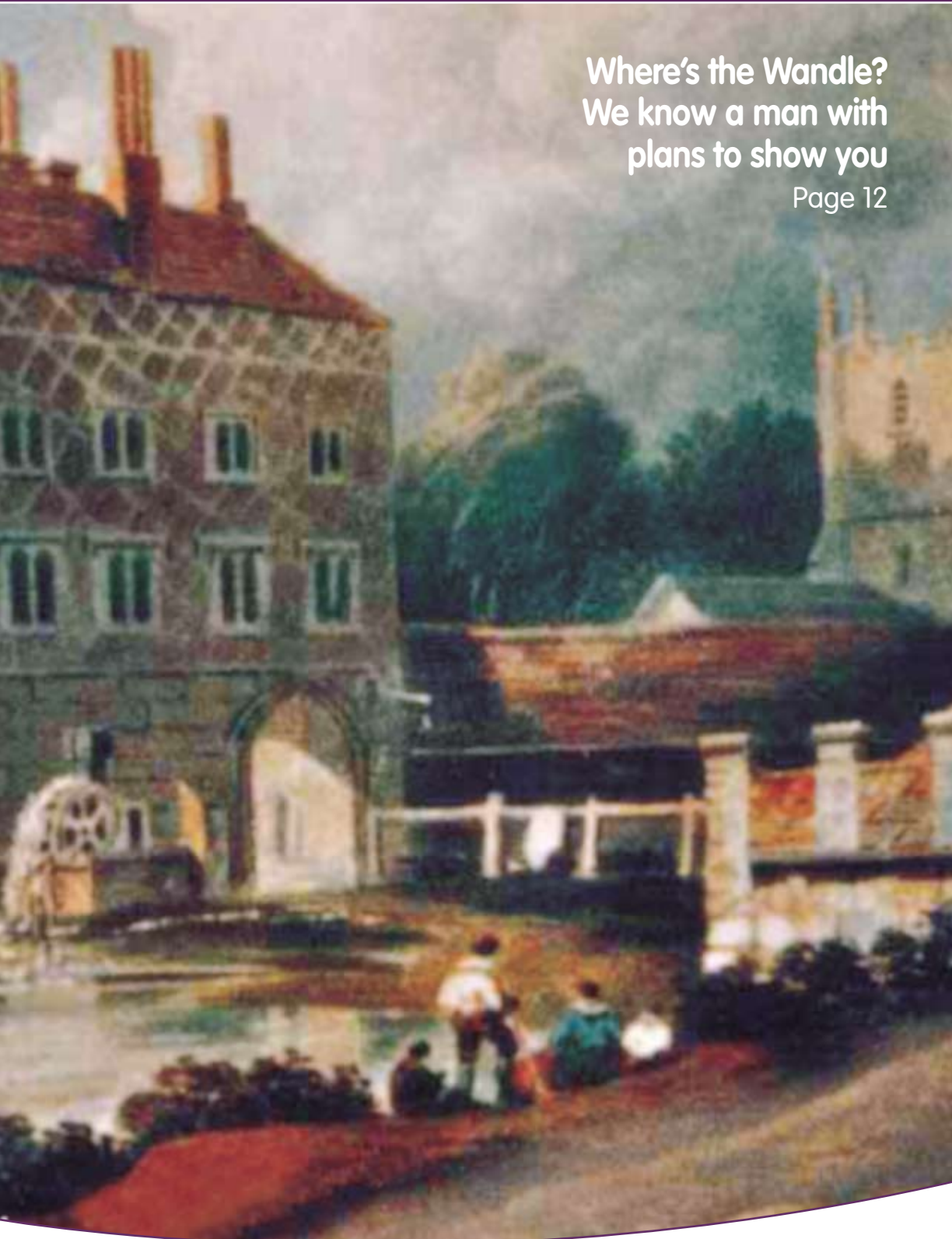


YourCroydon

ISSUE 13 - DECEMBER 2007

'A place to be proud of'



**Where's the Wandle?
We know a man with
plans to show you**
Page 12



**New lease of life for
post-war homes**
Page 9



**What to do with your
Christmas excess**
Page 10



**Top curry chef comes
from Planet Spice**
Page 15

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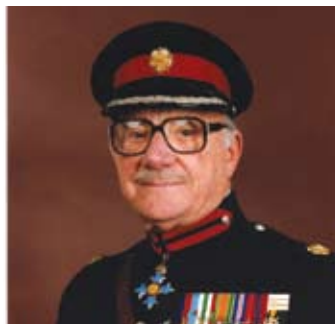
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need to speak to, call our
General number
020 8726 6000

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If you care for a relative, friend or neighbour, a special day in Croydon Town Hall is aimed at helping you.

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Greater choice and increased flexibility are just two of the benefits to come from the council's new meals on wheels package.



20 YOU for youth

A Croydon police officer's brainchild looks to offer recruitment help for youth groups.

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The next edition of **Your Croydon** will be published on Wednesday 30 January 2008. Commercial advertising is welcome, but inclusion of an advertisement does not indicate council endorsement of any products or services mentioned.

Tagging the taggers



The council's graffiti busters have had a busy and productive year

Croydon Council's stated intent to provide a safe and clean environment for its residents to live and work within has seen exceptional results in the fight against graffiti vandals.

And, thanks to dedicated partnership work between the council and local police, two persistent offenders operating with recognisable tags in the Selsdon and Fairfield areas have recently been arrested.

Their cases were under consideration as *Your Croydon* went into production.

Residents' requests to remove graffiti saw the council's environmental response team (ERT) remove 98% of such instances within 14 days during September.

In the same month, 100% of all graffiti deemed either racist or offensive was removed within 24 hours of its being reported.

In all, the ERT dealt with 2,582 graffiti

incidents, with more than 200 coming from tip-offs from residents.

Reported and non-reported graffiti is always removed as quickly as possible, with the average time to deal with reported graffiti across all the borough's wards being 3.55 days, and achieving a best of only 1.17 days in Shirley.

