

YourCroydon

ISSUE 8 - JUNE 2007

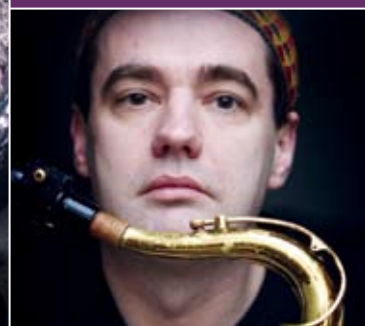
'A place to be proud of'

What happened in the tunnel to warrant all this activity?

Page 12



Underground, Overground West Croydon gets on map
Page 8



Getting into the swing of summer – Croydon Jazz Festival
Page 15



Crime figures take dramatic tumble over past year
Page 16

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contents



7 Lord Weatherill

"A lovely man who maintained a passion for so many local causes".



10 Recycle those food scraps

Croydon Council launches trial for collection of kitchen waste.

11 Ready for action

The council's new emergency control vehicle is primed to help with any crisis.



17 Delinquent swan rehomed

It's a happy ending for the lonely scourge of the Wandle.

18 Clean-air Beacon

A housewife describes how she benefits from Croydon's innovative service.

20 Transport of delight

Council's intervention safeguards New Addington bus services.

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The next edition of **Your Croydon** will be published on Wednesday 27 June 2007.

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Inquiry date set for Gateway site



The final countdown for the future of the Gateway site at East Croydon has begun

The Planning Inspectorate has advised Croydon Council that the public inquiry to determine what development takes place on the long-vacant 12.4-acre site alongside the railway station, will start on Monday, 17 September – with a verdict possible by the summer of next year.

All outstanding issues are expected to be addressed and, ultimately, resolved during the proceedings which are expected to take six weeks to complete.

Announcements on procedural details can be expected in the weeks and months leading up to the enquiry. It is usually the case in major public inquiries that a programming

officer is appointed to assist with all arrangements for the proceedings.

Croydon Council will be maintaining its staunch promotion of the preferred Arrowcroft arena-led development that, it considers, will best serve the town's interests for decades to come.

Although the rival Stanhope Schroders office-based scheme has full planning approval, the council considers it inferior in terms of regenerative value for the town.

Additionally, proposals for a phased introduction give cause for concern that much of the site may remain undeveloped for years ahead.

Fuel for thought

Croydon is getting into gear for a new kind of motor rally

Look out for an alternative to the annual London-to-Brighton veteran car run.

This year, another rally, going in the opposite direction, is taking place to show that the motor industry can address the concerns of ecologists.

The Brighton-to-London Eco-Car Rally will be passing through Croydon, and the participating vehicles will be making a brief stop so that local people can get up close and personal to what many believe is the future of motoring.

The aim of the event is to focus attention on hydrogen- and fuel cell-powered cars,



demonstrating that they are a viable alternative to the internal combustion engine. Part-sponsored by Croydon Council, the run takes place on Tuesday, June 5 – World Environment Day – and, after its stop in North End between about 1pm and 2.30, will finish in Trafalgar Square in mid-afternoon.

More information about the rally and alternative fuels can be found at www.revolve.ws

Croydon's weekly collections



National and regional press, TV and radio have, of late, been full of stories of local authorities binning their weekly refuse collections in favour of fortnightly rounds

As a result of seeing those stories, some Croydon residents have contacted the council, asking if the days of their weekly collections were numbered.

Councillor Phil Thomas, cabinet member for streets and environmental services, has responded with a categorical assurance that no such plans are being considered by Croydon Council.

He said: "The council is aware of the strength of feeling of local people and we're proud that we've been able to improve levels of recycling.

"And, of course, we're aiming to provide residents with even better opportunities to recycle more in the year ahead.

"As well as being desirable, such a commitment to recycling is essential for the future of our environment.

"We're always looking for ways of providing residents with the opportunity to reduce the amount of household waste they put into their wheeled bins.

"A number of trial schemes are either planned or under way and, if they prove successful, could pave the way for a review of the council's waste-collection service, but that is for a future date.

"Until such time, Croydon's residents will have their bins emptied every week."

Extra protection for private tenants

A large drop in the number of complaints Croydon Council receives about private-rental deposits should result from the introduction of a new scheme

The legally binding Tenancy Deposit Protection scheme (TDP) has been welcomed by the council as it may assist in resolving conflicts between private landlords and assured-shorthold tenants.

Under the current system, there are often disputes between the landlord and the tenant about how much of the tenant's deposit is returned by the landlord. The new scheme should ensure a fair outcome to both landlord and tenant and put an end to these disputes.

The scheme applies to all assured-shorthold tenancies in England and Wales since 6 April 2007.

Under TDP, deposits will be safeguarded with a guarantee that the landlord will return the appropriate amount of deposit to the tenant, so long as property is returned in good condition.

The scheme will also provide a means of resolving disputes in a way that may be fast and relatively inexpensive, when compared with court action.

The TDP scheme applies specifically to assured-shorthold tenancies and is not expected to have any impact on the social housing sector.

Youth projects get £200k boost

Cash incentive for young to develop positive lives for themselves and others

Young people from across the borough have been given the chance to fulfil their aspirations thanks to £200,000 of funding from Croydon Council.

Nine youth groups will receive between £9,000 and £40,000 to develop projects which meets the needs of the young people, as well as contributing to the communities where their projects will take place.

The funds come from the housing department's youth provision budget for helping organise social, sport and educational activities in parts of the borough where the needs and aspirations of young people require more support.

The council has been especially keen to receive bids from groups in areas where antisocial behaviour has become a problem, so that young people there can be diverted to more positive activities offered by the projects.

The nine projects range from fire safety sessions with the London Fire Service to supervised holiday schemes and football coaching.

To win an award, the groups needed to conduct practical research and state their case well. The process included producing a written proposal and other presentations.

The biggest grant – £40,000 – was awarded to a summer play scheme covering estates in Waddon, Monks Hill, Shrublands, Handcroft Road, Croftleigh Avenue, Tollers Lane,



New Addington, Fieldway, Green Lane and Norwood Junction, with roadshows going to Whitehorse Road, Birchfield Close and Rutherford Rise.

In addition, £18,000 has been awarded to the Croydon Community Bus project group which has had considerable success in connecting with harder-to-reach parts of the borough with its play and youth-work sessions.

Young people, residents, and representatives of community housing groups, the council's housing department and youth service made up the panel that decided who would get the project grants.

The criteria used to judge each bid was based on factors such as how the overall community might immediately benefit from a proposed project, to its potential long-term value for the participants.

