

YourCroydon

ISSUE 18 - JUNE 2008

'A place to be proud of'



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Lives for the future

If there's one thing most of us can be sure of – besides taxes, of course – it is that we are going to face years, possibly decades, in retirement. And I think it fair to say that we would like to spend that time as independently as possible.

For some of us, though, the advancing years or poor health – or a combination of the two – will mean that we have to turn to others for the help we need to live as full a life as possible.

And that's when residential care homes and housing designed for older people become an issue for us, and for our relatives.

It seems to be an almost daily occurrence that our newspapers, and TV and radio news bulletins carry a story about one such institution closing or another having been found to offer substandard care for its residents.

Sometimes, the blame can be laid at the feet of negligent or ill-trained staff. In a number of cases, however, the fault is found to be in the fabric of the building itself. The effects of under-investment over a number of years can, and often do, take a toll on buildings that are subjected to intense use seven days a week, 52 weeks of every year.

That's why I'm particularly pleased to be able to announce the opening, this summer, of the first of a number of terrific new housing units for older people and residential care homes.

Fellows Court sits on land behind the old Coleby Court building in Morland Road, Addiscombe. In contrast to Coleby Court's somewhat austere exterior, Fellows Court benefits from the clean lines and bright finishings

of up-to-the-minute architectural design.

And those design standards are echoed inside the building where a mix of 32 one-bedroom and eight two-bedroom flats offer residents the chance of full independence safe in the knowledge they live in the middle of a sociable community backed by staff providing home-help, laundry and catering services, should they require them.

You can read more about the Fellows Court development on page 14.

Fellows Court is only the first of four new facilities the council is providing under the Homes for the Future scheme. Under various stages of construction, the remaining three are due to open over the course of the next two years.

The scheme illustrates our commitment to providing the best for the people of Croydon, and, in this case, for our residents who might find that, while wishing to maintain a degree of independence, they gain confidence from the knowledge that help is at hand should they ever need it.

Mike Fisher
Leader of the council

Going the extra mile

Nominate a council worker who has given that little bit extra

A new awards scheme is being introduced this year by Croydon Council and this is your last chance to make a contribution.

Everyone receives one service or another from the council. Have you been so pleased with an outstanding service from an individual that you would like the opportunity to thank them?

As part of the new awards, a category called Going the Extra Mile is open to members of the public to make a nomination for a person who delivered a service above and beyond the scope of their role.

You can nominate until 27 June, and an announcement of shortlisted candidates will be made in the summer.

For further information log on to Croydon Council's website at www.croydon.gov.uk

Nominations can be made online at www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/consultations/excellence/, or by email to service.review@croydon.gov.uk

Alternatively, phone **020 8726 6000**, extension **63154**, and ask for Diane Bacchus.

Get ready for Volunteers' Week

The Volunteer Centre Croydon is getting ready for a week of fun involving the local community in Volunteers' Week.

This year's Volunteers' Week runs from 1 to 7 June and the Croydon centre is aiming to involve lots of people from the local community in all events.

The Volunteer Centre Roadshow will be at Thornton Heath library, in Brigstock Road, on Wednesday, 4 June to provide information and answer any questions.

As part of a drive to develop more sports volunteering opportunities, good practice workers from the Croydon centre can visit sports groups and clubs to advise on good practice and develop sports opportunities.

For more information on any of the week's events, email volunteer@cvalive.org.uk or call **020 8684 2727**.

Drawing amnesty

Handy with an HB? Enjoy a bit of a doodle? Don't throw your sketches away – they could feature in an exhibition coming to Croydon

Hand in your drawings at the Museum of Croydon, Croydon Clocktower, and you may see them featured in an exciting new exhibition.

We want the drawings you do as part of your work, leisure activities or hobbies – probably things you usually throw away.

We are interested in scribbles, sketches, diagrams, plans, maps, notes, storyboards – in fact anything that helps you do your thing, whether you are a plumber, a surgeon, an architect, a model-maker, footballer or scientist.

If you use drawings, we would like to see them.

Scheduled for the Museum of Croydon in summer 2009, the exhibition is to be called Quick on the Draw and will come to the borough as part of its tour of England and Scotland.

But don't think that because the exhibition's a year off, you can afford to sit back. We need your drawings as soon as possible, so email them to exhibitions manager Mary Webb at mary.webb@croydon.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can post them to: **Mary Webb, Museum of Croydon, Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET.**



New director, new name

Changes to the council's corporate structure see a new departmental name and the appointment of an executive director to head that department.

Tom Jeffrey joins Croydon from Sutton as executive director of community services.

Sutton Council became the best in London for its environmental services and Tom is confident that his expertise will see a similar improvement in Croydon.

Previously known as environment, culture and public protection (ECPP), the department's

new name reflects the wide range of services it provides to Croydon's community.

From parks, libraries and sport, to parking, recycling, waste and licensing, its services reach all corners of the community.

Further information on the department's full range of services can be found on the council's website at www.croydon.gov.uk

Putting on the road safety style

Certificates and, best of all, a box full of costume goodies mark kiddies' win in cross-London competition



Dressing up is the order of the day for the youngsters at a Sanderstead nursery school after winning first prize in a road safety competition.

A group of 10 of the pre-school age children at Fennies Under-fives Nursery, in Church Way, put their heads together to design a road safety poster in the Londonwide competition hosted by the Children's Traffic Club.

The design had to include the 12 road safety balloon characters – including Larry Look,

Dave Danger and Pelly Pelican – that feature on the club's website.

For their efforts, the children get to see their handiwork displayed on the website. They have also received certificates from Croydon Council and taken delivery of a box of road safety-related dressing-up clothes and costumes.

Nikki Reeve, nursery manager, said: "Jenny King, one of our nursery nurses, put the project together.

"The children really got involved, and sitting down together to do the poster got them talking about road safety.

"Altogether, with the activities involved – such as stories, exercises and a traffic survey they did of the road outside – there was a couple of weeks' work involved before the poster was finally put together.