It's nice to be able to report that the hard work of the graffiti busters does not go unnoticed. Between June and September, council staff received nine letters and emails from residents thanking them for their prompt action in dealing with graffiti and environmental issues.

Bus shelters have proved to be a particular target of the graffiti vandals.

With responsibility falling to Transport for London, the council has recently reached an agreement that should see affected bus stops and shelters cleaned within 10 working days, falling into line with the council's high standards.

Keeping you posted

Detail on the latest news is just a few mouse clicks away

Your Croydon is just one of the many ways the council uses to keep residents informed about what it's doing in the borough.

For detailed regular updates look out for the monthly bulletins produced by cabinet members. These are full of news about initiatives, service developments and responses to public petitions.

Just go to the council's website – www.croydon.gov.uk - and enter "bulletin" in the search box. Then, a click on the latest month will take you to the latest news.



And don't forget, webcasting means that, without leaving your home, you can see what's happening at key public meetings. The easy-to-follow link is also on the website.

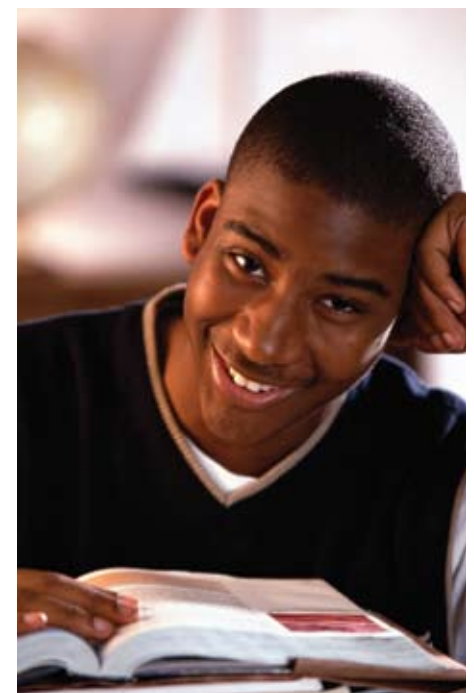
High hopes for Coulsdon

Local people have their say on the future of proposed city academy

A series of consultation days, giving local people the chance to influence the future of Coulsdon High School, is continuing into December.

Croydon Council's aim is to see the school, set to become a city academy sponsored by the Oasis Charitable Trust, giving Coulsdon a 21st-century education establishment to meet the needs of the local community and provide a high-quality learning experience.

The council's intention is to reinforce its position as one of the leading providers of skills and learning in the London region, and the potential developments of the Homefield Road site will help achieve that.



The promise of an exciting curriculum is seen as a key driver in the future growth of Croydon, and pupils passing through the school and entering the working community will supplement the economy with the skilled people required to sustain future growth.

As *Your Croydon* went to press, details of the consultation sessions had not been finalised. To find out where and when they are to be held, visit the council's website at www.croydon.gov.uk/coulsdonhighconsultation or call **020 8760 5537**.

Vote for park links

Croydon stands to gain in a national lottery – but success depends on you

If a bid for a nationwide scheme to make journeys for pedestrians and cyclists is successful, Croydon could benefit to the tune of more than half a million pounds.



The Croydon Park Links scheme, aiming to create greater access by foot and bicycle to the borough's green spaces, forms part of a lottery bid from Sustrans, the leading sustainable transport charity.

Known as Connect2, the project comprises 79 community-based schemes aimed at overcoming barriers such as busy roads and rivers, to make journeys easier, safer and more enjoyable for pedestrians and cyclists.

The Sustrans scheme is one of six projects that have been short-listed in the Big Lottery's Living Landmarks competition.

The winning project will be awarded a single grant of between £25m and £50m. If the Sustrans bid is successful, Croydon's portion of the winnings to fund the Park Links project will amount to £550,000.

But first, the Sustrans scheme must beat the other projects. The decision will be made following a televised public vote in December.

If you would like to find out more about the Croydon Park Links project, email tom.sweeney@croydon.gov.uk or call **020 8760 5768 ext. 62575**.

You can also register your support by visiting www.sustransconnect2.org.uk

Greater freedom with Freedom Pass

Holders to enjoy more free travel

Older and disabled people will soon be able to enjoy greater free travel benefits from their Freedom Pass – the concessionary fares scheme paid for by London's boroughs.

From Sunday, 11 November, disabled Freedom Pass holders will be able to use the London Overground Network free of charge at anytime, while people aged 60 and over will be entitled to free travel on the network from 9am on weekdays instead of 9.30am.

The network covers services from Stratford to Richmond; Willesden Junction to Clapham Junction; Euston to Watford Junction and Gospel Oak to Barking.

The extra benefits mean that disabled Freedom Pass holders will be able to enjoy 24-hour free travel on the network and London's trams, buses, Docklands Light Railway (DLR) and the Tube. Those aged 60 or over will be able to travel free on those services from 9am.

The 9.30am start time on national rail services within London for all Freedom Pass holders will remain.



Let there be lights

Council digs deep to dazzle Croydon for Christmas

The Christmas season across the borough is a bright and sparkling affair this year, thanks to a large cash injection from Croydon Council.

The council, in partnership with the Croydon Bid team, has provided one of the most spectacular lighting schemes in the south-east.

Lots of hard work has been going on behind the scenes to ensure Croydon's town-centre festive decorations are brighter and more charming than ever before.

A magnificent energy-efficient Christmas lights scheme has been pulled together with £50,000 of joint funding from the council and its new parking contractor, APCOA.

And that's just one element of what's in store over the weeks ahead.

The switch-on of the Christmas lights, by the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Derek Millard, during November, marked the start of six weeks of festive celebrations.

Carol concerts will be held on Saturdays, 1 and 22 December; Santa Claus comes to town on Saturday, 15 December; and circus street performers will be delighting visitors at times throughout the period.

And shoppers will be able to stock up on all sorts of environmentally friendly seasonal produce and gifts at The Green Market, to be held in North End from Thursday, 6, to Sunday, 9 December.

Recycling the plastic

Plastic-bottle recycling has become a lot easier for Croydon residents

Hot on the heels of the recent introduction of household plastic recycling to 50,000 properties in Croydon, five neighbourhood recycling centres have been modified to accept plastic bottles.