Bidding for the 2008/9 youth provision budget has begun and bids are being welcomed, especially from groups in areas where there are currently no such youth projects. Anybody keen to make such a bid should contact Danny on **020 8726 6100 ext 63188**



Portage staff get on their bikes

Cyclists of all standards are being urged to sign up for a fun, sponsored bike ride this summer

Staff from Croydon Portage Service, part of the council's early education and childcare team, are repeating a successful formula that last year saw 35 cyclists raise more than £3,000.

Money raised will be used to buy toys and specialist equipment to help children with special educational needs learn new skills.

They are looking for enthusiastic and energetic people to join the event which takes place on Sunday, 15 July.

The 27-mile circular route starts and finishes at the Red Barn pub, Blindley Heath, just off the A22, and wends, for the most part, along pretty country lanes.

Croydon Portage is a home visiting service that works in partnership with parents and carers to help teach pre-school children with special educational needs.

Anyone wishing to take part should call **020 8726 7401** for further details and an application pack.

Ensuring kids are safe in the saddle

With the prospect of long, warm sunny days prompting youngsters to dust off their bikes, now is the time to think about getting some valuable training under their belts

Cycle training courses, for children aged 10 years and over, are being held at venues throughout Croydon during the summer school break.

Conducted in a safe environment, off the highway, the Stage 1 courses are fun and practical, and give children a solid grounding in cycling on today's busy roads.

Attendance will help children develop their cycle-control skills, road-safety knowledge and traffic awareness. They will also be instructed in starting and stopping; turning left and right; and overtaking and signalling.



After completing a test at the end of the course, successful trainees will be presented with certificates and badges and invited to return for Stage 2 training, which takes place on the public highway.

The week-long Stage 1 courses commence on Monday, 23 July, and continue until the end of the holiday period. Children are expected to attend all five sessions, either mornings or afternoons.

If the summer-break dates can't be made, an additional course will be run during the half-term break from 22 to 26 October.

Bookings for places are now being taken. To enrol, visit www.croydon.gov.uk typing Road Safety in the search box and then clicking on the "cycling proficiency" link.

For an enrolment form by post, telephone Croydon Council road safety office on **020 8760 5484**.

Pilot scheme targets speeding drivers

Electronic speed-monitoring is being piloted in the south of the borough



Motorists in Kenley and Sanderstead should keep an eye on their speedometers.

Local concern about speeding cars has led the police to suggest to Croydon Council that these two wards could benefit from the Road (speed) Watch scheme.

The three-month trial sees Croydon joining Southwark as the first boroughs in London to undertake a pilot.

Uniformed police community support officers support the police volunteers undertaking the duties.

Instead of using hand-held radar/laser devices to monitor speeds, roadside tripod-mounted electronic display boards are used, which record the speed of the vehicle and flash up the information to motorists.

Details of speeding vehicles are recorded and information is cross-referenced with the DVLA database. The police send warning letters to drivers telling them that they have been observed speeding and asking them to comply with speed limits.

Drivers continually ignoring the warning messages will be targeted for speed enforcement by the police.

Croydon Council is investing £10,000 in the equipment needed to carry out speed watch and for use within the authority's wider speed-management programme

Tenants awarded for making a stand

Three council tenants have received recognition at a prestigious national awards ceremony for standing up to antisocial behaviour

Tenanta of a block of flats in Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath, frequently suffered threat and harassment by a fellow tenant.

His disruptive behaviour included drunken rowdiness with his friends, throwing a brick and part of a paving stone through neighbours' windows and randomly ringing doorbells to seek entry to the property, having lost his keys on several occasions.

Eventually, the three contacted the council.

The offending tenant was evicted in November 2006 and the council succeeded in obtaining an antisocial behaviour order that enforced an exclusion zone, prohibiting him from returning to the area.

The council nominated the case for the annual Taking A Stand Awards, which are part of the Government's Respect drive for tackling antisocial behaviour.

The three were among a number of winners commended by the Government's coordinator for Respect, Louise Casey, each receiving £1,000 to put toward projects designed to benefit the local community and linked to the reduction of antisocial behaviour.

Fair Deal or Raw Deal?

Croydon Council has confirmed what many residents have long feared – local spending on services that make a difference to people's quality of life is falling well behind that of other councils

For the £559 collected on average from adults in Croydon, just £124 – less than a quarter – is spent on those services that residents say matter most to them, such as environmental care, parks and libraries, highways and road safety. The rest goes to support Education and Social Services. In contrast, in many other places these costs are met entirely from Government grants.

This leaves Croydon at the bottom of the London spending table by a considerable margin. Outgoing chief executive, David Wechsler, has warned that, if the council's drive for a Fair Deal is not successful, spending on such services could be all but wiped out in five years.

The reason for the predicament is quite simple. Following the restructuring of local government finance in 2003/04, Croydon's share of Government grant – which accounts for around three-quarters of the council's annual income – has been reduced.

Most councils get enough money from the Government to pay for national services such as personal social care. Croydon does not; leaving local services – effectively everything apart from education – to carry the brunt of the enforced cuts.

The injustice of Croydon's situation is the reason for continuing the high-profile Fair Deal case, which the council is using in its quest for more equitable grant treatment. Securing a fair deal has become even more important with hints that the public sector is facing a period of financial hardship.

Croydon has already made a submission to the Government's Settlement Working Group about the method of determining grant and is calling for the borough to be moved into the geographical group of councils that receives higher grant as a result of something called the "area costs adjustment". This is a complex mechanism that compensates councils for higher costs based on wages.

In 2003/04 Croydon found itself on the wrong side of an arbitrary geographical divide with neighbours Merton and Sutton on the other.

Croydon finds it hard to believe that wages to the west of Purley Way are so much higher, but had Croydon been included with Merton and Sutton the council would be receiving £20 million extra in Government grant each year.



Anyone wishing to understand more about Croydon's difficult funding position should look at the webcast of the cabinet meeting on 24 April.

This can be easily found from the homepage link on the council's website at www.croydon.gov.uk

The second item recorded was the chief executive's detailed presentation of the reasons for Croydon's plight and comparison with spending elsewhere in London.

This is followed by a presentation from director of finance and resources, Nathan Elvery, supported by Neil Wilcox, director of Local Government Futures, on the council's technical case for a Fair Deal.

To sign the Fair Deal petition online, visit www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/signupforafairdealforcroydon



Anyone wishing to understand more about Croydon's difficult funding position should look at the webcast of the cabinet meeting on 24 April.