"We regularly visit the Children's Traffic Club site and it's always full of good ideas, which we work on. And our parents are very good at getting the road safety message across."



Popping out to help

During June, Croydon Council's Pop Service will be visiting the following venues, offering practical help and advice to those with disabilities and older people who might find it difficult to access the information by other means.



DATE	TIME	SERVICE	VENUE	SERVICE PROVIDER
Monday 2 June	11am-2pm	Table Service	Mayday University Hospital, Woodcroft Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 7YE	Age Concern, health visitors, Customer services, Pharmacist
Tuesday 3 June	11am-1.30pm	Table Service	UNACC, 26 Avenue Road, South Norwood, SE25 4DX	Alzheimer's Society, Age Concern, Customer services, Health visitors, Hearing Resource Centre, Pharmacist
Wednesday 4 June	10am-2pm	Bus	North End, Croydon, CR9 1SX	Age Concern, Health Visitors, Customer services, Pharmacist
Monday 9 June	10am-1pm	Bus	Waitrose Supermarket, Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead, CR2 9LE	Age Concern, Customer services, Pharmacist
Tuesday 10 June		Bus	Parchmore Methodist Church & Community Centre, 55 Parchmore Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 8LY	Alzheimer's Society, Age Concern, Health visitors, Pensions service, Hearing Resource Centre, Customer services, Pharmacist
Wednesday 11 June	10am-noon	Table Service	Catalina Court, South Norwood, SE25 4TZ	Pharmacist
Tuesday 17 June	10am-2pm	Bus	North End, Croydon, CR9 1SX	Alzheimer's Society, Age Concern, Pharmacist
Thursday 26 June	1.20pm-3.30pm	Table Service	Brookhurst Court, 190 Selhurst Road, South Norwood, SE25 6LX	Alzheimer's Society, Age Concern, Health Visitors, Hearing Resource Centre, Customer Services, Pharmacist
Friday 27 June	11am-1pm	Table Service	Boston Road Lunch Club, Thornton Heath Baptist Church Hall	Pharmacist

The circus is coming to town

A touch of circus *joie de vivre* will help mark school's big event

A landmark anniversary is being celebrated with the first visit to Croydon of a renowned French circus troupe.

Selsdon Primary & Nursery School is marking its 80th birthday with a visit by the Cirque de Normandy's Big Top Special.

Cirque de Normandy is a traditional, French, family-oriented, non-animal circus and its performances will help Selsdon Primary & Nursery School's parents' association raise funds to replace the old school mini-bus.

The spectacular show includes Chinese ribbons, foot juggling, acrobatics, magic, aerialists and mischievous antics by Tolly and his clown friends.

Cirque de Normandy is a unique opportunity for the whole family to soak up the excitement and atmosphere of a traditional circus in a sawdust ring.

The circus will be appearing at Selsdon Recreational Ground (Woodland Gardens/Greville Avenue) on Thursday and Friday, 12 and 13 June at 6.30pm, and Saturday, 14 June at noon and 4pm. Tickets are £7 each in advance or £9 on the day.

For more information call Mandy Cheetham on 020 8656 5496.

Click for a course or career

All of London's career and course options for teenagers can now be found in one place online

A website that gives teenagers all the information they need on courses available to them has just been updated to help them plan their study and career options.

www.mychoicelondon.co.uk is London's first online course prospectus for 14- to 19-year-olds – a searchable, up-to-date directory of the 25,000 courses and programmes offered by the capital's 640 schools, colleges and work-based training providers.

The website is fully integrated with London mapping and Transport for London for easy journey planning to course and training venues, including directions to the nearest train, bus and Underground stations.

Offering invaluable information, advice and guidance for young people, parents and carers, the site's new range of enhanced features includes:

- job planner – helps users move into a target job by selecting qualifications to date and mapping possible routes and learning required;
- learner pathways and favourite courses can be saved in a personal folder;



- career-matching quiz – questions to help people establish job options;
- action planner – helps learners set and manage as many plans as they want, and includes key steps and milestones to assist;
- CV builder – helps inexperienced job hunters create a ready-to-use CV;
- career search – 800 jobs profiled by role, range, working hours and potential salary;
- guides – helps users get the most out of the site;
- supporter system – provided by Connexions, offering help by phone, email or in person, locally.

For more information, visit www.mychoicelondon.co.uk



Vote for Mary

Council manager among finalists for prestigious national award

Croydon is calling on everyone in the borough to rally behind Mary Dalman, shortlisted for the Council Worker of the Year Awards.

The council's service development manager is one of 42 finalists battling it out for one of local government's top awards.

Mary impressed the judges with her work in developing a one-stop, web-based guide to bereavement services for Croydon residents, bringing together all the available information in an easy-to-use reference chart.

The information resource has since been adopted by other local authorities across the country, and the council is calling on everyone from Croydon to get behind Mary and vote to give her the recognition she deserves.

You can vote for Mary via the council's website www.croydon.gov.uk where a link on the home page will take you straight to Mary's voting page, or you can text your vote for Mary by sending "LGATV 1 Mary" to 80039. Voting ceases at noon on Thursday, 3 July.

The generosity of friendship

Borough's libraries benefit as support group hands over cheque

As the first instalment on gifts that will total £1,000 this year, Friends of Croydon Libraries have donated more than £400.

The money is to be used to provide new display stands for exhibitions and other displays in the borough's libraries.

The group plans to give a total of £1,000 to Croydon's libraries this year.

The rest of the gift will help with the costs of a special event at the Central Library, in Katharine Street, on 8 November – Discover Your Library – mounted jointly by the Friends and Croydon Libraries.

Established in 2005, the group now has 80 members, and hosts regular meetings with well-known authors and arranges visits to other libraries.

This is the third gift the Friends have made to the library service.

Group chairman, John Ingman, said: "We greatly value our library service in Croydon, and are delighted to help in this way."