The selected sites make recycling easier for people in areas not included in the recent household plastic-collection expansion, and will provide residents with further opportunities to help achieve target reductions in waste sent to landfill sites.

The five sites are located at:

- Sainsbury's, Addington Road, Selsdon;
- Lion Green Road car park, Coulsdon;
- Forestdale Centre car park, Addington;
- Fairfield car park, Barclay Road, Croydon;
- and
- Parchmore Road, Thornton Heath.

In order to help with transportation and the recycling process, people are asked to rinse the bottles and, if they are able, to squash them before placing them in the bins. Residents encountering any sort of problem while using the sites are asked to call **020 8726 6000**.



The decision to limit the service to plastic bottles has been taken as, currently, this is the only guaranteed market for the quantities of plastic collected.

The inclusion of other types of lower grade plastic containers – such as yogurt pots, margarine tubs and food trays – would result in a contamination of the load, requiring it to be sent to landfill, instead of gaining a new lease of life through recycling.

These other types of plastic can be recycled at the borough's three reuse and recycling centres at Factory Lane, Waddon; Purley Oaks, South Croydon; and Fishers Farm, New Addington.

Mobile camera looks out for pensioners

Trial of CCTV kit already improving safety of borough's residents

Older people in New Addington are benefiting from a new mobile CCTV camera being trialled by Croydon Council.

The rapid-deployment camera is monitoring the Pop In, Salcot Crescent, which has been the recent target of break-ins and vandalism.

The camera has been transmitting images of the club's exterior to the council's CCTV control room in a trial aimed at testing the equipment and its suitability for the borough's needs.

There are plans for it to be moved to other locations around the borough to be used in the fight against antisocial behaviour.

The state-of-the-art technology has been loaned by Vistec, which already supplies cameras monitoring a number of schools and libraries.

Dependent on a suitable power source, the camera can be installed on a lamp column or building to beam secure images, via new mobile phone 3G technology, which can be accessed on a laptop.

Climate Deranged

Wall asks Clocktower visitors to stamp out their carbon footprint

Youngsters have transformed a large expanse of white wall in Croydon Clocktower's atrium into a colourful "green" mural.

Artist Rob Turner and young visitors to the Clocktower created the mighty artwork.

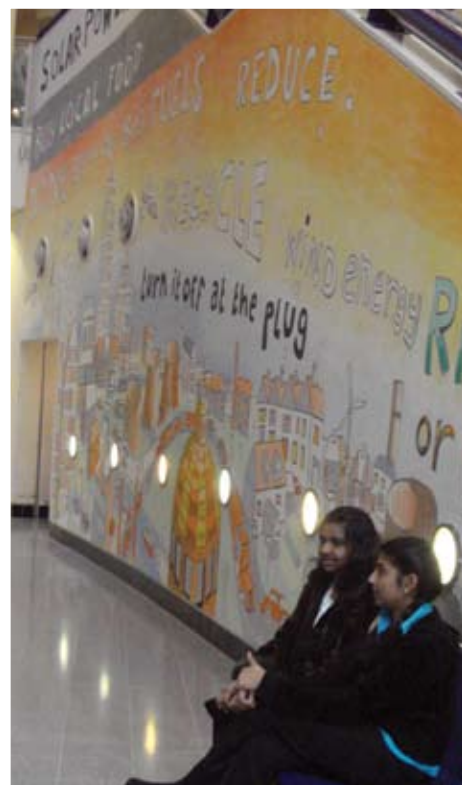
Linked to the Whatever the Weather exhibition, the Climate Deranged event was a mixture of live art, workshops and pedal-powered (we kid you not!) music.

Its aim was to let people know what they could do to save their planet, and was devised in partnership with a group of 13 young volunteers aged between 14 and 19.

The team was drawn from a number of local schools and colleges which responded to a

call to become involved in a climate-change project.

The popular Whatever the Weather exhibition runs in the Clocktower until 22 December.



The freemanship was bestowed following a distinguished military career that began when he joined the Territorial Army in 1938 with an anti-aircraft regiment in Guildford.

In 1967 he was appointed one of Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenants for Greater London and became Croydon's first Representative Deputy Lieutenant, a post he held for 29 years.

"Over many years, he played a major part in the lives of individuals and organisations, helping to shape the Croydon of today in ways large and small."

Colonel DJ "Mac" McLelland CBE TD DL 1919 - 2007

Croydon's first Representative Deputy Lieutenant, Colonel Douglas McLelland, has died aged 87.

Known affectionately as Colonel Mac, in 1993 he became only the 35th person to be made an Honorary Freeman of Croydon since the town received its charter in 1883.

The freemanship was bestowed following a distinguished military career that began when he joined the Territorial Army in 1938 with an anti-aircraft regiment in Guildford.

With the outbreak of World War II he was commissioned into the 20th Battalion, The London Regiment, before transferring to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, with which he fought through Italy and Greece.

After the war, he rejoined the Territorial Army, rising to command a south London Royal Artillery regiment, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in the early 1960s.

In 1966, having reached the rank of Colonel, Deputy Commander Royal Artillery, he retired from the TA and was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his long military service, which included six months holding a regular army post as Commander, Royal Artillery.

In 1967 he was appointed one of Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenants for Greater London and became Croydon's first Representative Deputy Lieutenant, a post he held for 29 years.

In addition to acting as the Queen's representative in Croydon, he filled many behind-the-scenes roles and a busy schedule saw him act as area president of the St John Ambulance for South-West London; president of the 4th Purley Scout Group; president of the Queen's Own Regimental Association; chairman of the London and Kent Artillery. He was prominent in TA and ex-service associations and involved with a number of charitable organisations.



Colonel Mac's residential and professional connections to Croydon spanned more than 60 years, during which he made many friends.

The Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Derek Millard, said: "With the passing of Colonel Mac, Croydon has lost a faithful servant and dear friend.

"Over many years, he played a major part in the lives of individuals and organisations, helping to shape the Croydon of today in ways large and small."