Bruce Bernard "Jack" Weatherill 1920-2007

The former Croydon North East MP and Speaker of the House of Commons was renowned as a true gentleman who was devoted to Croydon and its people.

The universal response to his passing was that he would be greatly and sadly missed.

Fulsome obituaries, both locally and nationally, recorded his life as an honourable politician, a wartime soldier and successful businessman. He should be recognised as one of the major Speakers, said one.

In Croydon he will be remembered with fondness and affection. Paying tribute on behalf of the borough, former Mayor Councillor Janet Marshall said: "Bernard Weatherill was a champion of Croydon, a champion of the underdog, and a champion of democracy.

"His charm, thoughtfulness and humility impressed everyone whose lives he touched and enriched.

"In his passing, Croydon has lost someone who worked tirelessly to promote the town's interests and who maintained a passion for so many local causes. He was a lovely man, widely respected and admired by people of all ages from all communities.

"He belonged to Croydon and he will never be forgotten."

A portrait of Lord Weatherill in Speaker's regalia is a treasured feature of the Town Hall.



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Overground to West Croydon

The first step in a revolution in rail connections for Croydon has been taken

Councillor Dudley Mead, deputy leader of Croydon Council (above right), was recently presented with the new roundel for West Croydon London Overground station by London's transport commissioner, Peter Hendy.

Later this year, construction work begins on the extension of the East London Line, due to open in 2010, connecting West Croydon to the rest of London like never before.

It heralds an historic change to the whole structure of London's rail network and takes Croydon closer to a connection with the Underground network.

The new, extended line will eventually be linked – between Highbury & Islington and Dalston – to the North London railway, currently operated by Silverlink Metro, but under Transport for London control from November.

The resulting network will create two-thirds of an orbital railway linking Croydon to 19 other boroughs. It will be a rail equivalent of the M25 – only far greener. This network will be called London Overground.

TfL has stressed that passengers will see immediate improvements to service and safety standards.

In addition to the building of new stations, existing stations will be upgraded. All will have ticket gates, Oyster card facilities, better staffing levels and more CCTV cameras using state-of-the-art technology.

The new network will have new trains, offering passengers more room, and they will be accessible to everyone, be air-conditioned and have CCTV security cameras.

There will be frequent trains to Underground stations offering quick links into central London.

The southern end of the new network will benefit from greatly increased overall level of services, delivering eight trains an hour through Sydenham, Forest Hill, Honor Oak Park, Brockley and New Cross Gate to north of the Thames.

It will also provide a direct link to both the City and Docklands.

Councillor Mead said: "This will be a real boon to Croydon.

"Coming at a time when the town is looking forward to major regeneration in the form of Gateway and Park Place, the London Overground will make Croydon's facilities available to a great many more people – which is good news for the many businesses that will benefit.



The new network will have new trains, offering passengers more room, and they will be accessible to everyone, be air-conditioned and have CCTV security cameras.

Croydon backs hybrid route option for Tram extension

Mix of on-street and rail lines gets council endorsement

Croydon Council has revealed which route it favours for the proposed Tramlink extension to Crystal Palace Parade.

Presented with three options by Transport for London, the council came down in favour of the third – involving a hybrid of on-street running and existing rail lines.

Option 1 involved on-street running along the length of Anerley Hill and is least favoured by Croydon. Option 2, while avoiding Anerley Hill, proposed that trams use the rail corridor to the station and then run along Ledrington Road and Crystal Palace Park.

In Croydon's opinion, the hybrid option offers the best rail links at Crystal Palace, while a shorter on-street section would minimise disturbance to traders and traffic.

Although mindful that the only way of avoiding any

impact on Crystal Palace Park itself would be for the extension to finish at the station, the council considers this would not be helpful to the district centre that the trams are intended to serve.

Experience of running the tram service through Lloyd Park and Addington Hills has shown the council it can be done with minimal environmental impact.

The enhanced service to Crystal Palace would require further traffic modelling at some of the junctions in Croydon town centre to ensure the increased frequency of trams can be accommodated.

If given the go-ahead – and approval would rest with central Government for both permission and funding – the extension would reduce the journey time between Croydon and Crystal Palace to just 18 minutes.

The project is also expected to bring an economic boost to the area, an increase in local employment, and a rise in local property prices. Air quality, too, will be improved as a result of car drivers switching to trams.



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...and Croydon keeps getting greener



After listening to residents' comments, Croydon Council has announced plans that will see less waste going to landfill

The council is to introduce a weekly waste-food collection service, which could see as much as a 20% reduction in the waste that households throw away each week.

Although composting uncooked food remains the council's preferred way for households to deal with organic waste, it is recognised that cutting the volume of food that ends up in landfill will bring significant environmental benefits – especially a reduction in greenhouse gases.

During the year-long trial, 2,500 households in Coulsdon West and Purley will be equipped with separate containers and liners for peelings and dinner-plate leftovers.

The weekly collection of food waste will receive treatment to make it sterile before turning it into a product for horticultural purposes and landfill restoration.

Meanwhile, to further improve the borough's recycling rates, and get closer to the 30% target figure, the council has announced an investment package of £1,086,000. In the long run, the investment will pay off in environmental and financial terms as the costs of disposing of genuine waste are taken into account.

Meanwhile, to further improve the borough's recycling rates, and get closer to the 30% target figure, the council has announced an investment package of £1,086,000

New proposals include:

Expanding kerbside collections: Houses in five wards (Coulsdon East, Kenley, Sanderstead, Upper Norwood and South Norwood) will get a second recycling box to accommodate three more types of waste for collection from the kerbside – card, plastic and batteries. This is likely to begin in the autumn.

The idea of the second box is a lesson learned from the original trial in which reusable plastic sacks proved unpopular with residents. Contractors will carry out more intensive kerbside sorting.

In addition, the council is introducing more mini recycling centres – accepting paper, card, glass and cans – to an additional 400 sites on housing estates where the current green box recycling collection is not suitable. These will all be in position by next March.

Extending green-waste recycling: In late May, this popular seasonal service is to be expanded to the same five wards that will be receiving the second recycling box. This means a total of 48,000 households will be able to take up the fortnightly collection which, alone, is already estimated to have increased performance by 2% in the current year.

Improving neighbourhood recycling centres: The council wants to improve the appearance and facilities at the 27 centres around the borough. This will include better signage and containers. At the same time, it is hoped that the centres will be able to accept a wider range of materials.

Upgrading the Factory Lane reuse and recycling centre: A change of layout will enable more than 20 different kinds of waste to be separately recycled. New compactors will be introduced to help create more space for a more user-friendly environment.