For more information on the Friends of Croydon Libraries, contact **John Ingman** on 020 8681 2355 or at john.ingman@blueyonder.co.uk



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Fit for a Queen

The opening of The Queen's Gardens, by Her Majesty on 21 June, 1983, gave people living in or visiting Croydon's bustling town centre a haven of peace surrounded by flowers, shrubs and trees, where they could take a break from the pressure of business or catch their breath in the middle of a shopping expedition.

25 years young and in blooming good health – a Croydon landmark notches up a noteworthy birthday

June marks the 25th anniversary of one of central Croydon's most popular spots – itself established to mark a notable anniversary, the centenary of the town's Charter of Incorporation, which established Croydon as a borough.

The opening of The Queen's Gardens, by Her Majesty on 21 June, 1983, gave people living in or visiting Croydon's bustling town centre a haven of peace surrounded by flowers, shrubs and trees, where they could take a break from the pressure of business, or catch their breath in the middle of a shopping expedition.

The transformation to the new garden was the latest stage in the development of the area and followed the completion of a major project that saw the demolition of the old Croydon police station, freeing valuable land and opening up the vista.



Unlike today's garden, permanently accessible to all, the original Victorian layout was not readily open to the public. The site was "temporarily open upon such days and times as shall be settled by the Mayor."



The plot – stretching from Fell Road to Park Lane, and bounded by Katharine Street and what is now The Croydon Flyover – had been the site of a public garden since the 1890s, when the current Town Hall was built to replace its High Street predecessor, which had become too small for the corporation's needs.

Unlike today's garden, permanently accessible to all, the original Victorian layout was not readily open to the public. The site was "... temporarily open upon such days and times as shall be settled by the Mayor ..."

That changed, marginally, in 1898 when it was agreed the gardens would open in the evenings and on Sundays – a notable contrast to a sunny summer day, now, when The Queen's Gardens is often packed with people.



In 1962, the architect who designed council headquarters Taberner House – which passed its 40th anniversary in April – applied his mind to the way in which the building would be set in its surroundings. Adopting a theme of informality, his plan shows a central axis including a footbridge, over the lower garden, to Katharine Street.

At that time, the police station and the Mint Walk highway looked likely to be a fixture for years to come. The architect's plans, which included neither, looked into the future.

It was to be another 18 years before the police station was demolished. In that time, the footbridge proposal was shelved and a scheme was sought to marry the formal Taberner House gardens with the informal Victorian layout of the original, lower-level Town Hall garden.

The modern design encompasses the lower-level land previously occupied by the old Central Croydon railway station and then the Town Hall garden, and the police station – which stood on the corner of Fell Road and part of Mint Walk that, crossing today's garden, no longer exists.



Construction of the modern garden began in October, 1982, when the roadway was removed, ground contouring begun and a contract for paths, walls and other hard landscaping awarded to FM Conway Ltd.

Indeed, the planning of The Queen's Gardens had to allow for essential services running beneath Mint Walk and which had to remain relatively easily accessible, hence the paved path that follows the line of the removed eastern end of Mint Walk.

Construction of the modern garden began in October, 1982, when the roadway was removed, ground contouring begun and a contract for paths, walls and other hard landscaping awarded to FM Conway Ltd.

The final garden works, which saw the planting of flowerbeds, plants and shrubs that exist to this day, were carried out by the council's parks department in late spring of 1983. Somewhat inconveniently, that year saw the wettest April in more than 40 years.

Despite that natural hurdle, the work carried on and was completed in time for the Queen's arrival on an overcast, but dry, June day.

Since that first day, The Queen's Gardens have become a much-loved refuge in the middle of a busy 21st century retail and business centre, enjoyed by many thousands each year.

The area is a living, breathing organic entity and, as such, will continue to develop, just as it has over the past quarter-century. Indeed, modernisation plans have been tabled as part of the proposed Park Place scheme.

Whatever happens, though, The Queen's Gardens will continue to be valued and enjoyed by the people of Croydon for years to come.



Whatever happens, though, The Queen's Gardens will continue to be valued and enjoyed by the people of Croydon for years to come.

Since that first day, The Queen's Gardens have become a much-loved refuge in the middle of a busy 21st century retail and business centre, enjoyed by many thousands each year.



I'm 18 years old and I'm a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. I'm doing my bit to make Croydon safer, are you doing yours?



For further information about Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association, visit www.cbnwa.com



INCORPORATING THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:



Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the biggest and the most successful crime prevention initiatives in the United Kingdom. Behind it lies a simple idea, and a central value shared by millions of people around the country. Getting together with your neighbours can cut crime.

Neighbourhood Watch is not just about reducing burglary figures; it's about creating communities who care. It brings local people together and can make a real contribution to improving people's lives. It is about taking responsibility for your local environment, looking out for vulnerable neighbours, helping to reduce crime, the fear of crime and being a good neighbour.

Objectives of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

1. To prevent crime by improving security, increasing vigilance, creating and maintaining a caring community and reducing opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness.
2. To assist the police in detecting crime by promoting effective communication and the prompt reporting of suspicious and criminal activity.
3. To reduce undue fear of crime by providing accurate information about risks and by promoting a sense of security and community spirit, particularly amongst the more vulnerable members of the community.
4. To improve police/community liaison by providing effective communications through systems such as the Neighbourhood Watch Crime Messaging Email system, which warns Co-ordinators of local crime trends which they can disseminate to their scheme members, and by members informing the police of incidents when they occur.

If you are interested in becoming a Co-ordinator, please contact the Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer either by email at nhwccroydon@met.police.uk or telephone 020 8649 0318.

Summer



An exciting programme of activities will keep youngsters fully occupied over the long summer break this year

It promises to be an action-packed summer of fun for teenagers in Croydon thanks to a full agenda of activities being lined up by Croydon Council's Youth Service.

But it's not going to be simply a case of the borough's 13 to 19-year-olds being offered a set menu of options by town hall officials.