Known affectionately as Colonel Mac, in 1993 he became only the 35th person to be made an Honorary Freeman of Croydon since the town received its charter in 1883

Door ajar on Gateway site

Things may seem to have stalled but cogs are turning on major redevelopment

After several decades as a largely derelict eyesore at East Croydon, the waiting for the regeneration of the 13-acre Gateway site is nearly over.

Government-appointed planning inspector Ava Wood is mulling over the evidence laid before her during two months of planning arguments.

It is expected that the Secretary of State will announce the decision, based on the inspector's recommendation, in some six months' time. The announcement will trigger one of the biggest redevelopment schemes Croydon has experienced in recent times.

The formal proceedings were an opportunity for the council to reaffirm its support for Arrowcroft's mixed-use proposal which, it has long maintained, offers the best prospects of transforming Croydon's reputation.

The council considers the arena-led project – featuring offices, housing, retail and leisure uses – will be a catalyst for a wave of regeneration activity in the town.

While there will be a few more months of apparent idleness at the Gateway as Mrs Wood considers her verdict and secures ministerial approval, there are

obvious signs that investment in Croydon is currently booming, with many major projects under way and much more in the pipeline.

And it's not just the central area where everything is happening.

The piloting of the first four district regeneration strategies is under way – an exercise that could lead to residents in all parts of the borough helping to influence the future shape of their local surroundings.

The trial to develop community-based ideas is taking place in Addiscombe, Coulsdon, New Addington and Fieldway, and South Norwood and Woodside.

Greater detail on the development that's happening all around Croydon can be found in the monthly bulletin produced by the council's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, Councillor Tim Pollard.

Find the latest update by searching for "Bulletin" on the council's website – www.croydon.gov.uk. Then click on the latest month and look for regeneration.



The council considers the arena-led project – featuring offices, housing, retail and leisure uses – will be a catalyst for a wave of regeneration activity in the town.

Calling all adopters

Did you know that Croydon now has a support group for all its adopters?

Earlier this year, two of Croydon's experienced adopters approached the adoption support team and asked if they could start a group dedicated to the needs of Croydon's adopters.

In their experience, adopters often didn't know other adopters and, as a result, could sometimes feel quite isolated.

They also felt there was a place for a group where knowledge of Croydon's services and contacts could be usefully shared among its members.

The purpose of the Croydon Adopters' Support Group is to provide mutual support and encouragement to members in a compassionate and non-judgemental way – where adopters can share the ups and downs of parenting these vulnerable children.

The group also tries to find solutions – it is always reassuring to learn that other families may have had to confront similar problems or have experienced the same fears as you.

So, why not go along to a meeting and see for yourself what goes on?

Who knows, if you have an issue you feel would merit discussion, it may be possible to add it to the programme.

Where and when does the group meet?

Meetings are held, usually once every two months, in Croydon Town Hall, Katharine Street, from 8pm to about 9.30.

Who can attend?

You are welcome if you:

- live in the borough and have adopted (or are in the process of adopting) from Croydon or elsewhere, including overseas;
- live outside the borough, but have adopted (or are in the process of adopting) from Croydon;
- have not yet adopted but are thinking about it and have attended one of Croydon's preparation groups.

Interested?

For more information, call **0800 389 0129**



Applications for a one-off grant of up to £1,000, must be received by Monday, 3 March.

Broadening young minds

Students offered a helping hand to widen their experience

Are you a full-time student thinking about adding a little overseas experience to your CV but feeling hampered by a shortage of funding?

If you answered that question with a weary "Yes", the Frank Denning Memorial Charity might be able to provide the solution to your problem.

The charity was founded in Alderman Denning's name after he died, while serving as Croydon's Mayor, in 1916.

Initially set up to offer support to engineering students, the charity's remit has opened out to help full-time students from any discipline, between the ages of 19 and 25, who live (or whose parents/guardians live) within the borough.

Applications for a one-off grant of up to £1,000 must be received by Monday, 3 March.

The charity's trustees will interview short-listed applicants over the Easter period for any foreign travel scheduled to begin between 1 May 2008, and 30 April 2009.

No support can be given to journeys started or completed before 1 May; similarly, holidays are exempt.

Past successful applicants have undertaken medical electives, architectural studies, veterinary work, teaching posts, conservation and other worthwhile projects.

For further information, or to obtain an application form, contact the charity's assistant honorary secretary, Gerry Hudson, at gerry.hudson@croydon.gov.uk or call **020 8726 6000, extn 62812**.



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Parent's Name, Child's Name, Age and Contact Details to FREEPOST RAINBOW ONLINE.



“New” homes from old

Council refurbishment programme saves half the cost of building from scratch

Following the ravages and hardships of the World War II years, a national priority was the replacement of houses lost to German bombing raids, and the provision of new dwellings for a growing population.

A quick solution was found in the manufacture of prefabricated buildings that were made in factories and assembled, quickly and cheaply, in locations of greatest need.

In Croydon, one of the areas to benefit from this revolution in housing design was New Addington, which saw a number of steel-framed houses springing up to accommodate residents who had lost homes in the worst-hit parts of the borough.

Made by the British Iron and Steel Federation (BISF), the properties were blighted by corrosion in the steel structure and panels, poor insulation, deteriorating external appearance, and roofs made of asbestos cement – now recognised as being potentially harmful.

Following the introduction of legislation requiring local authorities to improve their housing stock, Croydon Council set out a programme of works to bring its tenanted properties up to the required standard.

The refurbishment works to New Addington’s 57 BISF properties provided each with a new shell – incorporating brickwork, cladding and roof – to protect the structure and enhance insulation.

The project also included the installation of new kitchens, bathrooms and double-glazed windows, where necessary, in order to meet the Government’s Decent Homes Standard.

The heating systems were renewed in 10 properties, and six were rewired. Four of the bathrooms received adaptations to meet the specific needs of the occupants.

The works started in July 2006 and were completed in April of this year at a cost of £2,239,000, less than half the cost of new build.

The refurbishment works to New Addington’s 57 BISF properties provided each with a new shell – incorporating brickwork, cladding and roof – to protect the structure and enhance insulation.