The idea of the second box is a lesson learned from the original trial in which reusable plastic sacks proved unpopular with residents. Contractors will carry out more intensive kerbside sorting.



Fully equipped with monitor and radios, the mobile unit will also link to the borough's CCTV control room in central Croydon.

Emergency response team goes mobile

Croydon's emergency response team is now even better equipped to deal with incidents occurring around the borough, following the arrival of a dedicated emergency control vehicle

The custom-built Renault Master van will be at the ready should an emergency occur at any time of day or night, be it a small-scale evacuation following a fire, to dealing with the aftermath of a large-scale disaster.

Providing a high-visibility base of operations for council support staff at the scene, the vehicle will be an invaluable tool in helping to ensure a coordinated and speedy response to any emergency.

Fully equipped with monitor and radios, the mobile unit will also link to the borough's CCTV control room in central Croydon.

The council has always provided a support service to the emergency services and the local community in the event of large incidents around the borough. In the past this has included setting up rest centres to provide food, supplies and blankets to those displaced from their homes by incidents such as gas leaks or fires, and providing transport or clean-up operations.

The bespoke Renault replaces the previous emergency control vehicle, a converted former social services bus which, with a few too many miles on the clock, was beginning to prove unreliable for the job.

Leased for the next seven years, running costs will total £5,500 a year, a sum that includes the road fund licence and all the maintenance.

This arrangement ensures the council can always provide a reliable means of supporting both the community and the emergency services in the event of a major incident.

One of the principal uses of the new van will be the training of Local Authority Liaison Officers, which will see it run out on at least a monthly basis. Additionally, it will, of course, attend major incidents.

The new vehicle had its first outing at a practice emergency exercise recently when it took part in a scenario of a major incident in the Tramlink tunnel at Sandilands (see next page).

The council team was on hand at the scene which involved the police, fire and ambulance services acting out proceedings for dealing with a serious incident.

While the police will, as ever, coordinate the response at major incidents and emergencies, the council, with the aid of the new emergency control vehicle, will continue to play a key role in a support capacity, looking after the longer-term recovery plan in a bid to help restore normality as quickly as possible.

Already, the vehicle is proving to be the envy of other London local authorities, many of which are using Croydon's as a model for their own.



20-20 tunnel vision IN EMERGENCY EXERCISE



"The day was a great success and has given us all plenty to go away with, think about and then to act upon."

As the warm, still air of a sunny Sunday morning was rent by the wail of a klaxon, dozens of police officers, paramedics, firefighters and Croydon Council officials swung into action in one of the biggest major-incident exercises ever staged in the south-east

After weeks of planning, involving the top brass of all the local emergency services and partner organisations, the staged tram crash tested how the various teams would react and work together in a situation involving deaths, multiple injuries and hazardous substances.

Exercise Mole also presented the council with an opportunity to test its Survivor Reception Centre, in which passengers were assessed, registered and assisted on their forward journeys.

Volunteers acted as casualties for the exercise and were represented by the Casualties Union and the Metropolitan Police Volunteer Cadet Corps.

Testing the emergency services' coordinated response to an incident in an isolated and difficult location, the "accident" happened in the Sandilands tunnel, running between Addiscombe Road and Lloyd Park.

On entering the tunnel from the Lloyd Park end, the driver of a tram heading toward central Croydon notices a large concrete slab on the track ahead.

The emergency brake is immediately applied but the tram collides with the slab, and is derailed. Many of the 60 passengers sustain injuries.

Within a matter of seconds, a second tram, travelling in the opposite direction from East Croydon with about 50 passengers on board, ploughs into the derailed tram causing extensive damage to both vehicles.

The overhead power cable is also extensively damaged, becoming entangled around the vehicles, and hampering any rescue operation. In all, five people die and a number of passengers are badly injured.

Several nearby residents dial 999 to report hearing a loud bang from within the tunnel, and the rescue operation gets under way.

Among the many emergency vehicles to attend the scene was Croydon Council's new Emergency Control Vehicle, which was used as a support base for council officers at the scene. The care of passengers as they were brought out of the tunnel was provided in the Lloyd Park bowling green's pavilion, offering something to eat, a hot drink and an area in which to await their registration.

Tony Morris, the council's head of emergency management and security, oversaw the council's involvement and expressed his satisfaction at the response of all the agencies involved.

He said: "As you can imagine, the exercise took a lot of organisation and depended on the cooperation of an awful lot of people.



Testing the emergency services' coordinated response to an incident in an isolated and difficult location, the "accident" happened in the Sandilands tunnel, running between Addiscombe Road and Lloyd Park.



The emergency brake is immediately applied but the tram collides with the slab, and is derailed. Many of the 60 passengers sustain injuries.

"I'd like to offer my thanks to everybody who played a part; from the emergency services – who responded with the degree of professionalism we need in these sort of situations but tend to take for granted – to all our volunteer passengers – who, in addition to sporting some very realistic make-up, behaved in exactly the sorts of ways that might be expected of people faced with the shock of a frightening experience and terrible injuries.

"The day was a great success and has given us all plenty to go away with, think about and then to act upon."

Charles Tomlinson, head of safety for Tramtrack Croydon Ltd, said: "Regular emergency exercises are an essential means of testing our preparedness plans and help to ensure that we can provide a rapid and coordinated approach to a range of potential incidents."

Inspector Ray Whiting, of Croydon police, said: "The major-incident multi-agency exercise was a huge success.

"It fully demonstrated the effective and coordinated response of the emergency services, supported by the local authority and led by Tramlink.

"A thorough debrief exercise will take place, to look more closely as to how the exercise went and to see whether there are any lessons to be learnt.

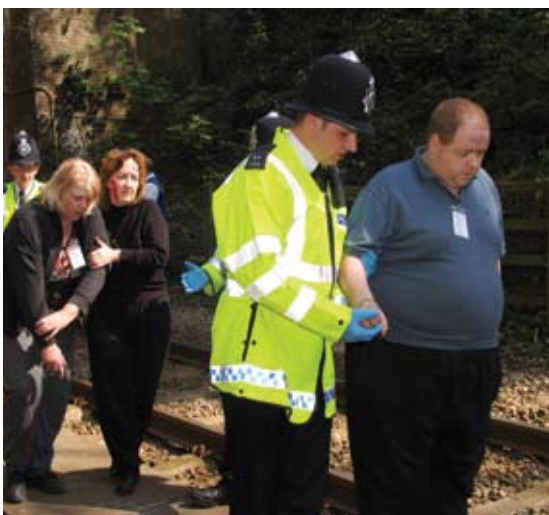
"I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the Casualties Union and the Metropolitan Police Volunteer Cadet Corps for the excellent job they did today while acting as our casualties for the exercise."

