



# Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Oliver Lewis March 2019

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## Latest News

### Delivering a balanced budget

On January 17, 2018, the council brought the libraries service back in house. Carillion's neglect of the service necessitated immediate investment in additional cleaning, staff training and IT. Just over a year on and the service is delivering within budget and improvements are being made to our libraries. The council has committed to investing in our library buildings to deliver the high quality service our residents deserve.

We have been successful in securing funding for our parks and allotments to a tune of £700k to date. This will be spent on capital improvements to 6 direct-let allotment sites and the regeneration play spaces.

Our leisure contract with GLL brings significant capital investment and since March 2018m capital investment has been spent in improving the boroughs leisure facilities which has included refurbishments of leisure sites, tennis courts being relaid in Biggin Wood, Addiscombe and Ashburton parks. Social value stemming from the contract is in excess of £5.5mil to date.

The new leisure centre in New Addington will open in Spring 2020 and will provide modern and efficient sport and fitness facilities. During the construction phase, Wilmott Dixon, have established a skills academy which is accessible to residents of Croydon to acquire key construction related skills to help as a pathway to employment. The first round of courses started in April 2018 following the launch of the Skills Academy. The Course programme is every 6 weeks and covers Level 1 Construction Skills tailored to what is happening on site. All participants complete a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS card) test. To date

- **131 individuals passed through the academy in 2018**
- **117 got their CSCS cards**
- **24 individuals got work after completion**
- **8 of which were long term unemployed (12months+)**



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## Sport and Community Croydon

### **GLL recognised for dementia friendly approach**

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January GLL, the council's leisure provider, joined partners of the Croydon Dementia Action Alliance at the local awards ceremony at Braithwaite Hall. The Mayor of Croydon Councillor Bernadette Khan and Linda O'Sullivan from the Alzheimers Society jointly presented Laura Larson with a certificate for GLL's active membership within the alliance.



The CDAA is part of a movement to bring about a society-wide response to dementia. It encourages and supports communities and organisations across Croydon to take practical actions to enable people to live well with dementia and reduce the risk of costly crisis intervention.

### **InstructAbility Placements at Thorton Heath and Waddon**

InstructAbility is a multi award winning bespoke programme designed to engage disabled people in the fitness industry as gym instructors and gym users.

Pre placements took place in January at Thornton Heath and Waddon with the 12 week formal placements to start in April aiming to support the service for gym users as well as reaching out to the community to make the centres more accessible.



InstructAbility was set up by Aspire, the spinal cord injury charity, and is funded by Sport England. The scheme, delivered in partnership with YMCAfit, provides disabled people with free, accessible fitness industry training and qualifications followed by a voluntary industry work placement.

### **Community Sport Activity and Health Network established**

Croydon Council have lead on the formation of a local Community Sport Activity and Health Network to support a more joined up approach to working across the



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borough. The group is made up of the Crystal Place Foundation, Croydon Voluntary Action, London Sport, Croydon Council and GLL. The second meeting took place on 16<sup>th</sup> January and focussed around the intentions of the group and applications for an independent chair person.

## GLL Apprenticeships

GLL have recruited 2 apprentices at Waddon Leisure Centre with a third position currently advertised. The aim is for all new recreational assistant positions to be filled by an apprentice to attract local young people looking to start a career in sport and Leisure. Links have been made with the Crystal Palace Foundation traineeship and apprenticeship vacancies are advertised through both School of Hard Knocks and Crystal Palace Foundation.



## First steps towards a wheelchair sports hub at Waddon

Waddon Leisure Centre recently underwent accessibility modifications to establish wheelchair storage space at the facility. In partnership with Palace For Life and GLL, the wider aspiration is to establish a new wheelchair sports hub introducing a variety of wheelchair sports and activities, the first of which is a pilot of wheelchair rugby.



Wheelchair rugby is a fast paced sport incorporating elements of rugby, hockey, basketball, and volleyball, played by competitors who have a physical disability that requires the use of a wheelchair.

For more information please visit: [www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/sports/youth-sports/team-sports](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/sports/youth-sports/team-sports)



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## London Youth Games

Following a 2 year absence Team Croydon returned to indoor cricket on 2<sup>nd</sup> February finishing a respectable 17<sup>th</sup> out of 33 London borough teams.

The team represented by Thornton Heath Cricket Club took a squad of 8 players to Harrow Leisure Centre to compete in three round-robin group matches against Merton, Hillingdon and Barking & Dagenham picking up a valuable win against Merton.



Team coach Harshil Trivedi said “The day went well, with a lot of young talent... It would be a pleasure to help support the borough for the 2020 games but I would like to take the team further and focus more on progression for our great borough”.

The London Youth Games is Europe’s largest annual youth sport festival with opportunities to participate in over 25 sports and 40 competitions. Please visit [www.croydon.gov.uk/londonyouthgames](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/londonyouthgames) for more information.

## Mini Marathon

Croydon Council worked in partnership with the Croydon Harriers Athletics Club to organise trials for the for Virgin Mini London Marathon 2019. The trials took place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 at Lloyd Park, Croydon.

The Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon is the official British Athletics three-mile road championships for young athletes aged between 11 and 17. The course is three miles long, stretching from London's Old Billingsgate to The Mall include teams from all 33 London Boroughs.

Previous winners of the Mini London Marathon and Mini Wheelchair Marathon include four-time Olympic Games gold medallist Mo Farah, and competitors from the London 2012 Paralympics – silver medallist Shelly Woods and David Weir, winner of four Paralympic gold medals and a record seven London Marathons.

