CROHAM VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2017



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CVRA newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to all members of the Association.

Cover: Brambley Bank Nature Reserve by Sara Pevsner

Your views and comments for publication in the newsletter are most welcome and should be sent to the Chairman or the Editor. Copy should reach the Editor by the 1st of February, 1st of May, 1st of August, 1st of November. Views expressed by the contributors to the CVRA newsletter are their own and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Residents Association. Publication of advertisements does not imply endorsement by the Association.

From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of the Croham Valley Residents Association newsletter!

Being passionate about communities I am always in awe when I hear of people pulling together to make something happen or make changes within their environment for the better; investing emotion and effort to make a pleasant place live.

With that in mind, I have been working to create a publication that will be informative, interesting and fun; a newsletter about important issues, like planning, that have an impact on our lives, but also, a publication about you and me and our neighbours and the wonderful people we share our neighbourhood with.

I hope this is the starting point of a newsletter that will become an integral part of our community; a resource full of up to date events, funny anecdotes and heart warming stories about, and for, all of us who share this amazing little corner of Croydon.

Sara Pevsner

Contents

page 2	Letter from the Chairman
page 3	Your letters
page 5	Planning
page 6	A Note from Chris Philps MP
	Looking back and looking forward on Croham Hurst
page 7	Part 2. The Geology and Archeology
page 11	Spring. The Friends of Littleheath Woods
page 12	Nature Notes
page 15	Jubilee Jottings
page 16	Listings



Letter from the Chairman

I wish to welcome our new Editor, Sara Pevsner, who has kindly taken on the task of editing this new look Newsletter. I hope that you like our attempts to re-vamp its appearance. Your comments on it would be most welcome.

As always, we attempt to safeguard the environment of our area. Committee members who are responsible for Planning matters keep up to date with planning applications and support residents by attending planning meetings. On behalf of the Committee, I thank them for their time and effort.

After much discussion about rising costs, your Committee has decided that the annual subscription per household shall be increased to £3. We hope that you will feel that your membership continues to be good value for money.

Letters to the Editor, as well as informative articles that may be of interest to the readers, are always welcome for we love to hear your views, comments and suggestions.

With kind regards to all our readers, *Edward Glynn*



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Your Letters





The Chairman of the Croham Valley Residents Association received the following letter at the end of last year:

I just wanted to comment on the AOB section of the Winter 2016 newsletter in relation to the proposed new secondary school on Coombe Playing Fields.

I am a governor at St Peter's primary school, one of the schools (along with Park Hill Juniors), which is planning to join a Multi Academy Trust with Wallington Boys Grammar School on the basis that they will set up a Free School on that site. The whole point of our schools joining their Trust is that they have promised secondary school places for our pupils. We very much need a new secondary school in this part of the borough as at present our pupils are dispersed far and wide after they leave us. Expanding existing schools (even if this could be done) will not solve that problem.

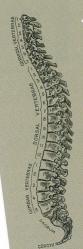
I'm sure we all support the Green Belt but there needs to be some discrimination. There is no point taking a view that every blade of grass is sacrosanct. With Lloyd Park so near at hand there is surely scope for taking a bit of the Coombe Playing Field site for a school. I hope this will not be made a party political matter. Our children should come first.

With best wishes, Carol Kellas

The Committee decided to ask members what their views were. You are invited to give your answers to the following questions.

- 1. Do you think that a new school is needed in this area?
- 2. Do you think that it should be built on Coombe Playing Fields?
- 3. If not on Coombe Playing Fields, where would you suggest it could be built?

Please send your responses to the Chairman by emailing: glynn11@virginmedia.com



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Planning

Area A

2 & 2A Campden Road

The Council refused planning permission in August 2016 for a block of 20 flats on this cramped site on the corner with Croham Road. The developer has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against this decision. Meanwhile, the developer has submitted yet another planning application, still for 20 flats but with some minor amendments. The CVRA again lodged an objection on the grounds that the proposed development is excessive, out of character with the local area and detrimental to the neighbours. But to no avail, this later application was approved by the Planning Committee on a 6-4 majority vote without waiting for the Planning Inspector's decision on the earlier application.