Cyril O'Brien, the borough commander for the London Fire Brigade, echoed those sentiments: "The exercise was valuable inasmuch as it gave all the emergency services the chance to work and interact with each other in a realistic scenario – and we all hope that cooperation is only ever tested in exercises like this.

"On the whole, everything went really well. The exercise did, of course, throw up one or two points that we can talk about, to improve the service we offer, but the overall success of the day is in no doubt."



Volunteers acted as casualties for the exercise and were represented by the Casualties Union and the Metropolitan Police Volunteer Cadet Corps.





Planning for the unexpected

The previous two pages detail a recent major-incident emergency exercise – here we outline how a real-life emergency is dealt with

In a recent exercise, a mock tram crash was staged, giving the various organisations involved the chance to make sure they work well together and to put theory into practice.

Bringing it all together was a huge undertaking, involving weeks of planning and careful coordination.

It involved the sort of internal liaison meetings that are undertaken on a regular basis and which result in the drawing up of the borough's major emergency response plan.

Alongside the council's own emergency control officers are representatives of the police, fire and ambulance services, military, health and environment agencies, utilities and transport organisations, and the voluntary sector, to ensure coordination and understanding between all bodies involved.

A recently completed Caring Response Plan uses social services staff, voluntary agencies and representatives from the faith communities, to provide social support and befriending services to individuals after a major incident or disaster.

If evacuation is necessary, plans have been made for temporary accommodation at community centres, schools, sports centres and church halls, according to the circumstances and location. These are known as Rest Centres.

Council staff will be on hand to help support evacuees with food, blankets and other immediate emergency needs.

The voluntary agencies (such as British Red Cross, Women's Royal Voluntary Services, St John Ambulance, Age Concern and Salvation Army) will assist the council in providing support and understanding to those affected by the incident.

But it isn't only the dramatic and spectacular that is planned for. Ways of dealing with environmental issues such as rabies, legionnaires' disease and food poisoning are revised on a regular basis.

The priority of the emergency services is for those who are directly involved in any major incident or disaster. Relatives and friends of the casualties are also a concern.

It is important that those responding to the incident are allowed to complete their task quickly and safely, with priority given to rescue operations to minimise casualties and preserve emergency communications.

Updated reports will be provided to the media.

The police and other emergency services usually coordinate the initial response to major incidents, while the council coordinates the longer-term recovery plan.



Council staff will be on hand to help support evacuees with food, blankets and other immediate emergency needs.



Croydon...and all that jazz

This year sees the 40th anniversary of the death of one of the giants of jazz, John Coltrane

Marking that milestone date, Croydon Council is dedicating the 2007 Jazz Festival to the great saxophonist, whose playing during the 1950s and '60s reshaped modern jazz and influenced generations of musicians.

The festival, set to run from 7 to 9 June, will centre on the Braithwaite Hall, in Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, and will also feature performances in the Whitgift Shopping Centre.



Mark Lockheart

This year's line-up boasts such notables as Don Rendell and Stan Tracey, and will also host the presentation ceremony for The Croydon Jazz Star of the Year Award, a competition aimed at encouraging youngsters to get involved in the diverse world of jazz.

The ticket office phone number is **020 8253 1030**. For more information, visit www.croydonjazzfestival.com



Marking that milestone date, Croydon Council is dedicating the 2007 Jazz Festival to one of the giants of jazz



Jessi Markee

Every Day is a Thomas Day at..

DRUSILLAS PARK

THOMAS & FRIENDS

FREE ADMISSION FOR ONE CHILD

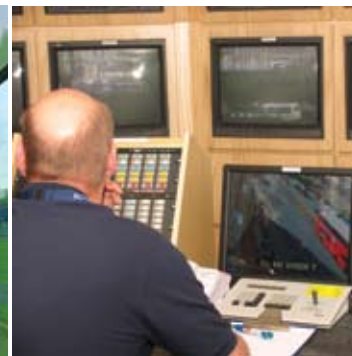
Subject to the following Terms and Conditions:

1. Offer valid at Drusillas Park until 30th September 2007, and is subject to change.
2. This voucher is not valid on Bank Holidays or Bank Holiday Weekends.
3. This voucher is not valid in conjunction with any other discounts, including family tickets, annual club membership, birthday parties, other vouchers, offers, group or school bookings.
4. Valid for one free child, aged 2 - 12, when accompanied by one adult paying the full individual entrance price.
5. Only one voucher accepted per person per transaction.
6. Photocopies will not be accepted.
7. There is no cash alternative.

At Alfriston, near Eastbourne Tel: 01323 874100 www.drusillas.co.uk

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At Alfriston just off the A27 near Eastbourne
Call: 01323 874100 www.drusillas.co.uk



Beating the borough's bad boys

Crime in Croydon has fallen over the past year – and a major reason is the council's partnership with the police

Croydon has the highest fall in the number of cases of violence against the person in south London, and, in terms of overall crime numbers, the borough is now one of the top 10 safest in London.

Croydon is becoming an increasingly safe place in which to live and work – and the latest crime figures bear evidence to that bold statement.

In a fantastic return for the council and the people of Croydon, the total number of crimes committed over the past year has fallen by an impressive 10%.

Undoubtedly, a major factor in this welcome trend is the successful partnership struck between Croydon Council and the police, led by borough commander Chief Superintendent Mark Gore.

The deployment of Safer Neighbourhood Teams has made a big difference. However, as the major partner with the police in tackling crime, and with a statutory responsibility, the council's supporting role has also had an impact.

The increased use of uniformed enforcement officers around the borough has helped instil confidence in residents, as have the outstanding CCTV set up – the most professional in London – and an admired rapid-response facility provided by dog teams and mobile enforcement units.

Initiatives such as the pioneering Family Justice Centre and witness support scheme show how the council is taking practical steps to nip crime in the bud.

Tough action is taken to curb antisocial behaviour and stop perpetrators engaging in more serious forms of crime. Large numbers of committed staff work long hours to deter, prevent or design-out opportunities for wrong doing, and tackle drug and alcohol abuse, both of which can be factors in crime.

Councillor Steve O'Connell, deputy leader and cabinet member for public protection and crime reduction, said: "It's long been recognised that the police cannot tackle crime alone and I believe the past 12 months' outstanding figures show how this maturing partnership approach in Croydon is really paying off.