Jenny Ward and her family have lived in their BISF house for 12 years and are as pleased as Punch with the work carried out.

“As well as the outside walls and roof being replaced, the council gave us a new kitchen and bathroom, and renewed the central heating,

“The insulation has made the house a lot warmer inside and it just looks a lot tidier now, it looks really nice.

“When friends come round they all say how good it looks now.

“The work was all done in a couple of weeks and the workmen were quick and clean – I’m really happy with it.”



Before



After



Slim your bin and reduce

'Tis the season to be wasteful, but it needn't be – do your bit to cut down on Xmas excess. An estimated 6.7 million tonnes of household food waste is produced each year in the UK, about half of which could have been eaten.

And it probably won't be much of a surprise to learn that a good proportion of that waste comes about over the Christmas period – the time of greatest consumer excess.

Unfortunately, most ends up in landfill, and it is imperative that Croydon reduces the amount of waste that is dealt with in this manner each year.

Interesting fact: Recent research suggests that households throw away between £250 and £400-worth of potentially edible food each year.

Top tips for reducing your waste at Christmas

- 60% of householders end up throwing away food because it has passed its "use by" date. Planning meals with the "use by" date in mind could save money.
- 70% of domestic fridges are set at too high a temperature. Keeping your fridge between 1°C and 5°C helps to get the best from your food.
- More than half of households say they throw away food because they've cooked too much. Making delicious meals from leftovers is a smart way to make sure you eat everything you buy.
- On average, more than 70% of household waste is landfilled each year. At least 30% of an average household bin could be composted at home.
- Buy a reduced-price compost bin, starting at £8.00 (RRP £40.00) including free delivery:
Call: 0845 077 0757 or order online at www.recyclenow.com/compost

Make reuse your resolution

When you clear out the clutter in the New Year, make sure you visit the popular Croydon website The Great Giveaway (www.croydononline.org/giveaway) and swap or give away those items you no longer want.

Or, if you're really strapped for cash this year, visit the website and see if you can pick up a bargain!

There is a host of charities in Croydon that would like your unwanted items. Don't be a Scrooge; give away those unwanted items to a good cause while, at the same time, doing your bit for the environment.

Recycle now

After you've followed the above tips, make sure that you recycle what's left and you'll feel content that you've done your bit this Christmas.

Don't forget to check if your Christmas recycling collection dates change over Christmas and the New Year – if they do, it will be marked on your calendar (please phone **020 8726 6200** if you don't have a calendar).

After it's all over, put those extra wine bottles, glass jars and cans out with your normal recycling collection. You can also support the Woodland Trust by taking your Christmas cards to branches of WHSmith, Tesco and TKMaxx for recycling.

And don't forget that your Christmas tree can be recycled, too. This year's collection points are listed on the facing page

And finally – have a very merry Christmas holiday!

Research suggests that households throw away between £250 and £400-worth of potentially edible food each year.



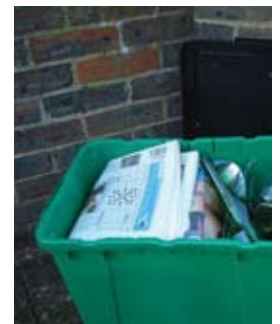


your waste at Christmas

Christmas tree collection points

Take your old natural Christmas tree to one of the following recycling collection points between 5 and 13 January – but please be sure to remove tinsel and decorations.

Addiscombe	Co-op, Lower Addiscombe Road
Ashburton	Ashburton Park, Tenterden Road
Broad Green	Homebase, Purley Way
Coulsdon	Lion Green Road car park
Coulsdon East	Grange Park Recreation Ground, Canon's Hill
Fairfield	Oaks Road/Coombe Road car park
Heathfield	Addington Park Recreation Ground car park, Gravel Hill
Kenley	Kenley Residents' Association, Oaks Road green
New Addington	Central Parade car park
Norbury	Granville Gardens car park
Purley	Upper Woodcote Village RA, Woodcote Village green
Sanderstead	Occasionally Yours, Limpsfield Road
Selsdon	Selsdon Recreation Ground, Woodlands Gardens
Shirley	Monks Orchard green
South Norwood	Sainsbury's, Whitehorse Lane
Upper Norwood	Secret Garden, Westow Street
Waddon	Homebase, Fiveways, Purley Way
Waddon	Wyevale Garden Centre, Waddon Way



After it's all over, put those extra wine bottles, glass jars and cans out with your normal recycling collection.

All councillors and staff at Croydon Council wish everybody a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Alsop's grand designs

Bring the green open spaces into the centre

Website

The historic aspect of Croydon needs enhancing. I look forward to certain architectural highlights being valued

Workshop 1

Make the wandle more visible

Workshop 2

I envisage an environment that would enable me to walk at ground level without underpasses and their problems

Workshop 1

A workshop for the young



Bold proposals could open up Croydon to pedestrians

Internationally acclaimed architect Will Alsop is convinced Croydon has a bright future as London's third city.

It is a belief shared by many local people who attended a series of workshops earlier in the year and helped him devise a vision extending over the next 20-plus years to propel the town toward realising its undoubted potential.

What has particularly excited interest is a range of imaginative but realisable proposals both to revive Croydon's waterfront onto the River Wandle and also to create an appealing green link from Wandle Park and Duppas Hill through The Queen's Gardens and extending to Park Hill.

Where, currently, Croydon's greenery is sparse and isolated, Alsop sees an opportunity to partly encircle the town with tree-lined walks – allowing direct connections to the significant parks that surround it and interspersed with as much of the Wandle as can be unearthed.

Prompted by concepts emerging from the workshops, Alsop – himself once a resident of Croydon – has challenged the need for maintaining Wellesley Road as an impenetrable six-lane highway bisecting the town.

Removing much of the traffic from the road would permit new east-west links and help make the town that aspires to be a city more user-friendly for residents, visitors and those who work here.

The next revamp of the Whitgift shopping area offers scope for rebuilding with residential accommodation above, open gardens at rooftop level and routes that take pedestrians directly from East Croydon to Old Town. Extra bridging space created for Park Hill could see it as the ideal location for an iconic visitor attraction.

