gov.uk

• **Selsdon Library** ☎ 020 7884 5190
✉ selsdonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk

• **Thornton Heath Library** ☎ 020 7884 5185
✉ thorntonheathlibrary@croydon.gov.uk

Please include your name, email address, phone number, up to 10 items to borrow and your membership barcode number.

Croydon libraries closed in March to protect the public and staff in line with government guidance.

Other branches will reopen soon.

The Home Library delivery service is also back up and running, offering book deliveries to 200 registered library members who cannot visit a branch in person.

Join the library for free by visiting www.croydon.gov.uk/libraries or phoning any of the five libraries.



A thousand new readers discovered Croydon's libraries during lockdown, signing up for free membership to enjoy the range of eBooks and eAudiobooks on offer while the buildings were closed.

During lockdown these digital collections were a lifeline for many, with the number of these items borrowed tripling compared with last year.

Summer Reading Challenge now under way

The Summer Reading Challenge 2020 is now under way, asking young readers aged between four and 11 to read six books by mid-September.

Follow the Silly Squad - a team of six fun-loving animals who like to laugh and read books.

Children and parents can register at www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk and choose an avatar, unlock new characters, discover games and upload badges for each finished book.

New arts programme for young people

A new digital arts programme could help Croydon's next Glastonbury headliner uncover their potential this summer.

Run by Croydon Music and Arts (CMA), their free courses offer all young people between eight and 13 years old the chance to learn new skills from rap to theatre, while working towards a recognised qualification.

Reshayne Bailey, who took part in the programme trial, said: "I have loved attending sessions with CMA Online during lockdown.

"It has helped me relax and keep my mind off the other negative things happening in the world right now."

Visit www.cma-online.co.uk or email cmaonline@croydon.gov.uk



CULTURE

Summer 2020: a virtual vibe

Artists across Croydon have risen to the Covid-19 challenge - finding new ways to connect with audiences and deliver a cultural programme during the pandemic.

Since April the council's Culture Relief Fund has distributed a total of £135,000 to 38 local arts groups, supporting some to deliver creative programmes amid the health crisis and helping others in danger of closing.

The grants have funded a huge range of cultural activity, including the online Cotch Up Cronx season delivered in partnership with The Oval Tavern - see their latest live music events at www.cotchupcronx.live

Croydon's Talawa Theatre Company is developing Tales from the Frontline, exploring the impact of Covid-19 on Black key and frontline workers - visit www.talawa.com

The Stanley People's Initiative continues to deliver free online events from Stanley Halls, while We Tango Together has teamed up with Apsara Arts to offer weekly online dance



sessions – find both on Facebook.

Tens of thousands have tuned in for London Mozart Players (LMP) At Home online programme at www.londonmozartplayers.com, and spoken word group Writerz&Scribez delivered 100 creative wellbeing packs to homeless people.

See the list of beneficiaries at www.croydon.gov.uk and find cultural events in our weekly e-bulletin – subscribe at www.news.croydon.gov

Crystal Palace Festival reimagined

Crystal Palace Festival will recreate their popular park event on 15 and 16 August from 2-10pm - as a live show streamed from a temporary television studio at the top of the Upper Norwood Library Hub.

Enjoy an array of artists from Crystal Palace and south London as they bring you music, spoken word, theatre and dance - live from one location to your home, with support from Croydon Council and Arts Council England. www.crystalpalacefestival.org

Inside the Clocktower

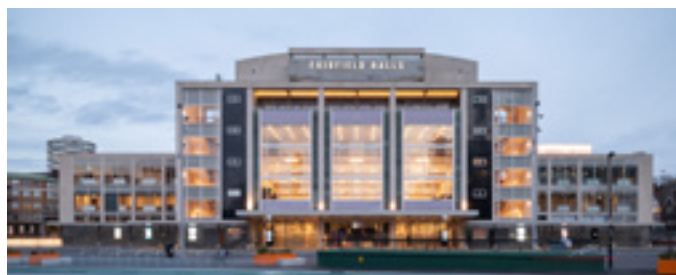
Take a virtual trip to the Museum of Croydon this summer for a host of online cultural experiences.

Experience Play for Progress's art, music and photography; take a trip through Croydon's historic streets with CNHSS, learn about Croydon's history of storytelling and make your own with Goodwolf, explore some of the stories of Croydon's Windrush generation and delve into the Museum's LGBT+ Collection with Mark Goldby's Queer+Croydon.

You can join a virtual pub crawl for some fascinating facts about local watering holes, or pick up free digital learning packs for adults and children.

And if you're looking for a summer project, why not contribute to Letters from Lockdown, or volunteer to help with transcribing oral histories.

www.museumofcroydon.com



Behind the scenes at Fairfield

Croydon's iconic theatre Fairfield Halls will remain a creative hub while the venue is closed to the public during its temporary 'hibernation'.