"It's extremely impressive that Croydon's 10% cut in total crime is a bigger fall than the Met Police as a whole has enjoyed. The 13% fall in violent crime and the large reductions in burglaries and robberies are also cause for celebration."

Croydon has the highest fall in the number of cases of violence against the person in south London, and, in terms of overall crime numbers, the borough is now one of the top 10 safest in London.

Councillor O'Connell added: "We're confident that measures being introduced over the next few months will help maintain the falling trend and that this will result in people genuinely feeling safer about living, and going about their business, in the borough."

In a fantastic return for the council and the people of Croydon, the total number of crimes committed over the past year has fallen by an impressive 10%.

SWANNING about in Waddon

An unusual but beautiful sight has been greeting visitors as they strolled through Waddon Ponds over the past few months

Amazed local residents were thrilled to see a black swan gliding majestically across the water, appearing to be very much at home in its "holiday" habitat.

There are only 500,000 of the rare birds left worldwide, most living in the wetlands of Southern Australia.

Although lovely to look at, Bessie, as she became known, was not an ideal guest to the many local birds and wildlife living at the site. Since the death of her mate, Bessie had become increasingly aggressive.

London Wildlife Hospital in Beddington Park had to be called in.

Despite daily attempts to catch her, it was two weeks before Ted Burden, founder and director of London Wildlife Hospital, managed to grab hold of the swan. There is a happy ending for Bessie. After a couple of days at the wildlife hospital, she was moved to the Swan Sanctuary, Shepperton, where she is now settled with other black swans and may even find a new mate.



It is most likely that Croydon's regal visitor escaped from a local stately home.

If you would like to know more about the work of the London Wildlife Hospital, would like to make a donation toward the £180,000 needed each year, or have found a wild animal or bird that needs help or medical attention, please telephone **020 8647 6230**.

Alternatively, visit the charity's website at <http://www.london-wildcare.fsnet.co.uk/>



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www.sharedhorizons.org.uk



A breath of fresh air

The council's recent success in winning prestigious Beacon status for its efforts in Delivering Cleaner Air is down to a range of pioneering initiatives

When Susan Kinead gets up in the morning one of the first things she does is reach for her mobile phone, not because she has an urgent call to make, but to hear the latest pollution forecast via the council's AirText service.

Susan, from Addiscombe, suffers from a debilitating heart and lung condition and has chronic asthma. As a result, even small fluctuations in air quality can leave her short of breath or in a fit of coughing.

illustrated just a few months ago when it was adopted across London.

AirText is just one of the initiatives that Croydon is pioneering in efforts to deal with levels of air pollution in the borough. YourAir provides a daily web-based forecast of pollution levels in the borough, down to the level of individual streets, and a telephone hotline provides the same information to callers, together with health tips.

Such services provide an invaluable tool for those susceptible to higher levels of air pollution but it is also the work that Croydon is doing to reduce these levels which has contributed to its Beacon success.

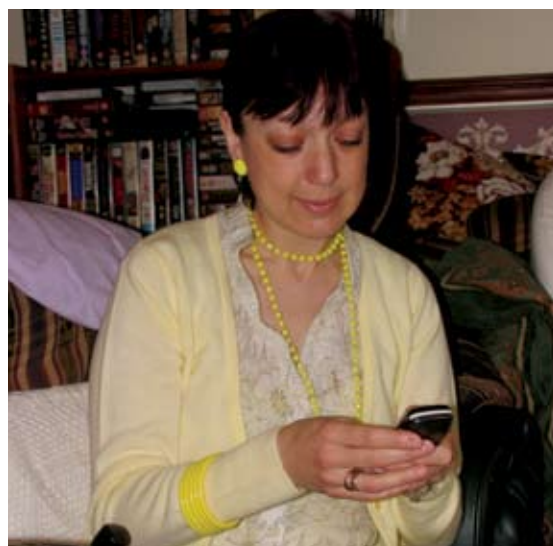
Croydon was the first council in the country to implement regular idling-vehicle enforcement patrols, targeting particularly problematic areas such as bus stands and schools in a bid to re-educate the public about what they can do to help.

The use of renewable fuels will also become more important in future years and, once again, Croydon is leading the way. A feasibility study was carried out on running one of the borough's air quality monitoring stations on wind power, combined with a hydrogen fuel cell, and in partnership with Camden Council, Croydon will shortly be one of the first boroughs to use hydrogen fuel cells to generate power in roadside vehicle emissions testing.

Steve Potter, specialist pollution team manager said: "Air pollution may not be at the forefront of everyone's mind but increasingly it is something that needs to be addressed and in Croydon we take our responsibilities seriously."

To sign up for AirText or for more information on what the council is doing to tackle air pollution visit www.croydon.gov.uk and enter "airtext" in the search field, or call 020 8760 5483.

Croydon's AirTEXT service was set up in July 2005 and helps hundreds of people like Susan to manage their day better.



But, since signing up for the free council service which sends a detailed pollution forecast direct to your mobile, computer or home phone, Susan feels she has been given a new lease of life: "The service allows you to prepare in advance", she explains: "If you know what the pollution levels are going to be like, you can plan ahead and prioritise what you need to do that day whereas before it was pot luck".

Croydon's AirText service was set up in July 2005 and helps hundreds of people like Susan to manage their day better. The service's success and popularity was

PEDALLING OFF THE POUNDS



Fun was the principal weapon used in a series of events aimed at tackling childhood obesity

More than 100 people put on their boots and got on their bikes to get involved in Croydon Council's recent Active Lifestyles "Boot & Bike" family events.

Active Lifestyles is a council initiative to improve the health and quality of life of Croydon residents by encouraging regular participation in physical activities.

The events – held at Shrublands Community Centre, Parchmore Community Centre and Croydon Sports Arena – were organised by Active Lifestyles to promote walking and cycling among younger members of the community.

At each venue, a cycle ride and a walk left simultaneously, with a healthy lunch and fun activities provided afterward.

In total, 78 children and 24 adults attended. Each child was given a certificate and a goody pack, but the icing on the (pretend) cake was the raffle, in which two children's bikes were the prizes.

Armelle Lee, 7, one of the lucky winners, said: "We had a great time discovering a new park. I love my new bike."

For more information about Active Lifestyles events go to www.croydon.gov.uk and type "active lifestyles" (without the speech marks) into the search field in the top right-hand corner of the page.

Active Lifestyles is a council initiative to improve the health and quality of life of Croydon residents by encouraging regular participation in physical activities.