Recognising the need to get young people involved in things that interest them, the youth service has been talking to youngsters and getting their help to plan, deliver and evaluate the activity programmes.

As a result, their recreational and developmental needs and wants are being much better served with a range of activities that are challenging, stimulating and, most importantly, fun.

Between the last week of July and the end of August, youth centres and projects will offer exciting daytime programmes of youth work both on- and off-site. Some centres will also be open for business in the evening, as usual, but checks should be made in advance.

The opportunities available include residential courses, sports, day trips, performing arts and DJ skills.

The activities will generally be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, although some are targeted at particular groups. There will be a charge for some activities.

The facing page carries details of some of the events scheduled for the borough's centres over the summer break. It is not a comprehensive listing and it is recommended that you call the relevant centre for information on the full programme.

fun for the young

Summer activity highlights – for further information, contact relevant centre

Sir Philip Game Youth Centre

Morland Road, Addiscombe
Christopher Murray
Tel: 020 8662 0290

Week beginning 4 August

- Creative arts week
- Theatre visit – The Lion King

Week beginning 11 August

- Residential week, Dorset

Week beginning 18 August

- Five-a-side football tournament
- Off-road challenge

Goldcrest Youth Centre

Goldcrest Way, New Addington
Lesley Grigg Tel: 01689 843333

Week beginning 4 August

- Go-kart building, cooking and more

Week beginning 11 August

- Bowling, dance workshop and more

Week beginning 18 August

- BBQ, health awareness and more

Waddon Youth Centre

Waddon Way, Waddon
Nick Weatherley
Tel: 020 8686 2304

Week beginning 4 August

- Integrated residential week,
- Avon Tyrell

Weeks beginning 11, 18 & 25 August

- Excursions

Whitehorse Youth Centre

Whitehorse Road, Selhurst
Terry Sommers
Tel: 020 8684 1076

Week beginning 18 August

- Sports competition and talent show heats

Week beginning 25 August

- Sports competition and talent show heats and finals



Purley Youth Centre

Brighton Road, Purley
Denyse Weller
Tel: 020 8668 7259

Week beginning 21 July

- Residential – activity centre

Asian Youth Project, Winterbourne Youth Club

Winterbourne Road, Thornton Heath. Najma Solanki
Tel: 07771 843061

Week beginning 28 July

- Cooking workshop
- DJ skills

Week beginning 4 August

- Excursion – National Portrait
- Gallery
- Health and beauty

Samuel Coleridge Taylor Centre

Selhurst Road, Selhurst
Joy Spence Tel: 020 8653 3449

Week beginning 28 July

- Music making
- Needlecraft
- Theatre excursion
- Cookery

Week beginning 4 August

- Quad bike/go-kart workshops
- Swimming
- Excursions – museums

Croydon Youth Theatre Organisation

Oakley Road, South Norwood
Viv Berry Tel: 020 8655 1098

Week beginning 11 August

- Filmmaking
- Dance mania
- Song writing

Week beginning 18 August

- TV techniques
- A play in a week
- Spoken word

Young People with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities

Paul Funnell Tel: 07990 790183

Week beginning 28 July

- Activity week – art & design, cooking and more

Week beginning 4 August

- Integrated residential week,
- Avon Tyrell

Addiscombe Youth Club

Stroud Green Way, Addiscombe
John Southwick
Tel: 020 8654 7517

Week beginning 18 August

- Football coaching
- Excursions

Week beginning 25 August

- Creative arts
- Excursions

Timebridge Youth Club

Field Way, New Addington
Wayne Stevens
Tel: 01689 841688

Week beginning 28 July

- Go-karting
- Basketball
- Clothes design
- Decks
- Cooking
- Costume design

Week beginning 4 August

- Music workshop
- Lyric writing
- Composing
- Cooking
- Video making
- Ice skating
- Rounders

Week beginning 11 August

- Badminton
- Assault course
- Excursion – Brighton
- BBQ



Timebridge Junior Club

Field Way, New Addington
Sally Rivers Tel: 01689 841688

Week beginning 28 July

- Dance, football, excursion and more

Week beginning 4 August

- Music, swimming, excursion and more

Week beginning 11 August

- Multi-sports, obstacle event and more

Connexions

Personal Advisers

Nola Joseph-Loftman
Tel: 07789 395684

Gemma Driver

Tel: 07775 822602

Aisha Reefer Tel: 07771 843065

Throughout summer break – Advice and support for young people seeking education and training.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Waddon Youth Centre, Waddon Way
Jacquie Harcus
Tel: 020 8688 3544

Week beginning 28 July

Bronze award – fast-track week for PAYP and Croydon Adventure Project

Week beginning 4 August

Bronze award – fast-track week for PAYP and Croydon Adventure Project

Week beginning 25 August

Gold award – open centre and assessed expedition

Sailing (CYSSA)

South Norwood Lake
Jacquie Harcus
Tel: 020 8688 3544

Throughout summer break – lake meeting, 9.30am to 1.30pmw



By fixing the basket to the chains with a plastic cable tie, you might avoid your beautiful basket being stolen by unscrupulous thieves.

Hanging around

How to produce a winning Croydon in Bloom hanging basket

Hanging baskets typify summer garden displays and, with Croydon in Bloom in full swing, here are some tips to help make this year's baskets the best yet.

Producing a good basket is as much about planning as anything. Assemble the right materials around you before you start.

Firstly consider the type of basket you want to use. Baskets come in many forms, from the traditional wire frame to hard plastic ones with holes pre-cut in the sides ready to accept your plants.

Tip: Purchase as large a basket as possible, as large baskets accommodate more compost and tend to dry out less.

Tip: By fixing the basket to the chains with a plastic cable tie, you might avoid your beautiful basket being stolen by thieves.



Liners

The type of liner will depend on the type of basket you have bought; traditional wire baskets will require sphagnum moss, artificial moss or pre-formed liners.

You should buy any moss from a responsible outlet such as a garden centre to ensure that it is from a sustainable source.

