



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

Latest News

Selsdon library receives the first full refurbishment of any Croydon library

The Selsdon refurbishment will see improved IT, new decoration and furniture, and extended opening hours through the use of Open+ technology. This exciting refurbishment is the first in the programme to modernise all libraries in Croydon over the next few years. During the Selsdon works, which are taking place now,



residents can use a staffed pop-up library in the foyer between 10am and 2pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. There will be a returns bin for books and other borrowed items outside the library which can be used at all times. Sanderstead will open on Mondays from 9am to 6pm from 3 June until 29 July in addition to usual opening hours. Further details can be found [here](#).

Works due to start on Norbury refurbishment

Over 150 residents attended the Norbury Library engagement event on 11th May to view the proposed design of the refurbished library and upstairs community room. Feedback was received from over 100 residents and the designs are being updated to incorporate suggestions.





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Norbury Library will close at the beginning of September to allow for roof replacement, refurbishment of the library, installation of an access lift to the newly refurbished upstairs community room.

Launch of summer reading challenge

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 13 July – 14 September

The Reading Agency and Libraries Present

SPACE CHASE

Summer Reading Challenge 2019

The Reading Agency and Croydon Libraries presents the Summer Reading Challenge 2019. The theme this year is “Space Chase”, an out-of-this-world adventure inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. Children’s reading skills are known to dip during the summer break and the reading challenge offers a fun way to encourage children aged 4-11 to read up to six books over the holidays. All children who complete the challenge can enter a prize draw to win a Kindle Fire. The challenge “launches” on Saturday, 13th July. Visit the Summer Reading Challenge website for more inspiration <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Exhibitions at the Museum of Croydon

The portrait of one of Croydon’s most famous musicians, Stormzy and his mum Abigail Owuo has taken up residence in the exhibition gallery until the end of September as part of the **National Portrait Gallery’s ‘Coming Home’** project. The portrait by Olivia Rose as part of the This Is Grime book is accompanied with an installation of a fellow Croydon artist PINS. An interactive piece that explores the concept of home, we’re encouraging people of all ages to come and take part. This collaboration is an exciting chance for the museum to work with contemporary artists and showcase Croydon’s music and visual art talent.

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Croydon Museum also hosts the opening of the **Windrush exhibition** from 12th June until November. This exhibition tells the living stories of the Windrush generation in Croydon through evoking nostalgic memories of the period through real artefacts belonging to the community. We are privileged to host this

exhibition as part of the Croydon Windrush Celebrations 2019 presented by All Islands Together.

The Clocktower gallery space will welcome Mark Goldby's **'Bold'** a group show designed to coincide with Croydon Pride in July. The show explores the perception of homosexuality throughout history by artists who 50 years ago would have been considered mentally ill or criminal for their sexual identity.

Start-ups in London Libraries

Croydon Libraries' brand new service **Start-ups in London Libraries** is now here to help you turn your business idea into a reality. Sign up to attend the workshops:

Day 1: What next for my business idea? Croydon Central Library - Wednesday 10 July 10.00am - 4:00pm

Please contact sophie.white@croydon.gov.uk to register for a workshop or to find out what other support is available.

The project is fully funded by the European Regional Development Fund, the British Library, ten participating London boroughs and generously supported by JP Morgan and Arts Council England.



London Cityread (May) - Aisha Malik: author talk

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Cityread 2019 offered Croydon an opportunity to meet author Ayisha Malik, author of *Sofia Khan is not obliged*, on 10th May in Ashburton Library. Over thirty avid readers asked a wide range of questions and enjoyed an opportunity to try a specially created chocolate bar created by an enterprising library colleague and Croydon business owner Nasreen Khan, who incorporated themes from the book.

<https://cocoajoneschocolate.com/blogs/news/cityreads-2019>



Half Term Events: On 28th & 30th May the London Mozart Players with actress Rebecca Kenny performed Peter & the Wolf in Central, New Addington and Thornton Heath Libraries to nearly 400 families. Croydon Music & Arts provided instrument workshops ahead of the concerts which allowed children to try out flutes, clarinets, violins and cellos before watching the professionals perform.



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Volunteers' Week 1st – 7th June

On Saturday 1st June volunteers from Libraries and Museum of Croydon came together to kick off Volunteers' Week; to celebrate their success and promote volunteering opportunities to invited guests. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer visit www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/volunteer

Green Spaces Open Day Saturday 8th June 11am – 4pm Central Library

The Croydon community celebrated Croydon's green spaces. Local wildlife and nature groups had stands, including Croydon RSPB, Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society, Croydon Ponds Project, London Wildlife Trust, the Wilderness Project and the Association of Croydon Conservation Societies. Visitors found out about green activities and how to volunteer to keep Croydon green.



Help us celebrate 100 years of council housing in Croydon

The Croydon Museum is working with colleagues in housing services to prepare a commemorative exhibition to celebrate 100 years of council housing at Croydon Clocktower throughout August. More information about the history behind the event can be found in Councillor Alison Butler's bulletin.



Already, residents have been providing their memories, photos and memorabilia. If you've memories you'd like to share, or know someone that would, contact residentinvolvement@croydon.gov.uk or call 020 8726 6100, extension 47350.