Every year Croydon take a squad of up to 36 athletes which also a wheelchair and ambulant athletes categories. Full details and selection policy can be found at [www.croydon.gov.uk/mini-marathon](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/mini-marathon).

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



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## Libraries

### New look reception and community room in Thornton Heath Library



Thornton Heath library has a new look reception and community room, the first of our libraries to benefit from the council's investment in library buildings over the coming years. The large and imposing reception desk has made way for a mix café style seating and conversation booths for private or quieter conversations.

The dated carpet and oversized chairs in the community room have been replaced with a modern and hardwearing wood-effect floor. The new furniture can be moved or put away as required enabling meetings, events, film screenings and other activities. Thornton Heath library is one of a number of buildings where the council's locality based working pilot, "Gateway North," is underway.



### Libraries Events

**World Book Day** Thursday 7th March is an annual celebration of children's authors, illustrators, books, and a celebration of reading. Children all over Croydon will be dressing up as their favourite book character and we will be hosting special activities in all our libraries. To find out what your local library has planned see

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/libraries-news-and-events>

**International Women's Day** 8th March showcases the achievements of women worldwide, and Croydon Libraries will host network events for women to access support to develop skills for employment and self-employment : Central Library on 7th March 10am – 12pm and Norbury Library Friday 8th March 9.30am – 12.00pm

**New Digital Zone** starting in Norbury Library offering free digital training and advice every Thursday 10.00am – 12.00pm from 14th March; provided by Outspace/Best Start

As part of the London-wide SPINE festival Croydon Libraries will be hosting a free health and wellbeing event for teenagers on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 12:00-16:00 in Central Library.



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**Stronger Minds** is a free creative fair aimed at empowering young people to talk about their wellbeing and express themselves about the issues they face. Young people aged 13+ can come along and be inspired by musicians and artists, or get advice on issues such as managing stress, careers and much more!

**Crowded** is a SPINE-commissioned spoken word production which tells the story of ordinary young people whose anxiety, depression and desire leads to harmful and destructive behaviours. Giving voice to emotions that are often unspoken due to social stigma, **Crowded** is a powerful, funny and uncompromising story presented in a striking spoken word show by three exciting young poet-performers.



**Shelf Help** books are expert endorsed books providing 13 to 18 year olds with advice and information about anxiety, stress, bullying, exams, and more. They will on display and available to borrow during the SPINE Festival in all our libraries across Croydon.

## Museums

### Recent Events

A collection of paintings and photographs of local residents is being showcased in Croydon Arts Collection's 'Croydonians' exhibition. Items include portraits of an Addington blacksmith and his wife, a Mayor and celebrities from the past and present.

In the Croydon Museum there is an exhibition commemorating the end of the First World War and features untold stories for its citizens and their experience of peace, protest and conflict.

In the Riesco Gallery the 'Bones of Croydon' exhibition is displaying human remains found in Riddlesdown in 2014 that date back to AD 670-775. The exhibition also showcases other artefacts discovered in the borough from the Anglo-Saxon period (AD 410-1066).



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## Working Together

### Registrars Service

#### Locality Working

We continue to advance plans for closer working with Bereavement Services and the of locality working and improve accessibility to Registration Services.

At Croydon University Hospital we are holding a trial of all systems and procedures in relation to all aspects of the registration process aiming for a soft launch of this service in late February/early March.

### Bereavement Services

#### Replacement Cremators

All approvals for the replacement cremators have been received and the order will be placed in late February. Due to the delay we are currently revisiting the project timeline to establish a revised installation date, which is likely to be late summer with completion October/early November 2019.

#### Cremation Metals Recycling Scheme

We are pleased to announce that in January 2019 we secured £7k for our latest nominated charity 'First Touch'.

First Touch, is a charity for the neonatal unit at St George's, supports bereaved families in the following ways:

Funding the annual neonatal memorial service at St George's Hospital. This is a service for families to gather together and remember the babies who tragically were too premature or too unwell to go home. Families attend who are recently bereaved and who have had their babies taken many years ago. One family has been attending for 30 years, in memory of their twin girl.

The charity also supplies Memory Boxes to all bereaved families. These contain memory sticks for photos, non-stick ink for hand and footprints, two bears (one for the baby and one for the family), a box for a curl of hair, and a shawl to wrap the baby in. The box can be used to store other precious mementos. They also provide a range of other services to support families through a very traumatic time.



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We are again just entering a new period for nominations. This is a national scheme that distribute and surplus monies from the recycling of cremation to bereavement related charities. To date over £6million pounds has been distributed across the UK!

So far as well as First Touch we have donated to St Christopher's Hospice, Woodside Bereavement, the Lily Foundation to mention a few.

If you know of any local charities that work with the bereaved and would benefit from this scheme please contact Kevin Pilkington [kevin.pilkington@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.pilkington@croydon.gov.uk) or Eddie Ranger [edward.ranger@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:edward.ranger@croydon.gov.uk) to discuss further

## **New Burial Land**

We are now in the final stages of preparing our appeal paperwork for submission which is scheduled for late February.

## **Events**

Our new events schedule for 2019 has been produced with the first being the Easter Memorial Service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 2.15pm

Our events are free and if you are interested in attending please contact us via e-mail on [BEREAVEMENT@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:BEREAVEMENT@croydon.gov.uk) or by phone on 020 8684 3877 to register your interest.