Tip: Select a liner or lining method that allows you to plant through the side of the basket.



Compost

The most commonly used composts are multi-composts or those specifically designed for hanging baskets.

However, try to use a peat-free multi-compost, specifically designed for hanging baskets, as this is better for the environment.

Basket additives

Several options are available to reduce water loss and thereby improve the quality of the flowers and reduce the chore of watering.

Swell gels, available from garden centres and nurseries, are ideal to incorporate into the compost; they retain considerable amounts of water.

Tip: If using a traditional method, cut a disk from the plastic bag that the compost comes in, place this at the base of the basket and it will act as a reservoir.





Method

Step 1

Sit the basket on a large pot to provide a stable platform for planting. Taking off the chains gives you more room to work and saves finding out, when you've finished and stood back to admire your handiwork, that you have buried them.

Once the basket is completed give it a thorough watering and leave it on the pot or bucket for a few days to allow the plants to grow out of the planting stage and fill in the gaps.



Step 2

If using moss or a moss substitute, line the inside of the basket for about 2-3 inches (50-75mm). Place any water-retaining plastic or containers in place now and make sure the moss is thick enough to retain the compost.

Planting time

It is a good idea to harden off your plants before you hang your basket in its final position. This could involve putting your basket inside if the evenings are cold and bringing it out by day to acclimatise it.

Step 3

Now, add a layer of compost, say about 2 inches (50mm), and it's time to insert the plants.

The classic way is to remove the plants from their container, and gently fray out the roots to encourage swift growth. From the inside of the basket, thread a plant, foliage first, through the side of the basket.

This will ensure that any damage is to the foliage and not to the all-important roots.

Continue to insert plants around this first layer; aim to use four to six plants, depending on their size.



Watering and feeding

Depending on your planting and preparation, expect to water daily, or more frequently if you have not used any additives, and possibly every second or third day if you have.

However there is no "rule of thumb" here and you will need to check daily, preferably in the morning, and water accordingly.

Remember that you should not allow the basket to dry out as re-wetting will be difficult.

If it does dry out take the basket down and put it into a large bucket of water, or perhaps the water butt, to soak before rehanging.

Don't forget that baskets will need feeding at least weekly after about five or six weeks, when the planting compost has run out of food.

Use a good general-purpose liquid feed as directed, or include slow-release fertiliser into the potting compost before you start planting.

Whichever method you use, remember that feeding regularly is essential if you want to achieve a top basket.

Step 4

Repeat step 3 until you reach the top of the basket.



Step 5

Position a larger central plant and arrange 4-6 plants around the central plant. Make sure the liner moss or lining material is firmly placed around the top of the basket to prevent water and compost loss.

Tip: If you are using a pre-formed liner with holes, use the same method as above. For those wishing to use fewer plants than indicated above (12 to 20) choose only vigorous plants that will grow quickly and cover the sides, and plant into the top only.



Good plants for baskets

Petunias, supertunias and surfinias, million bells, bacopa, ivy geraniums, scaevola, trailing lobelia, verbena (taipan), nerembergia, black-eyed Susan, nemesia, impatiens, fuchsias and many others.

Try strawberries or tomatoes with some mixed vegetable varieties for a great patio vegetable garden, or what about herbs for something a little different?

Tip: Make sure the plants have grown down the side of the basket; judges do not want to see bare basket sides or bottoms.

For it's a jolly good Fellows

A new flagship extra care housing project opens its doors this summer



In addition to assured tenancies with Eldon Housing Association, which will manage the flats, those living there will have the benefit of care support provided through Croydon's adult social services department.

Life for Croydon's older residents is about to take a turn for the better.

After years in the planning and building, the first of the borough's new wave of accommodation for older people is shortly to welcome its first tenants.

Part of Croydon Council's ground-breaking Homes for the Future scheme, Fellows Court, in Morland Road, has been designed to meet the needs of frail older people, allowing them to live full, independent lives in their own flats.

In addition to assured tenancies with Eldon Housing Association, which will manage the flats, those living there will have the benefit of care support provided through Croydon's adult social services department.

Fellows Court's state-of-the-art facilities will comprise:

- 30 self-contained one bedroom flats;
- eight self-contained two bedroom flats.

With a view to building a real community among tenants, individual flats are clustered to create neighbourhood groupings that will encourage tenants to mingle and share some common space for social activity and light meals.

The new building, is set on land behind the old Coleby Court residential home. The facilities on offer within the new development will include:

- communal lounges;
- a dining room;
- laundry room;
- buggy store; and
- a pleasant communal garden.

In addition:

- each flat has a call system allowing tenants to call for assistance in an emergency; and
- lunch will be available if required.

The on-site staff team will work with tenants to help them maintain their independence and get full use of, and benefit from, community services and facilities.

The promotion of healthy living and access to medical services at an early stage will help people remain in their own home for longer.

Croydon Council is now taking applications for places at Fellows Court, with applicants having to meet the following criteria:

- be 55 years of age (if registered disabled) or older;
- be physically frail;
- require a 24-hour care and support service in order to be able to live independently; and
- be able to meet the obligations of their tenancy agreement with Eldon Housing Association.

If you, or somebody you know, would like to be considered for a Fellows Court tenancy, send an email to adriana.costantino@croydon.gov.uk

Alternatively, write to **Adriana Costantino, Homes for the Future, 11th Floor, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 3JS**; or call **020 8726 6000**.



Finding the basket

With only a handful of public courses in the country, Croydon's is helping put a fledgling sport in the public eye

A walk in the open air with, just to give it a bit of an edge, the competitive element of attempting to hit 18 targets as you make your way.

Sounds a bit like golf, doesn't it? And you'd be right – it is a bit like golf. However, instead of scoring points by using a club to hit a ball into a hole, a plastic disc – not hugely unlike a Frisbee – is flicked into a basket.

And, unlikely as it may sound, Croydon is rapidly gaining a reputation as something of a national centre for the growing sport of disc golf.