Most enterprising of all is the way Alsop sees the River Wandle being brought to the surface as a watery trigger for a series of lakes and lagoons – outside the Parish Church, Surrey Street Pumping Station and under the flyover, restoring the kind of water features around which the first generation of Croydonians clustered.

He may have a reputation for the ultra-modern but, in Alsop's vision, respect for the town's heritage is critical.

Nothing is impossible in Alsop's vision for Croydon becoming London's third city.

for London's 3rd city

At present, the concepts are just a device to stimulate interest and provoke a debate, but already they have fired enthusiasm among developers, investors, businesses and stakeholders – including those residents who helpfully contributed to the formative workshop discussions.

The concepts will make an important contribution to drawing up a new statutory plan for the town centre.

And it's more than likely that some of the ideas could surface as proposals for formal public consultation in the next year or so.

Alsop has dared Croydon to dream about its future – just when key sites are available for redevelopment and the town is looking for a new lease of life.

Could it be that Alsop's vision is the catalyst for the change that will deliver London's third city – in Croydon?



Architect Will Alsop



Another workshop



Croydon as it is today...



...and how it might look with the extra greenery of Will Alsop's vision



half of all carers have to give up work to care, two out of three carers have to meet the extra costs of disability

Caring for the carers

Carers Rights Day 2007 – find out what you're entitled to

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

Many carers in Croydon are struggling to cope financially because they are unaware of benefits they may be entitled to, such as carers' allowance, and pension credit.

A recent Carers UK survey showed that half of all carers have to give up work to care, two out of three carers have to meet the extra costs of disability, and a third of carers have to cut back on essentials, such as food and heating, to make ends meet.

This is why the theme for Carers Rights Day 2007, taking place on Friday, 7 December, is Caring Costs.

Croydon Council and the Carers' Information Service are hosting an information event on Carers Rights Day in the Mayor's reception rooms, Croydon Town Hall, between 10.30am and 3pm.

The event will give carers the chance to talk to local organisations that will be able to provide information and advice, and refer carers to other relevant services. Free refreshments and festive musical entertainment will be available.

If you are a carer and would like more information, call the Carers' Information Service on **020 8649 9339** or visit www.carerscontactline.co.uk



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The borough's best places to eat

Croydon's Oriental and Curry chefs of the year cook up winning dishes

The 10th annual competition to find Croydon's Curry Chef of the Year has found itself a bedfellow with the launch of Croydon's Oriental Chef of the Year contest.

Taking the new Oriental title in the final cook-off at Croydon College was Myoi Cao, of An Nam Restaurant, Wing Yip Centre, Purley Way.

The title Curry Chef of the Year was presented to Rajender Pandey, of Planet Spice, Selsdon Park Road, Addington.

Restaurants from all over the borough entered both competitions and six finalists were chosen for each.

Each finalist was required to prepare a starter, main dish and a noodle or rice dish under strict time limits and to exacting standards of food hygiene and safety. A variety of different cooking styles was on display for both competitions.

After a lot of hard work by the chefs and their sous chefs, the food was judged on its taste, texture, aroma, originality and appearance. Although the competition was very close, the winning dishes were chosen for their outstanding aroma, tantalising taste and unique presentation.

Myoi Cao cooked a tempting Vietnamese pancake, red snapper with green mango, and a chicken and prawn rice.

Rajender Pandey presented the judges with a mouth-watering grilled lamb cutlet with minted yogurt, jumbo prawns in a black pepper, tomato and onion sauce, and lime rice.

All the prize-winning dishes are available at the respective chefs' premises for customers to enjoy.

As well as awards to the overall winners, prizes were presented to the contestants who earned highly commended and runner-up commendations.

Oriental Chef competition

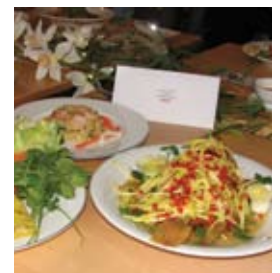
- **Highly commended** was awarded to Bing Lai He, of Oriental Express, George Street.
- **Runner-up** was Ping Kong Chung, of Miso, George Street, Croydon.

Curry Chef competition

- **Highly commended** was awarded to Mustafizur Rahman, of Raj of Purley, Russell Hill Road, Purley.
- **Runner-up** was Raju Shrestha, of Carbon, High Street, Croydon.

In addition to their awards, all successful participants received a window sticker and certificate to show they had taken part in the competition. Look out for the stickers and the certificates in the restaurants' windows.

Chefs and restaurants keen to enter next year's competition should email food.safety@croydon.gov.uk or call **0208 7605436**.



Myoi Cao cooked a tantalising Vietnamese pancake, red snapper with green mango, and a chicken and prawn rice.

After a lot of hard work by the chefs and their sous chefs, the food was judged on its taste, texture, aroma, originality and appearance.



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From here to modernity

Continuing our new photo feature series, which see a renowned local photographer looking at Croydon, then and now



It was different, but something was missing – the heart had been taken out of our town – the atmosphere had left with the last bus.



But then something happened, a new atmosphere was born. Street market stalls, kids' roundabouts, exhibition stands, small café areas and, most importantly, trees came to take the place of the traffic.

Around the beginning of the 1980s, Frazer Ashford was approached to provide images for a publication entitled *Croydon – The Official Guide*, an annual look at Croydon, setting out the benefits of living and working within the borough.

He went on to provide the pictures for several years and recently came across the original 1981/82 edition.

Not surprisingly, on looking again at the images, he noticed that changes had occurred. When he revisited the sites of the original photos, however, it was the sort of change that startled him.

While some buildings and landmarks had gone, to be replaced by others, the biggest change was in the amount of greenery that's to be seen around the borough, and that's probably more true of Croydon's main shopping street than anywhere else.

North End was always the main artery running through the centre of Croydon.

It was a bustling mass of people and traffic, particularly on Saturdays and during the days leading up to Christmas, when it seemed to take forever to travel from one end to the other.

Then, in a stroke, the traffic was gone and pedestrians ruled the world.