Its spaces will be used by arts organisations for rehearsals and planning, including Agudo Dance Company; London Mozart Players (LMP); and resident theatre companies Talawa and SAVVY will have access to their studios.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth teams coming to a park near you

The council's youth engagement team will be in parks throughout the summer offering socially distanced face-to-face support group activities.

They will be on hand from 5pm-8pm Tuesday to Friday in a different park each week, creating safe spaces for people to talk.

Meanwhile their online programme will continue with the launch of a virtual film club, with free access to thought-provoking films and a secure online environment for young people to discuss the themes together.

Contact youngcroydon@croydon.gov.uk



Legacy Youth Zone is back

Croydon's £6.5m Legacy Youth Zone is open throughout the summer for bookable activities, including football, climbing, cooking, dance, movie night, table tennis and pool, arts, photography projects and many more.

To make a booking or find out more visit www.legacyyouthzone.org

Young people with SEND

Find information about local services and activities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability, and their families, on Croydon's Local Offer website. localoffer.croydon.gov.uk

Help and support for young people

The pandemic has been a challenging time for young people and help is available for those in need of confidential advice, support or just someone to listen.

Croydon Council and its Choose Your Future campaign partners offer local services including:

- CDI offer free confidential information, guidance and counselling www.croydondropin.org.uk/outreach
- Talk Off the Record offer telephone and online counselling and online workshops www.talkofftherecord.org
- Ment4 provide specialist mentoring for 12-17 year-olds with emotional and behavioural difficulties and support for parents. Email info@ment4.org, phone 07752 817 882, or visit www.ment4.org
- Palace for Life Foundation are running Palace Pad Chat, offering 12-25s the opportunity for a chat about any concerns whilst gaming. www.palaceforlife.org
- Croydon Talking Therapies is a free, confidential NHS service for over-17s. Phone 020 3228 4040, email croydoniapt@slam.nhs.uk or search Croydon Talking Therapies online.
- www.gettingiton.org.uk offers emotional health and wellbeing support for young people aged 13-19.

Back to school?

Tell us how we can help

Heading back to school after a long break can feel a bit strange and we want to support our children and young people as much as possible.

If you are school age, please fill in our wellbeing survey to tell us how you're doing, and what we can do to help you in your return to school. <https://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/survey/983>

CROYDON UNITES

Croydon unites in solidarity with Black Lives Matter

Croydon has stood in solidarity with Black communities around the world following the death of George Floyd in America.

At July's meeting council members from all political parties agreed a motion opposing racism in all its forms, condemning the mistreatment of Black people across the globe and affirming it has no place in our town.

They also pledged to stand united in opposing racism, promoting fairness and justice and supporting our diverse communities in these challenging times.

In June the Town Hall was lit purple in memory of the 46-year-old American who died while being arrested by police in Minneapolis in May and to show support for those protesting peacefully against racism and injustice across the world.



Peaceful protests outside the Town Hall

We're making Croydon fairer – get involved

Help us develop plans to tackle inequality, support Croydon's diverse community and ensure our borough is a place of fairness and opportunity for all.

getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/survey/976

Survey closes 31 August.

Stop Hate UK to launch 24-hour helpline in Croydon

Croydon has teamed up with the national charity Stop Hate UK to introduce a 24 hour helpline, dedicated to supporting residents affected by hate crime.

The new service will give victims and witnesses in Croydon a safe and confidential space to talk about their experiences,

with trained staff and volunteers able to advise on appropriate action and where to access further help.

Anyone in Croydon can contact the Stop Hate Line - to get in touch call **0800 138 1625**, text **07717 989 025** or email **talk@stophateuk.org**.

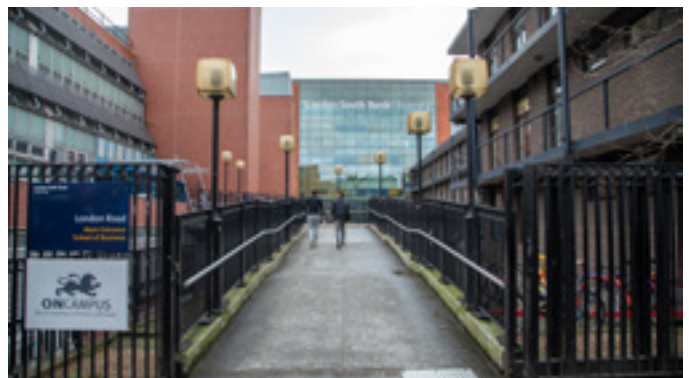
REGENERATION

London South Bank University in bid for Croydon campus

London South Bank University has submitted plans for a new town centre campus in Croydon for students of health and social care, business and finance.