Established for almost three years, Croydon Disc Golf Club boasts London's only course with 18 permanent baskets.

Club founder and chairman Richard Wood became hooked when he saw a three-minute clip on television.

He said: "We got an Awards for All grant of £6,500 and then approached Croydon Council about establishing a course in Lloyd Park. They were very brave in giving us permission because it's the first public course in the country – and now it's really taken off. Anybody who can throw a Frisbee can play."



Establishing Croydon as even more of a centre, in April the club played host to The Croydon Cyclone, an official British Disc Golf Association-sanctioned tournament.

Anybody is welcome to give the sport a go, but if you contact the club it can be arranged for somebody to play a round with you, to offer help and advice – and show you just the amount of wrist flick required for that tricky par four.

For more information, visit the Croydon Disc Golf Club website at www.croydondiscgolf.com or call Richard on 07881 585379.

Anybody is welcome to give the sport a go, but if you contact the club it can be arranged for somebody to play a round with you, to offer help and advice

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Health and safety isn't just for other people



An 18-tonne crash-cushion vehicle had rolled backward into Andrew, crushing him against railings. The handbrake had not been applied properly.

One man's experience highlights the importance of taking care at work

The wellbeing of the public and its employees and contractors is always a primary concern of Croydon Council.

Similarly, the council's waste contractor, Veolia Environmental Services, treats the matter with the utmost seriousness and has launched a number of health and safety initiatives at Factory Lane, the borough's main waste-handling facility.

Veolia is responsible for providing refuse collection, recycling and street cleansing services to the borough's 140,000 properties.

Speaking at a recent event was Andrew Longley, a Veolia employee who has had a change of role. What he said had a big impact on colleagues.

He told how, on a hot summer's day in 2006, he had been cleaning traffic islands with a colleague when he stopped to buy a drink from a nearby garage.



"I don't blame the driver, but if I can stop two accidents a year by what I do, then that has to be a good thing."

His recollection of what happened next is that he felt as if someone had pushed into his back. That was quickly followed by an agonising pain, and he knew something was horribly wrong.

An 18-tonne crash-cushion vehicle had rolled backward into Andrew, crushing him against railings. The handbrake had not been applied properly.

Andrew was rushed to hospital where he was stabilised before being transferred to the Queen Victoria Hospital, in East Grinstead, for specialist work on his hand.

Since that terrible day Andrew has had five different spells in hospital, been in intensive care for two weeks after an operation on his bowel, and faces the likelihood of further operations.

It was clear that he would not be able to continue working in street cleansing and he now works as an ambassador for Veolia, touring the company's UK locations to warn colleagues of the importance of complying with health and safety rules.

He says: "I think being there in person helps get the point across. I still get emotional sometimes and I think that brings it home to people – how an accident like this can change your life."

Veolia's director of health and safety, Glenn Davies, explains: "The waste sector is working hard to improve its safety record and Veolia has made health and safety its number-one business priority."

Andrew now works with the company's mobile safety-training unit and he hopes that sharing his experiences with colleagues might prevent further accidents, or at least make them aware of the consequences.

His life has changed but he says the biggest impact has been on his wife, relatives and friends. "They're the ones who have all the hospital visits and stress, but still have to carry on with the everyday."

He says: "I don't blame the driver, but if I can stop two accidents a year by what I do, then that has to be a good thing."

Veolia's director of health and safety, Glenn Davies, explains: "The waste sector is working hard to improve its safety record and Veolia has made health and safety its number-one business priority."

Bringing culture to Croydon town centre

A world-famous cultural attraction enhancing a world-class city

You may have read, in a previous edition of *Your Croydon*, the proposals put forward by architect Will Alsop to transform Croydon's town centre into London's third city.

Alsop's Vision contains many exciting projects which are being considered by the council and provide a good springboard to enhancing Croydon's standing and really making it the place to be.

Cultural development is at the heart of these projects. Culture, in all its forms, plays a key role in making an area a better place in which to live.

Having good quality arts facilities, festivals and creative businesses in an area contribute to making a place vibrant, buzzing and so much more appealing.

Croydon's ambitious regeneration plans provide a fantastic opportunity for a stronger and more dynamic range of cultural offerings for the town. As such, the potential of developing a cultural attractor for the centre is being investigated.

What is meant by a cultural attractor?

- Something that gets people in and outside of Croydon talking – that marks Croydon out as cutting edge.
- A well-designed, good-quality cultural asset that adds a spark to the place, and which is well used or visited by local people and tourists, alike.
- A statement piece that puts the place on the cultural map and makes people proud of where they live.

There are many examples across the country – the Angel of the North in Gateshead; The Lowry in Manchester.

But is this appropriate for Croydon?

Would people prefer something edgy and rule-breaking – or would a smaller flagship attraction be more appropriate?

Or, possibly, you think that what Croydon town centre has already is enough.

Take part in this survey to let us know your views.

1. Do you think that Croydon town centre needs a showcase cultural destination?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If Yes, what size would you like this to be? (please tick one)

- ☐ Major, state-of-the-art attractor – eg Angel of the North
- ☐ Something edgy and state-of-the-art – eg The Lowry, Manchester; The Sage, Gateshead
- ☐ Smaller flagship – eg Bournemouth Library, Leicester Media Centre



3. What type of attractor would you want this to be? (please tick your three favourites).

- ☐ Arts facility – eg, theatre, museum, exhibition space, gallery
- ☐ Cultural quarter – containing bars, cafes, arts facilities
- ☐ Media/creative business centre
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Sports facility
- ☐ Street art
- ☐ Arts festival
- ☐ Public square/piazza
- ☐ Urban park
- ☐ Other

Bringing culture to Croydon town centre continued...

4. Where do you think it should be located?

- ☐ Near East Croydon station
☐ Near West Croydon station
☐ College Green
☐ Old Town
☐ South End
☐ Wellesley Road
☐ Other.....