It was different, but something was missing – the heart had been taken out of our town – the atmosphere had left with the last bus.

But then something happened, a new atmosphere was born. Street market stalls, kids' roundabouts, exhibition stands, small café areas and, most importantly, trees came to take the place of the traffic.

It might still be as busy as far as pedestrians are concerned, but now you can see just how just much our main artery has effectively been unblocked.

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

A conservation area is defined as “an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which is desirable to preserve and enhance”.



A new look at the jewels in the borough's crown

Residents given the chance to nominate areas for protection

A sweeping review of Croydon's conservation and special-character areas is being undertaken by the council's urban design department.

The borough has 12 conservation areas, 145 listed buildings and 872 locally listed buildings, details of which are available to view on the council's website at www.croydon.gov.uk

The work is being carried out following many suggestions from the public, over the past decade, for the creation of new conservation areas (CAs) and local areas of special character (LASCs).

Such a comprehensive boroughwide review of CAs and LASCs has not been undertaken since 1993. It will investigate the possible extension of existing areas, as well as the possibility of creating new ones.

- A conservation area is defined as “an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which is desirable to preserve and enhance”.
- An LASC is “an area of the borough which, although unlikely to reach the criteria for an area to be designated as a CA, possesses sufficient architectural townscape and environmental quality to make it of sufficient local value” (Croydon Plan, July, 2006).

Areas suggested for consideration will have to meet any or all of the following criteria:

- a number or cluster of listed or locally listed buildings,
- any significant historic buildings or groups of buildings that are still intact,
- any area which has a unique or special character.

Past suggestions made by residents, and any new suggestions made until the end of January, will be considered.

Borough residents are being asked to suggest areas or streets they feel meet the criteria and are worthy of protection and preservation.

All suggestions will be considered and written explanations will be available for areas that are not designated either a CA or LASC.

If you would like to suggest an area which you think should be protected as a CA or LASC, please email your idea to urbandesign@croydon.gov.uk

Alternatively, post it to: **Urban Design, Floor 18, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon CR0 1JT.**



Borough residents are being asked to suggest areas or streets they feel meet the criteria and are worthy of protection and preservation.



Tasty and nutritious

New meals-on-wheels service promises better deal for clients

A greater choice of food, and increased flexibility to meet clients' needs, are the key elements of a new meals-on-wheels service being introduced in Croydon.

From the beginning of December, Apetito, Europe's leading supplier of food to the elderly, will provide Croydon's vulnerable and frail residents with a choice of hot food delivered daily, or a supply of frozen meals.

An extensive range of nutritionally balanced meals – including halal, kosher, African and Caribbean speciality dishes – will be delivered daily.

Alternatively, clients can have several frozen meals delivered at once, allowing them the freedom to choose what meal they want to eat each day, and at a time to suit them.

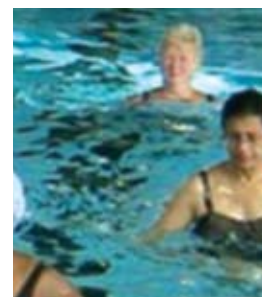
The meals will be provided to the 700 or so people who are assessed by social services as being in need of a meal delivery service.

However, for the first time, the service will also be available to the general public, meaning that, in order for people to have prepared food delivered to their homes, they no longer need apply to social services and be assessed as being in need.

This will be attractive to those who want to pay for the service, as well as to existing clients who would like to purchase additional meals on top of their usual delivery, so that they can entertain family and guests at home.

The final details for this extended service are still being agreed but it is hoped that it can be launched in the new year.

A number of volunteers who delivered the meals under the previous contract, will team up with Apetito's delivery personnel to continue to provide the sort of befriending service that clients have found so valuable.



Kick start 2008 with a fun way to get into shape

A new programme of Active Lifestyles courses offers the opportunity for people of all ages, shapes and sizes in the borough to become more energetic and healthy.

Active Lifestyles aims to improve the health and quality of life of Croydon residents by encouraging regular participation in reasonably priced activities at local facilities across the borough.

With classes running during the day and evening, participants find the classes highly rewarding and a real help in kick-starting a new, active lifestyle.

Croydon Council's new winter programme includes an exercise class for those aged over 65 at the Friends Meeting House, a new Aquacise class at Thornton Heath, and table tennis and street dance at Monks Hill Sports Centre.

Running since 1998, the Active Lifestyles programme has gone from strength to strength. In the first season just six courses ran, now there are approximately 34 every period.

Classes run for five to seven weeks, normally coinciding with the school term.

Brochures are now available at local libraries or can be viewed online at www.croydononline.org

Bookings will be taken from 10 December, by telephone on **020 8253 1030** or at Croydon Clocktower's reception desk.

Also available under the Active Lifestyles banner are:

- **Walking for Health** – a programme of free led and self-guided short walks (one to four miles) in local parks and open spaces
- **Cycling for Health** – including sessions at Croydon Sports Arena on Mondays and Saturdays from noon to 1pm.

Contact Andy Jennings on **020 8726 6900** for further information.

Participants find the classes highly rewarding and a real help in kick-starting a new, active lifestyle.





Uniformed youth groups need You

“I’ve found that encouraging out-of-school activities from the early secondary-school years has a great influence on youngsters.

The brainchild of a Croydon policeman aims to keep youngsters on the straight and narrow

A unique project aimed at giving youngsters’ lives shape and purpose – and steer them away from the possibility of a life of crime – is set to launch in Croydon.

Youth Organisations – Uniform, more readily known as You, is the brainchild of local police sergeant Richard Curran and it has already drawn promises of support from his own senior officers and many of the uniformed youth groups in the borough.

Richard feels that, by recruiting them young, teenagers are likely to benefit from the disciplines instilled by the likes of the Girl Guides, Boys Brigade, the Air Training Corps and others, and learn important life lessons.

He said: “I’ve witnessed potential suspects of crime turn away from this through the careful introduction of rules and innovations that encourage creativity.

“Leadership and basic management skills give the individual reward, enabling them to have a clearer view of how society rewards effort and loyalty.”