69 Croham Road

The existing house on this corner plot with Castlemaine Avenue was previously a care home for adults with special needs. Planning permission was originally sought to extend and convert house into 7 flats. Having been refused permission, the developer submitted a second application with minor modifications and that has now been granted. PK

Area B

10 Croham Valley Road

The latest planning application on this site for the demolition of the detached house replacing with 9 two bedroom flats had objections from 44 local residents, your CVRA and a referral from Cllr Sara

Bashford. Subsequently, the planning application was reduced to 8 two bedroom flats and reconfigured after the deadline for the submission of objections; as a result of this the CVRA has lodged a formal complaint with the Council and also the Local Government Ombudsman. However, in spite of our formal complaint the planning application still went before main Planning Committee meeting on the 26th January 2017 where both Cllr Sara Bashford and the CVRA spoke as objectors. Unfortunately, the committee voted to approve the application on a vote of 6 to 4 with the four Conservative Councillors voting against, this planning approval has now potentially established a precedent.

53 Chapel View

The latest development on the retrospective planning application that was refused by the Planning Sub-Committee on the 8th September 2016 in connection with the retention of alterations to the land levels, retaining walls and boundary fencing at the rear. The main issue was due to the substantial alterations to the land levels resulted in the neighbouring property at 55 Chapel View having its boundary against 53 Chapel View totally unsupported, which in places is a drop of almost two metres. The applicant has now lodged an Appeal against this planning refusal. The Planning Inspectorate has now allowed the Appeal. DR

Area C

Nothing further to report. LO



A note from Chris Philp MP

I have been calling since May 2016 for Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), who operate Southern, to lose the franchise. Although the Government has not yet agreed to strip the franchise from Southern, I am pleased by recent reports that they are actively considering this. Rail users also deserve compensation for the terrible service being provided by Southern. I called for compensation for season ticket holders, and I am pleased that the Government has agreed to fund a one month refund for Annual Season ticket holders, and a pro-rata amount for weekly and monthly ticket holders.

Many problems are caused because points and signals break down frequently due to a lack of maintenance over the years. Following meetings with the Chancellor at No. 11 and the Prime Minister in her office to ask for funding, Government has agreed to spend the £300m needed to refurbish the points and signals so that they do not break down so often.

There is also not enough capacity on the line. We need to increase capacity by widening East Croydon from 6 to 8 platforms and grade-separating Windmill Hill Junction near Selhurst. The track between East Croydon and Windmill Hill also needs to be widened. This project will cost about £1 billion and I am lobbying for this to happen.

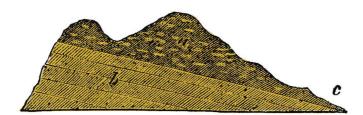
I was very disappointed with the union decision to continue the strikes. I am continuing to call for the unions and Southern to urgently negotiate a solution that puts passengers first.



Please, Contact the editor for details.

Looking back and looking forward on Croham Hurst Part 2: The Geology and Archaeology

By Paul Sowan



The history of Croham Valley extends back around ninety million years, that being the approximate age of the chalk and its contained fossils of marine animals underlying so many of our gardens.

However, we have no continuous record, as there are two huge gaps of 25 million years and 40 million years in the local geological record. What was happening locally during those long periods can only be interpreted from rock beds preserved elsewhere, as far away as Denmark or beyond.

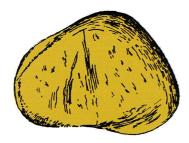
The three rock beds forming Croham Hurst (Chalk, Thanet Sand, and Blackheath Pebbles) are not horizontal, but slope downwards at a small angle towards the northwest. This can best be appreciated by looking in that direction from the east end of the western open heathland area on the summit ridge, where the ground formed on the surface of the pebble beds slopes in that direction. The highest level at which the Chalk outcrops can be followed by walking along the bridleway along the northern edge of the woodland from the Bankside end to

the far end of the golf course. The chalk bed is found progressively higher towards the south-east.

The beds of Blackheath Pebbles, Thanet Sand, and Chalk were deposited on horizontal sea floors, and were continuous from Croham Hurst across the valley to Ballards. Millions of tons of these rocks have been eroded away to form Croham Valley, which probably achieved its current valley form by or during the Ice Age in the last two million years or so.