If the council approves their application to convert Electric House in Wellesley Road later this year, courses would start from September 2021.

The university and the council entered into a partnership in 2019 to boost the borough's regeneration and career prospects for Croydon's 93,000 under-18s.



Plans to upgrade the Brighton Main Line and East Croydon Station

Have your say on plans to improve the Brighton Main Line and transform East Croydon station, strengthening Croydon as a transport hub and economic centre for London and the South East.

Network Rail's proposals would mean a more reliable, frequent and faster rail service for passengers, with additional tracks and the expansion and modernisation of East Croydon station. Visit **www.networkrail.co.uk/croydon** by 20 September.

How Croydon united during Covid-19



#CroydonTogether

Croydon Together

Throughout the pandemic, the Croydon Together campaign has highlighted how our community has united to support each other.

From council staff to volunteers, NHS workers, teachers, local businesses and bin crews, so many people went above and beyond, sharing inspirational stories with us

on social media using the #CroydonTogether hashtag. And although lockdown restrictions have lifted, many continue to put in a phenomenal effort so as the pandemic continues to impact lives.

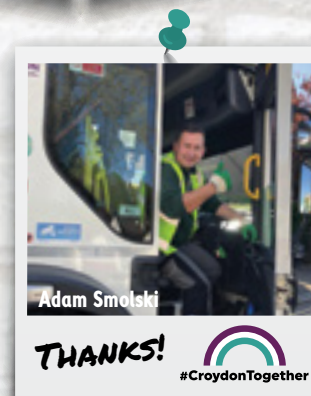
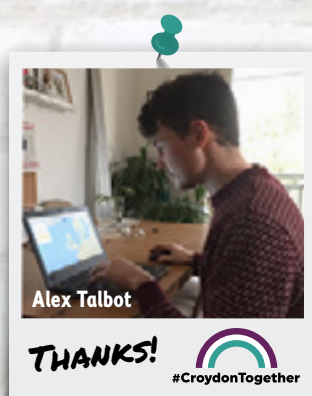
Thank you to all of you once again and here's a look back at some of the highlights from our campaign.

The people behind the food parcels

Council staff packed parcels up to four times a day to get fresh food delivered to local people in need - the vulnerable, elderly and those who were shielded.

Stanley Enyinnaya, usually a member of the tenancy and caretaking team, worked at the food hub throughout lockdown.

He said: "It's everybody coming together and you feel you are making a difference - I've loved the spirit of zeal and enthusiasm of staff giving what they can."



Backing our businesses

Staff from across the council were redeployed to ensure that Croydon's small businesses received government support grants as quickly as possible.

Alex Talbot said: "I was proud to be redeployed from my normal role in regeneration.

"When knowing that these grants can be the difference in businesses staying afloat or going under, it's amazing to see so many colleagues pull together and give 100%."

Health and social care staff on the frontline

Croydon's NHS workers have been and continue to be at the forefront of the response to the pandemic.

A huge thank you to our chief nurse Elaine Clancy, and all the NHS and council social care staff working for our borough.

Big love for the bin crews

Throughout the pandemic, we kept our vital public services such as waste and recycling collection running with a minimum of disruption.

Our bin crews and other frontline staff were delighted with the tokens of appreciation they received, particularly the thank you notes on the wheelie bins.

A true community effort

Thousands signed up to volunteer for their community, with groups like Croydon Voluntary Action, Asian Resource Centre and Croydon's BME Forum working with the council to coordinate. And dozens benefitted from grants of up to £10,000 from the council's Voluntary and Community Sector Covid-19 Emergency Fund to support their work.



School stars

Across Croydon, schools stayed open during lockdown to provide childcare for essential frontline workers, while also running virtual schools for the majority of their pupils.

South Norwood Primary School, part of The Pioneer Academy, were among the many who also supported their local communities in a huge range of ways, running foodbanks and delivering essential supplies to families in need.

Croydon Council supporting you through Covid-19



22,913
texts to shielded
residents to offer
support



1,232
food and utilities
vouchers for
those in need



82
rough sleepers
given council
accommodation



2,800
residents in need,
received welfare advice
and support



1,553
households helped
through community
foodbanks



£200k
in grants to 76
local voluntary
organisations



5,900
food parcels to
shielded, elderly and
vulnerable residents



£49m
distributed to 4,000
local businesses



£129,246
in emergency grants
to 38 local cultural
organisations



FOSTER CROYDON

ARE YOU READY FOR 2020?

**CAN YOU SUPPORT
CHILDREN TO
REACH THEIR
POTENTIAL?
CROYDON NEEDS
FOSTER CARERS**

To find out more, please get in touch

 **iwanttofooster@croydon.gov.uk**

 **www.croydon.gov.uk/fostering**

 **0300 222 2112**