With most of the organisations standing alone, there is no coordinating body encouraging youngsters to join. Richard is confident that You will be able to plug that gap, enabling larger numbers of youngsters to get involved.

He added: “I’ve found that encouraging out-of-school activities from the early secondary-school years has a great influence on youngsters, setting values for them and ensuring that, by the time they are mature enough to engage in petty crime, they have enough experience to question if they are doing the right thing.”

Richard stressed that the scheme was also open to young victims of crime and bullying as it inspired self-confidence, provided role models and benefited from adult supervision.

Leadership and basic management skills give the individual reward, enabling them to have a clearer view of how society rewards effort and loyalty.

“We have youth groups: the Badgers are five years and older, and the cadets are aged 10 to 18.

“Projects like You can only help kids like I was.”



Kevin, 17 St John Ambulance

“I’ve been a member since I was nine and I’ve been to loads of different events, including the Mayor’s Thames Festival, London Marathon, the London-to-Brighton bike ride and football matches at Selhurst Park.

“We have youth groups: the Badgers are five years and older, and the cadets are aged 10 to 18.

“You will certainly help with recruitment.”



Jenny, 18 Army Cadet Force

“I joined late, at 14, when I was dragged along by a friend.

“I was actually quite vulnerable; I was on report at school – I was one of the naughty ones.

“My Mum wanted me to do something to give me some respect and, five years down the line, I’ve now got purpose.

“Projects like You can only help kids like I was.”



Emma, 15 Sanderstead Rangers

“We’ve only got 12 members in our Rangers unit. Getting more would be good and I hope You will help with that.

“We do a wide range of activities, such as day-trips, personal-development courses and camping, and our unit’s just started communicating with similar groups in America.”



Dale, 15 Air Training Corps

“I went along to an open evening and I was impressed by what I saw. I’ve been a member for nearly three years.

“I get a lot out of it and we do lots of things, like flying, gliding and shooting – and have lots of fun while we’re doing them.

“I’m looking forward to a career in the RAF.

“You will help with recruitment, and the more who are members, the more activities we can do.”

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Dates for your diary

Council


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

Meeting

Deadline

 Monday 3 Dec, 2007 (6.30pm)

Monday 19 Nov, 2007

 Monday 21 Jan, 2008

Monday 7 Jan, 2008

To submit a question 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 ext 62327**

Scrutiny

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

Meeting


Deadline

Cabinet Member

4 Dec Children, learning and leisure

26 Nov

Cllr Maria Gatland (children's services and adult learning)

 18 Dec Scrutiny and overview

10 Dec

Cllr Tim Pollard (regeneration and economic development)

15 Jan Community services


7 Jan

Cllr Chris Wright (planning)

29 Jan Children, learning and leisure

21 Jan

Cllr Steve Hollands (culture and sport)

 5 Feb Scrutiny and overview

28 Jan

Cllr Mike Fisher (council leader)

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

5 Dec Fairfield, Heathfield and Shirley

Shirley High School, Shirley Church Road

11 Dec Purley and Kenley

Christ Church Hall, Brighton Road, Purley

16 Jan South Norwood and Selhurst

Venue to be confirmed

23 Jan Sanderstead, Croham and Selsdon & Ballards

Venue to be confirmed

30 Jan Addiscombe, Woodside and Ashburton

Venue to be confirmed


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: Wednesday, 30 January, 2008; Wednesday, 12 March; Thursday, 15 May.

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. They can be viewed at www.croydon.ukcouncil.net/site/webcasts.php

What's On

www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure

Dec 07 & Jan 08

Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, Croydon Ticket office: tel:020 8253 1030 Email: ticketoffice@croydon.gov.uk Text: 07771 837121

Live events at the Clocktower December

Friday 7 December

Soweto Kinch

7.30 (on stage 8pm) - 9.50pm, with interval
£12 (£9 concessions)



Wednesday 12 December

The NOTcracker

7.30-8.30pm.
Suitable for children aged 10-plus.
£10 (£7.50 concessions)



Friday 14 December, 7.30-9.30pm

Saturday 15 December, 2.30-4.30pm & 7.30-9.30pm

The Insect Circus

For ages 7-plus. Tickets: £12 (£9 concessions)

Live events at the Clocktower January

Thursday 17 January

John Hegley & the Popticians

7.30 (on stage 8pm). £12 (£9 concessions)

Friday 18 & Saturday 19 January

Houdini's Suitcase

8pm. A sensory feast for audiences aged 12-plus.
£10 (£7.50 concessions)

Wednesday 30 January

Play Ball

7.30pm. £10 (£7.50 concessions)



Children's Theatre - Saturday 26 January

Fraser Hooper - Inside Out

2pm - For children aged 5-plus
£5.80 (£4.80 concessions)

Guided Walks December

Sunday 2 December

Winter warmer

Come and join the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe
Countryside Warden for a faster paced walk across
the commons.

Thursday 6 December

Mitcham Common midweek meander

Sunday 9 December

Stroll on Mitcham Common

Sunday 9 December

Happy Valley winter tree ID & folklore

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

DAVID LEAN - DECEMBER

Atonement 15

Eastern Promises 18

Evan Almighty PG

Copying Beethoven 12A

Brick Lane 15

Lions for Lambs 15

Mee-Shee - The Water Giant PG

The Witnesses 15

Elizabeth: The Golden Age 12A

Interview 15

Transformers 12A

Into Great Silence U

La Vie En Rose 12A

Ratatouille U

It's a Wonderful Life U

Aladdin U

The Singer 12A

The Darjeeling Limited 15



DAVID LEAN - JANUARY

Silk 15

In Memory Of Myself U

The Jane Austen Book Club 12A

Earth PG

The Simpsons Movie PG

Seach'd - The Inaccessible Pinnacle PG

**The Assassination of Jesse James
by the Coward Robert Ford** 15

Atonement 15

Happily N'Ever After U

In the Shadow of the Moon U

**And When Did You Last See
Your Father?** 12A

Thomas and The Magic Railroad U

Razzle Dazzle PG

Shrek the Third U

Blame it on Fidel 12A



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