Although the highest parts of the hill are largely very pebbly ground, this is not a relic of an ancient shore-line and beach. Croham Hurst was never an island! These very rounded flint pebbles are a fragment of an extensive bed of pebbles deposited in deep sea-water around 57-58 million years ago. Other parts of the same deposit are on the tops of Addington Hills, and Hayes and Keston Commons, Blackheath in southeast London, Charlton, and other places in north Kent. These beds get their name from the

locality near Greenwich where they were first described and studied by geologists. Near the pathway leading eastwards from the eastern open heathland on the summit ridge can be found a mass of naturally cemented pebbles, this being colloquially called 'pudding-stone' or, by geologists, a conglomerate. The natural cement holding the pebbles together is mostly a more or less hydrated iron oxide (chemically much the same as rust) containing also some sand. The iron oxide probably came from dissolved iron compounds from younger beds of clay which once lay above the pebble beds. This hard cemented conglomerate appears to underlie the whole summit ridge of Croham Hurst, as lumps of it can be found towards the bottom of the steep slopes down towards Upper Selsdon Road. The conglomerate layer is probably the reason for Croham Hurst surviving as an isolated hill or geological 'outlier' completely surrounded by sandy and chalky lower land.



The middle layer of rock beds forming Croham Hurst is the Thanet Sand (named after the Isle of Thanet in north-east Kent where geologists first studied it). The sand forms the fairly steep slopes down from the summit ridge, and is most visible from the steps leading down Breakneck Hill towards Upper Selsdon Road, where from time to time heavy rainfall has washed some of it away, leaving several trees 'standing on their roots'. The name 'Breakneck Hill' has appeared on maps since at least as early as 1877, but there seems to have been no record found of when and why this name was adopted.

As pebbles roll down hill at any opportunity, and sand is easily washed downhill by heavy rainfall, many tons of these materials now cover the sandy and chalky lower slopes. This erosion was probably especially rapid during the last Ice Age, when Croydon's landscape, climate and vegetation resembled those of northern Siberia! Glaciers once covered England about as far south as Chelmsford and St. Albans. The soils on Croham Hurst alternately froze and thawed during colder and sunnier weather and, well lubricated with water from melted ice, slumped or flowed down the slopes.

Two shallow disused sand pits have been dug at some time near Bankside, but when and for what purpose is not known. They appear to pre-date the first Croham Hurst nine-hole golf course, which was on the land occupied by the Old Whitgiftians' playing fields, so were not exclusively dug for sand for bunkers.

Along the northern edge of the summit ridge, and in places down the slopes towards Bankside and the present golf course, there are numbers (over a dozen) of roughly circular pits which were once thought to be the relics of prehistoric huts. However, archaeological excavations in 1968 revealed

no evidence that they were ever deliberately dug. Geologists today now interpret these pits as formed naturally as a result of chalk below the Thanet Sand being dissolved away by percolating mildly acidic rain-water. There are similar pits in the same geological context nearby, such as at Addington Hills, and at Hayes Common. Exceptionally large 'solution holes' can be seen on the ridge leading northwards from the summit pine plantation, in the grounds of the Royal Russell School just beyond the back fence at Coombe Wood, and in land at Addington Hills alongside Oaks Road.

When the old railway tunnel, now used by modern trams, was made under Park Hill in the early 1880s geologists recorded beds of clay and quicksand between the Thanet Sand and the overlying Blackheath Pebbles. These 'Woolwich and Reading' beds appear to be missing from Croham Hurst. Where the Chalk outcrops around the lower slopes of the hill some flints with dark green coatings on them can be found. These form the Bullhead Bed at the base of the Thanet Sand. Look for them where chalk had been exposed by trees being uprooted, or by badgers. The green mineral is called glauconite, an iron aluminium potassium silicate, and is very weakly radioactive on account of the potassium content. This is no significant hazard to human health (our own nervous system depends on potassium compounds in our bloodstream) but is useful in making dating possible. The lowest beds of Thanet Sand have been dated to about 60 million years ago. The Chalk immediately underneath is dated to about 85 million years, so around 25 million years' worth of

geological deposits are missing! Another 40 million years worth of sediments younger than the pebble beds are also missing.

Two shallow chalk pits, now overgrown and hardly recognizable, have been dug near Upper Selsdon Road at some unknown time, the excavated material perhaps being used as an agricultural soil conditioner on nearby fields on sandy soils.



The higher parts of the Hurst, at least, have apparently never been cultivated, resulting in the survival of archaeological evidence. The most visible feature is the tumulus, or burial mound, near the pine plantation on the eastern open heathland. This was identified by Sanderstead resident and archaeologist Brian Kenneth Hope Taylor [1923-2001] in 1946 on the evidence of a crudely worked Bronze Age flint implement kicked out by a burrowing rabbit. The mound, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, has never been archaeologically excavated. It is most unlikely to contain any recognizable bones or metal artefacts on account of the very porous and acidic soil. Nearby in the open heathland local archaeologist Peter Ladson Drewett

[1947-2013] and other members of the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society identified traces of temporary huts during excavations in 1968. The huts were perhaps made by charcoal burners.