CROYDON BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

OPEN DAY

MITCHAM ROAD CEMETERY

Saturday 9 June 2007 – 10am-5pm

(last tour 4pm) Followed at 5pm by
CEMETERY HERITAGE WALK

Join us at the main cemetery office for regular tours and information on:

- Cemetery & Crematorium (including optional "behind the scenes" tour)
- Our three chapels
- What are reclaimed graves?
- Memorial and Garden of Remembrance options
- Memorial safety programme
- Funeral options & bereavement Issues
- A free Cemetery Heritage Walk will follow at 5pm
- Tracing some of Croydon's past and notorious figures

TO RESERVE A PLACE CALL 020 8684 3877

In year 11 and leaving school?

Applied to an apprenticeship, training place, a place at college or sixth form?

Not sure what you want to do?

Finding it difficult to get a place?

Need to talk?

The Connexions Service is here to help you make better choices about what you want to do when you leave school and support you with getting what you want. It can also help you sort out problems that are making it difficult for you to do this.

For help, please contact your Connexions Personal Adviser or simply call into the Connexions Centre.

Monday to Wednesday 9am to 5pm,

Thursday 9am to 6.30pm, Friday 10.30am to 5pm
or Saturday 10am to 1.30pm

Tel: 020 8401 0301

112-114 High Street, Croydon

Service improvements for New Addington buses

Intensive lobbying from council officers has resulted in Transport for London abandoning plans for major alterations to bus routes in the Fieldway and New Addington areas



TfL has also come forward with a number of service improvements, the benefits of which will be felt beyond Fieldway and New Addington.

The main features of the new timetables are:

GENERAL

"Through" bus/tram tickets have been introduced between trams and bus routes 130 and 314, covering both single and return tickets, and payment by both cash and Oyster Pay As You Go, and will operate on these routes exactly as on routes T31, T32 and T33.

ROUTE 130

The link between Fieldway and the Vulcan Way industrial estate is retained, with the service routed along Fieldway, as previously, and then running via Goldcrest Way, King Henry's Drive, Homestead Way and Overbury Crescent, terminating at Parkway. Daytime frequency (Monday to Saturday) has been improved from 20 minutes to 15 minutes.

TfL hopes to extend this service north to Thornton Heath Clock Tower later this year, and is pursuing a possible routing via High Street, South Norwood; Selhurst Road and Park Road. Discussions with the council continue regarding the requirement for some highway works at the corner of Park Road and Whitehorse Lane.

This service change would also be the subject of a consultation of residents and businesses on Park Road, which does not currently have a bus service.

ROUTE T31

This service continues to run between Forestdale and New Addington (Central Parade). It is then diverted, via Arnhem Drive and King Henry's Drive, to terminate at Homestead Way. The service frequency is maintained at every 7.5 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytime.

ROUTE T32

This service uses the same roads as previously – Lodge Lane, Headley Drive, Goldcrest Way, King Henry's Drive, Arnhem Drive and Central Parade, terminating at Parkway. This service, which previously ran every 7.5 minutes, was to have been withdrawn completely under TfL's original proposals. It now runs every 15 minutes (every 30 minutes for evenings and Sundays).

OTHER SERVICES TO NEW ADDINGTON

TfL has recently consulted on other services, including routes 64 and 314. Following those consultations, TfL is not proposing any changes to those services and they retain the previous structure and frequency.

For avoidance of doubt, they are:

Route 64 operates a Monday to Saturday daytime frequency of eight minutes and an evenings and Sunday frequency of 15 minutes.

Route 314 operates a Monday to Saturday daytime frequency of 15 minutes and an evenings and Sunday frequency of 30 minutes.

Route 464 operates a Monday to Sunday frequency of 30 minutes.



Toomey's Nature Notes

Did you know that there are ring-necked parakeets on Riddlesdown?

JUNE



Ring-necked Parakeet

I went on an organised dawn-chorus walk and saw one flying around at 6am near Warlingham School. The birds were really noisy in the early hours.

We spotted 35 species of birds, and I got a good look at the yellow hammers on the top of the downs.

Did you know that swallows can stay in the air for up to two years and sleep on the wing, high in the sky?

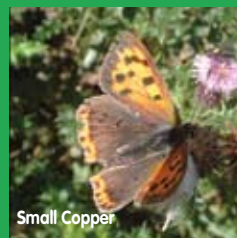
Early in the month, on a wet afternoon, I saw large numbers of small, metallic golden moths with very long antennae called adela rufinitrella. The moths were flying in pairs and looked like small golden propellers.

I was told that a lot of animals don't have English names because they were discovered 100 years,

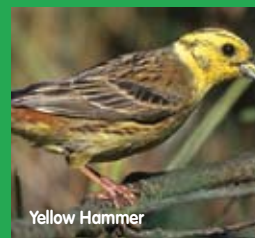
or more, ago by priests and other members of the clergy with an interest in nature and who named them in Latin.

I have now seen my first small copper and small heath butterflies of the season. The small copper was very tame and was happy to sit on my hand.

The bumblebees on the common are different to those we see in the garden – they have an orange tail. These bees are called bombus lapidarius.



Small Copper



Yellow Hammer

Buy the bin that makes your garden more beautiful



TO ORDER YOUR BIN CALL 0845 077 0757 quoting 38YC3 or visit us online at www.recyclenow.com/compost ORDER ONLINE TO RECEIVE A FURTHER £1.00 OFF YOUR TOTAL ORDER



Buy a kitchen caddy for only £2 when you buy a bin* Hurry and buy while stocks last

recycle
compost at home

Offer limited to 3 bins per household and to Croydon Council residents only. Expect delivery within 28 days. If you wish to cancel your order before the bin is delivered or if the bin has been delivered and you wish to return it, please phone the customer care line on 0800 107 3798 within 7 working days. Offer is subject to availability and closes December 2007, though stocks of some bins are limited and may run out sooner than offer ends. WRAP works in partnership to encourage and enable businesses and consumers to be more efficient in their use of materials and recycle more things more often. This helps minimise landfill, reduce carbon emissions and improve our environment. *One kitchen caddy per household with bin purchase, whilst stocks last. Actual colour may vary.



COMPOST CONVERTER (220ltr)
£8.00
SRP £40.00
Height 90cm
QUANTITY ☐



KOMP (250ltr)
£20.00
SRP £59.85
Height 105cm
QUANTITY ☐



COMPOST CONVERTER (330ltr)
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SRP 50.00
Height 100cm
QUANTITY ☐

From time to time WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) and Croydon Council may send you **FREE useful info, newsletters and tips & advice** to help make composting easy and fun. Please tick this box if you **do not** wish to receive these items ☐ If you prefer us to keep you informed by email please provide your email address below:

EMAIL:

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

DAYTIME PHONE Kitchen Caddy ☐ At reduced price of £2

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... payable to DHL – Home Composting

Or please debit my Mastercard/Visa/Delta/Switch account £.....