5. Do you think there is sufficient cultural infrastructure in Croydon town centre to support such a project and make it successful?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. If you answered Yes to question 5, please list your three favourite cultural facilities/events/activities in the town centre.

- 1

 2

 3

7. If you answered No to question 5, please list the three cultural facilities/events/activities you would most like to see in Croydon town centre.

- 1

 2

 3

About You

You do not have to answer these questions but, by doing so, you will help us assess how representative the responses to this survey are.

Where do you live? Please give us your postcode

.....

Are you: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Which age range are you in?

- ☐ 0-16 ☐ 17-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44
☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-plus

Are you?

- ☐ White ☐ British ☐ Irish
☐ Other white background

Please specify

- ☐ Mixed ☐ White and Black Caribbean
☐ White and Black African ☐ White and Asian
☐ Any other mixed background

Please specify

- ☐ Asian or Asian British ☐ Indian
☐ Pakistani ☐ Bangladeshi
☐ Any other Asian background

Please specify

- ☐ Black or Black British
☐ Caribbean
☐ African
☐ Any other black background

Please specify

- ☐ Chinese or other Ethnic group
☐ Chinese
☐ Any other ethnic group

Please specify

Please return completed questionnaire to Emma Wiggins, 10th Floor, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 3JS, by 18 June 2008.

Unpaid – but not forgotten

A day to thank the army of people who, every day of their lives, do an important, often overlooked job

Are you a carer?

If you look after a family member, friend or neighbour who needs help due to illness, frailty or disability, you are a carer.

Carers often feel isolated. They know they are doing an important job but feel it is frequently overlooked and taken for granted.

That certainly isn't the case as far as Croydon Council and its partners in Croydon Primary Care Trust (PCT) and voluntary organisations are concerned.

This year marks the 14th anniversary of Carers Week, running from 9 to 15 June with a national theme of "carers can't afford to be ill".

As a way of saying a heart-felt "Thank-you" and recognising the valuable contribution carers make to the community and, more importantly, those they tend, the partnership is arranging an event for carers on Thursday, 12 June, from 10am until 2.30pm, at Selhurst Park, the home of Crystal Palace Football Club

The day will give carers a well-deserved chance to talk and socialise with others, as well as taking part in arts and crafts activities.



For the energetic, there will be more lively activities, such as dance exercise, while others may wish to take part in relaxation exercises. It is also hoped to have mini-massage sessions provided by the Red Cross and health checks by the PCT.


Representatives of the organisations staging the day will be on hand to offer advice and answer questions, and literature and information will be available for carers to take away with them.

Refreshments will be provided throughout the day, as will a buffet lunch.

It promises to be a great opportunity for carers to meet, exchange experiences and learn about available local support, while enjoying the day and realising that they are not alone.

Pre-booking is essential, so anybody interested in attending is asked to contact carer-support organisation Crossroads by calling **020 8667 9893**.


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Part of 



Anyone is welcome to visit the garden centre, and they will find a friendly and helpful atmosphere and qualified staff ready to help with gardening questions or find out where to get the help required.



Flowering in the town centre

Keen on gardening? Avoid the trek to the out-of-town garden centres and visit a little-known oasis

When it comes to restocking their flower beds or looking for new vegetable plants for the garden, many people in Croydon are drawn, almost hypnotically, to the large garden centre and DIY chains.

What many who live in the town centre may not realise is that they have, on their doorstep, a horticultural oasis that can meet most of their plant needs without the hassle of sitting in a traffic jam and burning expensive fuel.

Situated by the crossroads of St James's Road and Sydenham Road is a council-run garden centre staffed by 20-plus people with a learning disability.

In addition to providing good-quality plants at keen prices, the Cherry Orchard Garden Centre gives its workers valuable social and work experience, boosting their self-confidence, skills and abilities.

They are trained to do the jobs required to keep the nursery running, including sowing seeds, pricking-out plants, potting up, pruning, taking cuttings, and top-dressing the plants.

All is done with loving care and the plants are sold only when ready.



Among the centre's more popular lines are the hanging baskets and patio pots made up on-site by the workers.

They can also refill your hanging baskets and patio pots – just drop off your basket or pot, tell the staff what you want, leave your phone number to arrange a pick-up time, and rest assured you'll be collecting a thriving planter.

Jane Richards, the centre's day opportunities manager said: "We also provide a delivery service, for a small charge according to where you live.



"We have in stock terracotta pots, multipurpose compost, shrubs, perennials, herbs, alpine, vegetables and bedding, and there's also a small gift shop.

"If we haven't got what you want in stock, we can try to get it for you."

Anyone is welcome to visit the garden centre, and they will find a friendly and helpful atmosphere and qualified staff ready to help with gardening questions, or find out where to get the help required.

Cherry Orchard Garden Centre is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm, and on Saturdays in June between 10am and 2pm – so, buy your stock in the morning and plant out the same afternoon.

For more information, call **020 8689 2625** and ask for Diana.



Calm before the storm

This month we feature one of the photos that a young Frazer Ashford took before his name became internationally known



Most of the archive pictures in this series have been selected from the images that I took for The Croydon Guide between 1978 and 1982.

However, while digging into my dusty old archives I found an unmarked film that, by a process of elimination, appears to have been shot in about 1965.

I had saved my money and bought my first camera, a PlusFlex 35mm SLR, from somewhere in Holborn when I was living as a schoolboy a short distance from East Croydon station.

I got up very early the next day, a misty Sunday morning, and set off into Croydon to test out this piece of technology.

So, this is not only one of my first pictures, it's certainly from the first roll of film that I developed with an Ilford Home Photo Lab kit in my bedroom.

I have included this image in the series not for its quality but for the strangely eerie and simple view of East Croydon. One bus stop, one car and not a soul in sight.



Apart from the old Victorian station on the left, the other interesting factor is that, through the mist, you can see an old house that I believe was a solicitor's office. It was demolished not long after this photo was taken to make way for the NLA Tower, or the Threepenny-bit Building as it became known.