The last most visible man-made features on the hill are several old Croydon parish boundary posts, bearing various dates from 1888 to 1920. The significance of the dates is not certainly known. The north-west corner of the Hurst was in the historic parish of Croydon, the remainder in Sanderstead. At least one of these posts (dated 1888) is now missing, but who dug it up, when, and where it is now are not known.

Anybody wanting to detect less obvious features can hunt for the at least three surviving Ordnance Survey 'revision points'.

These are small roughly circular blobs of concrete with OS and a number and letter code inscribed on them. They mark precisely mapped reference point positions surveyed to the nearest ten centimetres and are shown on Ordnance Survey 50 inches to the mile plans published in the 1950s. They are not now used as when OS mapping is revised, as most revision now is done by aerial photography.

Vanished former features have been an ornate, probably early 20th century drinking fountain, a pond, and public lavatories, all near the Bankside entrance. There was, also, once a corrugated iron hut for an on-site park keeper. This was near the West Hill entrance.

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Spring. The Friends of Littleheath Woods

By Ian Legatt

Spring is a time of renewal, when deciduous trees regain their fresh glossy green coats and life literally bursts out of the ground. At the time of writing the first leaves of the Bluebell are pushing through the soil in Littleheath Woods which is well known locally for its Bluebells. The bluebell is a bulbous perennial plant, particularly associated with ancient woodland where it may dominate the understorey to produce carpets of violet—blue.



Bluebell flowers are rich in pollen and nectar, and are chiefly pollinated by bumblebees. In the United Kingdom, the common Bluebell is a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Bluebells are threatened locally by habitat destruction, collection from the wild, and from the escape of the Spanish bluebell from gardens and subsequent cross-breeding and loss of true native populations. Surveys have revealed up to one in six bluebells found in broadleaved woodland to be a Spanish rather than native bluebell. Did you know that the

UK is home to about half of the world's bluebell population. Its sap was used to glue feathers onto arrows in the Middle Ages and to stiffen ruffs in Tudor times. (As the sap can also cause Dermatitis it can't have been a pleasant experience to wear a ruff around ones neck!) It is dedicated to England's Patron Saint, St George. (Credit to Wikipedia and Plantlife Org for much of the above)

Come and join The Friends of Littleheath Woods for a guided walk to find the Bluebells and other Spring Flowers on Saturday 22nd April. We meet at the junction of Queenhill and Littleheath Roads at 10 am and we will spend around 1.5 to 2 hours strolling around. Suitable for all the family, including well behaved dogs. Come dressed for the occasion. The paths will be muddy; the weather may be cold and damp. The guided walk is free.

You can find out more about The Friends of Littleheath Woods at www.folw.co.uk



Nature Notes

Words and Images by Ted Forsyth

Late winter, early spring, is a time when change is occurring. Redwings and Fieldfares are leaving the UK, Redpolls and Siskins are moving back to breeding areas in other parts of the country, and as the weather warms up Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps and Garden Warblers return possibly to breed in local areas.



A sunny day in early spring spent at the highest point in Croham Hurst might allow a view of Sparrowhawks as they indulge in display flights above the woodland. In the woodland below there is the usual complement of birds including Magpie, Jay, Ring-necked Parakeets and Woodpeckers, perhaps even a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker though they are becoming quite scarce. Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit and possibly Marsh Tit can all be found. Nuthatches are quite vocal and can be

tracked down but Treecreepers are quieter and more elusive.

While fungi are most abundant in autumn the winter/spring period can be a good time to search for crusts and jellies, particularly after wet weather, on fallen logs, branches and even twigs. Crystal Brain (almost transparent blobs of whitish jelly), Leafy Brain (folded blobs of tan-coloured jelly), Yellow Brain Parasitic on another fungus so probably on a living tree), and many others can all be found by careful searches.



Guided walks are helpful and there are many in the Croydon area. While the Croydon Council booklet "Walk Croydon – Into the Great Green Yonder" is no longer available in printed form, it can still be examined on the Council's website www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/parksandopenspaces/walks where the walks for January to June can be downloaded.



In the woodland below, a Marsh Tit.