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The exhibition will run every day during August in Croydon Clocktower, followed by a tour in libraries across the borough.

www.croydon.gov.uk/housing/residents/celebrating-100-years-of-council-housing-in-croydon

Croydon Music City: The Ends and CRO CRO Festivals

Two new festivals put Croydon on the map this spring as we continue to develop our borough as a music city, a place where music is at the heart of our local economy. **Cro Cro Lands** and **The Ends** Festival were both hailed a huge success and created a host of opportunities for aspiring musicians and young people locally.

The organisers of Croydon's inaugural **Cro Cro Land** – who are also the creators of The Croydonist blog – set out to bring guitar bands back to the borough, and to create a festival where women were fairly represented in the line-up and the crew. Residents Julia Woollams and Angela Martin developed the festival to celebrate Croydon's music history as the birthplace of punk, with a line-up featuring 40 of the UK's most exciting indie and alternative bands and DJs across three stages. The event at Urban Xchange in April was a sell-out, with a line-up that attracted music-lovers from across the UK, including more than 70 industry professionals.

The council supported the event through its cultural partnership fund, which offers arts organisations match-funding for local projects, and Arts Council England. Through a partnership with local charity Lives not Knives, Cro Cro land offered a programme of work experience and training for young people.



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Nova Twins at Cro Cro Land ©John Mo and ©Jamie MacMillan

One month later, thousands flocked to Lloyds Park as Croydon's newest major music festival **The Ends** proved a hit. Hailed a huge success, the three day Metropolis (Livenation) event from 31 May-2 June was headlined by international stars including Nas, Wizkid and Damian Marley. It also gave local young musicians a chance to shine on the council-sponsored Future stage, which provided aspiring artists from Croydon with a platform. Among them was Nxakaio from Norwood. He said: "It has been a great opportunity, to perform at home. It's been my biggest performance to date. Tricey, who also performed on the Future stage on Friday, said: "It's been an amazing experience."

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Thornton Heath – New arts and event space

As part of our programme to reactivate Ambassador House, we will be hosting a series of community events on the forecourt over the summer. The programme began with three Community 'Get Active' Festivals in June where residents were able to try out new activities in free coached classes including mindfulness, short tennis, zumba, Bollywood dance, seated exercise, short walks, gentle paced runs and many more...

The events were hosted by Croydon Council in collaboration with our partners Palace for Life and Better Leisure. We have also worked with local artists to set up a new community notice board and gallery on the hoardings of the former pub in the ground floor of Ambassador House (see pictures). This will provide an opportunity for local artists to display their work in a rolling programme.

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Cultural Partnership Fund

Amongst many other projects, the Cultural Partnership Fund supported the Croydonites Festival of New Theatre that took place 2nd – 25th May and showcased comedy, drama, song, dance, installation and immersive performance. The 3-week long programme featured four UK premieres and three Croydonites commissions plus a very special work from Sweden. In its fourth year, the programme continued to support the work of local artists as well as bring exciting new theatre to the borough.

Purley: new public art installation

Following a competitive process, the Council supported Purley Business Improvement District to appoint Alan Potter, a sculptor, to create a new public art installation to celebrate the town's rail heritage. The Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Iron Railway which operated through Purley 1805-1838, was one of the first public railways in the UK and transported goods on horse drawn wagons on iron rails. The new sculpture has been designed through community workshops held in Purley across April and May and will be 12m long, 2m high and made of cast iron. The scheme is now awaiting planning permission before installation in the Autumn.

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Registrars Service

Locality Working

Registrars are now firmly established working from Croydon University Hospital four mornings per week. Appointments are made directly by the hospitals Bereavement Services when a death occurs, which has led to a more joined up service for those at an extremely difficult period of their lives. We are now beginning to consider how we can increase the Registrars presence during peak periods. The success of this offer has eliminated the need for registration appointments at Croydon Crematorium so these have been discontinued

EU Settlement Scheme

To support residents who are EU Citizens in making applications under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) the OISC and Home Office have worked together to create a scheme which allows Local Authorities to give residents assistance to make face to face applications. Based on the information available on Croydon Observatory there are an estimated 22,000 EU citizens living in the borough. The majority will make their application online but it is estimated there may be up to 3000 residents that will require our assistance until it closes in 2021. Here at Croydon we are offering a free appointment based service to any residents requiring assistance. This service is not being offered to non-residents. The service went live on Monday 3rd June and will be operated for an initial 3 month period and then reviewed in terms of demand and suitability.

Bereavement Services

Replacement Cremators

New cremators are being installed at Croydon Crematorium during the summer. To minimise building works and disruption the cremators are being assembled on site. Works commence in late June and will be completed in early November.



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Cremation Metals Recycling Scheme

We are pleased to announce that in May 2019 we secured £8k for our latest nominated charity Woodside Bereavement Services. Woodside provides free bereavement counselling to Croydon residents of all ages and backgrounds. Referrals are received from schools, GPs, Psychological Support services (such as IAPT) and self-referrals through their website.

All counselling is provided by trained volunteers in a counselling room in South Norwood or through home or school visits. In 2018 they delivered approximately 1400 volunteer hours to support 73 adult referrals and 38 referrals from schools. The charity keeps running costs to a minimum and relies on donations and grants to fund its premises and part-time staff.

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 £8million pounds has been distributed across the UK! 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 or Eddie Ranger edward.ranger@croydon.gov.uk to discuss further