How things have changed for this part of Croydon that is now the hub of the town's transport system.

For more examples of Frazer's work, visit www.frazerashford.com

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I had saved my money and bought my first camera, a PlusFlex 35mm SLR, from somewhere in Holborn when I was living as a schoolboy a short distance from East Croydon station.

Dates for your diary

Council

Deadlines for public questions for forthcoming full council meetings (all start at 6.30pm) Noon on the relevant deadline date.

Meeting

Deadline



Monday, 14 July

Monday, 30 June



Monday, 6 October

Monday, 22 September



Monday, 1 December

Monday, 17 November

To submit a question (maximum number of words: 50) for consideration at a full council meeting, email it to council.questions@croydon.gov.uk; fax it to **020 8760 5657**; print and complete the form at www.croydon.gov.uk/councilquestion and post it to Questions for the Council, Democratic and Legal Services, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 3JS; or call **020 8726 6000 extn 63876**

Scrutiny

Deadlines for the forthcoming scrutiny and overview committee public question sessions. Noon on the relevant deadline date.

Meeting

Deadline

Cabinet Member



3 June Scrutiny and overview

26 May

To be confirmed

10 June Community services

2 June

To be confirmed

24 June Health and adult social care

16 June

To be confirmed

Details of cabinet members' attendance, when agreed, will be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/scrutiny/questions or by contacting the scrutiny team as detailed below.

To submit a question to a cabinet member at a scrutiny sub-committee Q&A session, email it to scrutiny.public.questions@croydon.gov.uk; fax it to **020 8760 5657**; post it to Scrutiny Public Questions, Democratic and Legal Services, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 3JS; or call **020 8726 6000 extn 62529 or 62315**.

Neighbourhood Partnership

Neighbourhood partnership meetings (all start at 7.30pm)

Meeting

Group

venue

11 June

New Addington & Fieldway

Applegarth Primary School, Bygrove, Fieldway

18 June

Broad Green & Waddon

Salvation Army Citadel, Booth Road, Lower Church Street



25 June

Thornton Heath, Bensham Manor & West Thornton

Archbishop Lanfranc High School, Mitcham Road

For information on Neighbourhood Partnerships, visit the website at www.croydononline.org/neighbourhood_partnerships/, email neighbourhood.partnerships@croydon.gov.uk, write to Neighbourhood Partnerships, Democratic and Legal Services, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 3JS or call **020 8726 6000 extn 62564 or 62396**

Croydon Community Police Consultative Group Partnership

Meetings of the Croydon Community Police Consultative Group are held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall. All are open to the public and begin at 6.30pm. For further information, go to www.croydononline.org/ccpcg

Forthcoming meeting dates are: Thursday, 15 May; Wednesday, 9 July; Wednesday, 17 September; Tuesday, 25 Nov.

Details of all Croydon Council meetings can be found on the council website at www.croydon.gov.uk/meetingsofthecouncil



These meetings are to be transmitted using webcasting; Neighbourhood Partnership meetings are not webcast live. They can be viewed at www.croydon.ukcouncil.net/site/webcasts.php

What's On

www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure

Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, Croydon

Ticket office: tel:020 8253 1030

Email: ticketoffice@croydon.gov.uk

Text: 07771 837121

June 08

DAVID LEAN - JUNE

There Will Be Blood **15**

Charlie Bartlett **15**

Shine a Light **12A**

Leatherheads **PG**

My Brother is an Only Child **15**

Honeydripper **PG**

The Other Boleyn Girl **12A**

Heartbeat Detector **12A**

The Passionate Friends **PG**

The Kite Runner **12A**

In Bruges **18**

Closing the Ring **12A**

Priceless (Hors de Prix) **PG**

Happy-Go-Lucky **15**

Shotgun Stories **12A**

Enchanted **PG**

Film: Azur and Asmar:

The Princes' Quest **U**

Aladdin **U**

The Sword In The Stone **U**

Underdog **U**

Honeydripper

In Bruges

Happy Valley

Guided walks in May

Sunday 1 June

Summer birds on Addington Hills

Thursday 5 June

Morning walk on Mitcham Common

Saturday 7 June

Story time in Spring Park Wood

Thursday 12 June

Orchids and wildflowers of the Whitgift Field

Saturday 14 June

Summer bird walk

Thursday 19 June

Outrageous orchids and ointments

Sunday 22 June

Sunday afternoon walk on Mitcham Common

Sunday 29 June

Downlands countryside walk

Sunday 29 June

Ragwort BBQ bonanza

For further information of these and other walks and wildlife, go to www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/events or call the community partnership officer on **020 8726 6900 ext 64952**

Live events at the Clocktower

Woody Sez

Tuesday 3 June, 8pm

Broadway artist David Lutken and three multi-talented performers in a tribute to Woody Guthrie. **£12 (£9 concessions)**

Upfront Comedy Club: International Special

Thursday 5 June, 7.30pm (on stage 8pm)

A triple bill of international comedians hosted by Croydon's favourite slumming Teletubby, John Simmit. **£12 (£9 concessions)**

Croydon Jazz Festival presents:

The Stan Tracey Octet

Friday 6 June, 7.30pm (on stage 8pm)

Part of this year's Croydon Jazz Festival. **£12 (£9 concessions)**

Okham's Razor

Thursday 12 June, 8pm

This renowned aerial theatre company presents a breathtaking triple-bill. **£10 (£7.50 concessions)**



Aesop's Fables

Saturday 14 June, 3pm

Suitable for children aged 4 and over. Three actors, a one-man-band and a host of colourful characters recreate the most enchanting stories ever told. **£5.80 (£4.80 concessions)**

Dune Music presents: Steppin' Out

Saturday 21 June, 7.30pm (on stage 8pm)

Join Tomorrow's Warriors and the JazzCotech dancers at a party to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the SS Windrush. Listen to the great swing tunes of the time and, for the more energetic, shake a leg and drop some moves. **£12 (£9 concessions)**

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