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Jubilee Jottings

By Chris Quartly

The Rotary Club of Croydon Jubilee was the first Rotary Club in the Croydon borough to become an "evening" club in Rotary International, receiving its charter in 1978. Conceived originally as an idea of the Croydon South Rotary Club in 1977, it has worked tirelessly in Croydon both on its own and in collaboration with other local clubs for the benefit of the local, national and international community. Many will remember the Sanderstead Fireworks display organised by the Club on the recreation ground for many years before increasing costs forced closure and a focus upon other means of raising money for community work. Involvement in Youth Service programmes, including the annual Rotary public speaking competition "Youth Speaks" with some fourteen Croydon schools of all disciplines taking part, was just a part of its service programmes. A Classic Car Run was organised last year and is being repeated again this year on Sunday 23rd April with all proceeds going to Charity.

This year additionally the Croydon Jubilee

Rotary Club are organising a

BIG BAND Concert on Friday 9th June at Warlingham Rugby Club, Limpsfield Road at 8.00 pm (doors open at 7.30.)The era of the Big Band goes back to the 1940/50's with the likes of Ted Heath and Joe Loss but the music and arrangements live on to a surprising and popular extent. The BIG BAND of Nigel Garrard is a full band of 16 professional musicians – 5 saxophones, 4 trombones and 4 trumpets with percussion, double bass and keyboard. A sound to be relished to the full with the music of Count Basie, Glenn Miller and Ted Heath.

The venue offers more than adequate parking on site and with a licenced bar this is an occasion not to be missed – tickets £15 a head with children under 15 at £12 a head – but no tickets will be available on the door!

All profits will go to Prostate Cancer UK. More information and booking leaflet from Cliff Quartly on 020 8651 1164 or jubilee.rotary@gmail.com.

Better still come and join us at one of our meetings on Mondays at 7.00 for 7.30 pm at Croham Hurst Golf Club, Croham Road.
You would be most welcome.



LISTINGS & EVENTS • SELSDON LIBRARY



REGULAR EVENTS

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Storytime (21/2 Years +)

Tuesdays at 10:30 – 11:00am Saturdays at 2:30 – 3:00pm

Crafternoon (Ages 5-11)

Stories and crafts for children. Craft time in the library.

Saturday at 3:00 - 4:00pm

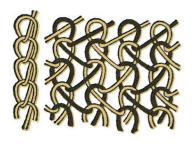
Rhymetime & Wiggle & Jiggle (Babies/Toddlers & 18 Months +)

Mondays at 11:00 – 11:30am Fridays at 10:30 - 11:00am & 11:30 – 12:00pm Saturday at 10:30 – 11:00am

WEEKLY ADULT'S EVENTS

Games Club

Bored? Looking to pass the time? Come and join our new Board Games Club. Groups and individuals welcome. Games provided. *Every Tuesday 4:00 – 5:30pm*



Adult Crochet Group

Work on your latest project, share skills and catch up with friends.

Every Thursday from 2:00pm

Parent's Club

Come along for a chat with other parents in the library while the children play. Free. No booking required.

Mondays 11:30 – 12:30pm Fridays 12:00 – 1:00pm

MONTHLY CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Chatterbooks (Key Stage 2, School Yrs 3-6)

Chat with other children about the books you have read and take part in games, crafts and quizzes. Admission FREE, but booking Required. Please see a member of staff for details.

Last Friday of the month from 4:00-5:00pm

Laughing Club (Ages 4+)

Chat with others and take part in riddles, quizzes, and other activities. Admission FREE, but booking Required. Please see a member of staff for details.

First Monday of the month from 4:30-5:15pm

Petty's Twinkle Toes (Ages 3-5)

Come along and learn some basic ballet skills. Admission FREE, but booking Required. Please see a member of staff for details.

Last Thursday of the month from

4:00-4:30pm

MONTHLY ADULT EVENTS

'Aprende Español' Language and Culture Taster Session

Adult Spanish sessions for beginners. Admission FREE, but booking Required. Please see a member of staff for details. Every Second Thursday of the Month from 3:30 – 4:30pm

Conversation Club in Urdu and English

Meet others for conversations in Urdu and English. FREE, but booking Required. Please see a member of staff for details. Every Second Thursday of the Month from 10:00-11:00am



Adult Reading Groups

Third Thursday of the Month at 11:00am Last Thursday of the Month at 11:00am First Saturday of the Month at 2:30pm

ONE-OFF EVENTS MARCH TO JUNE

ADULT ONE-OFF EVENTS

Local History Talk: Cane Hill Hospital, 'The Tower on the Hill'

Join historian Pam Buttrey at Selsdon

Library for an illustrated talk on its history. Admission: Free. Advance Booking Required.