Start Date Expiry Date Issue Number

Card Number

Please return to: WRAP (Croydon) Campaign, Freepost LS6334, LEEDS LS14 1YY

CODE **38YC3**

CROYDON COUNCIL
www.croydon.gov.uk

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, 23 July, 2007 (6.30pm) Monday, 9 July, 2007

 Monday 17 Sep, 2007 (6.30pm) Monday, 3 Sep, 2007

 Monday 26 Nov, 2007 (6.30pm) Monday, 12 Nov, 200

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; ☎ 020 8726 6000 ext 62327

Scrutiny

Details of cabinet members' appearances at future Scrutiny & Overview Committee and Sub-committees, to respond to questions from members of the public, are being finalised and are not available at the time of publication.

Members of the public are advised to refer to the council website at www.croydon.gov.uk for finalised details. Alternatively, contact the Scrutiny Team on ☎ 020 8726 6000 extn 62529 or 62315, or e-mail scrutiny.public.questions@croydon.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Partnership

Neighbourhood partnership meetings (all start at 7.30pm)

Meeting

Group and venue

27 Jun Norbury and Upper Norwood, Salvation Army Hall, Westow Street

 4 Jul Fairfield, Heathfield and Shirley, Shirley High School, Shirley Church Road (???)


For information on Neighbourhood Partnerships, visit the website at www.croydon.gov.uk/neighbourhood, 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 ext 62564 or 62396

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

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, 11 July; Wednesday, 19 September; Tuesday, 13 November

 These meetings are to be transmitted using webcasting. They can be viewed at www.croydon.gov.uk/meetingsofthecouncil
Details of all Croydon Council meetings can be found on the same page.

What's On

www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure

JUNE 07

LIVE EVENTS AT THE CLOCKTOWER

Tara Arts presents Nowhere to Belong: Tales of an Extravagant Stranger

Monday 4 June, 7.30-9.15pm
(including post-show discussion)

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown explores her life-long love of Shakespeare.

£12 (£8 concessions)

Upfront Comedy Club presents

Thursday 7 June, 7.30-10.15pm . An
international double header with

Wil Sylvince and Sinck.

£10 (£7 concessions). (on stage 8pm)

Not suitable for children



How to Build a Time Machine

Friday 15 June, 7.30-8.25pm

An irresistible blend of science, love and the
contents of a garden shed.

£7.80 (£5.50 concessions)

The Imaginary Body presents Food

Monday 18 & Tuesday 19 June, 7.30-8.45pm

Top chef Frank Byrne has an all-consuming
ambition – to win the coveted third Michelin
star. For Frank food is a sensual and creative
experience, not just merely something you
eat. £12 (£8 concessions)

James Seabright presents Peccadillo Circus

Saturday 16 June, 7.30-8.30pm

Lizzie Roper reveals real people's naughtiest
secrets in their own words. £12 (£8
concessions) Not suitable for children

Sasa Music Promotions presents The Soothsayers

Wednesday 27 June, 7.30-9.20pm

Powerful vocals from the elder statesman
of Afro-beat, Adesose Wallace, performing
with big names of the African and Caribbean
music scenes. £12 (£8 concessions)

Tam Tam Theatre presents Jabuti

Saturday 23 June, 2-2.40pm

For children aged 3 to 8 years.

The story of Jabuti, the little tortoise from
the Amazon rain forest, told in a funny and
very visual way with beautiful puppets,
accompanied by the sound of the Brazilian
beat. £5.50 (£4.80 concessions)

For further information call the Ticket Office: 020 8253 1030

FILMS AT THE DAVID LEAN CINEMA

The Last King of Scotland 15

Into Great Silence U

The Painted Veil 12A

Miss Potter PG

The Namesake 12A

This is England 18

Scott Walker:
30th Century Man 12A

My Best Friend 12A

Lights in the Dusk PG

Zodiac 15

Away from Her 12A

Catch a Fire 12A

Meet the Robinsons U

The Last Mimzy PG

TMNT: Teenage Mutant
Ninja Turtles PG

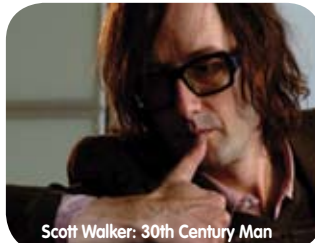
Strictly Ballroom PG



Zodiac



Lights in the Dusk



Scott Walker: 30th Century Man

GUIDED WALKS

FRIDAY 1 JUNE

Story time in Spring Park Wood

SUNDAY 3 JUNE

Going batty on Riddlesdown

THURSDAY 7 JUNE

Mitcham Common midweek meander

SUNDAY 10 JUNE

Sunday morning stroll on Mitcham
Common

SUNDAY 10 JUNE

Orchids and wildflowers on Hutchinson's
and Chapel Banks

TUESDAY 12 JUNE

Eric Wettern's Tree Garden, Purley Beeches

SATURDAY 23 JUNE

Selsdon Wood summer bird walk

SUNDAY 24 JUNE

Orchid and summer wild flower foray

SUNDAY 24 JUNE

Ragwort BBQ Bonanza

Health Walks

The Active Lifestyles section runs regular
Health Walks. They are a great way to
start exercising while enjoying Croydon's
green open spaces. There are weekly
walks, each lasting about one hour.

There is also a programme of special
monthly walks, please contact the Walking
for Health co-ordinator for further details
on: 020 8760 0778, or email:
sports@croydon.gov.uk



Catch a Fire

Do you have an **empty** property?

Croydon Council is targeting long-term empty properties in the borough which are empty without good reason. To support this campaign, Croydon offers the following:

- Empty-property grant of up to £25k per property
- Private sector leasing with guaranteed rents
- Sponsored tenancy lettings
- Rent-in-advance schemes
- A grant for first-time buyers who are purchasing a long-term empty property with a view to renovating the property and living in it for five years.

Croydon is targeting long-term empty properties which have been empty without good reason, and taking legal action to bring them back into use using compulsory purchase powers (CPO) and empty dwelling management orders (EDMO).

Contact Croydon Council's housing department for advice and assistance to get your property back into use.

Call 020 8726 6100