Friday 19th May, 14:00 - 15:00



Volunteers Week Coffee Morning

Are you interested in information about volunteering opportunities available at Selsdon library? The perfect volunteering opportunity could be waiting for you. Come along to our volunteers week coffee morning, and start your own volunteering journey! Admission: Free. No booking required. Thursday 8th June, 10:00 - 12:00

An Introduction to the John Gent Collection

John Hickman and Carole Roberts present an illustrated talk on the John Gent Postcards Collection. Admission Free. Advance Booking Required. Friday 9th June, 14:00 – 15:00

Selsdon Contact Display

Contact is a neighbourhood care organisation that provides practical help, advice, support and information to the local community. Find out more about contact through the 'Contact: People who care' display at Selsdon Library.

Admission: Free. No booking required.

Monday 12th June, all Day

CHILDREN ONE-OFF EVENTS

Author's storytime with Ciara Flood

Join children's author and illustrator Ciara Flood for a fun-filled session of reading and drawing. Ages 4+

Admission Free. Advance Booking Required Saturday 3rd June, 14:30 - 15:30

Lego 'StoryStarter' Taster Session

Try out LEGO Education StoryStarter; let your imagination run wild and create your own story with this special kit! Admission:£1.50 library members / £3.00 non-members. Advanced booking required. Ages 8 – 12

Tuesdays 4th April, 18th April, 2nd May, 16th May, 30th May, 13th June, 27th June 16:00 - 17:00

Lego 'WeDo' Taster Session

Try out LEGO Education WeDo kit; make some of the twelve models such as a plane, crocodile or giant and program them to move! Admission:£1.50 library members / £3.00 non-members. Advanced booking required. Ages 8 – 12 Tuesdays 11th April, 25th April, 9th May, 23rd May, 6th June, 20th June 16:00 - 17:00

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Memorable Occasions

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Useful Information

Police

Reporting An Emergency

Call 999 if you are reporting a crime in progress or if someone is in immediate danger

Reporting Non Emergencies

Call 101 to report crimes that are not an emergency or to give information to the police or make an enquiry

Croydon University Hospital

530 London Road CR7 7YE 020 8401 3000

New Addington Minor Injuries

Parkway Health Centre Parkway New Addington CR0 0JA

Croydon Council

Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

General enquiries: 020 8726 6000 Lines are open: Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

www.croydon.gov.uk

Councillors for Selsdon and Ballards Ward

Cllr. Sara Bashford, Cllr. Dudley Mead, Cllr. Phil Thomas

Councillors for Croham Ward

Cllr. Maria Gatland, Cllr. Michael Neal, Cllr. Jason Perry

All the Councillors can be contacted either on the web (My Councillor Croydon) or by post: c/o Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR0 1NX.

Refuse Information

Black caddy all food waste, cooked or raw. Collection weekly

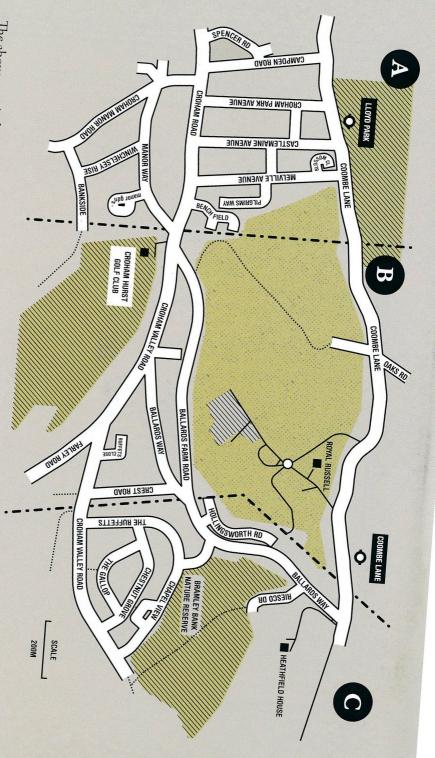
Blue recycling box: paper. Collection fortnightly

Green recycling box: plastic, glass, metal. Collection fortnightly

Large wheelie bins: landfill. Collection fortnightly

Textiles should be bagged and left out for collection weekly

www.croydon.gov.uk/environment



The above map indicates the areas that are covered by each association's representatives in respect of planning application or any other matters of concern. The phone numbers to contact for each are are as follows: A. 020 8688 9558 / B. 020 8657 8787 / C. 020 8657 6585