

CROHAM VALLEY

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Winter 2017



Croham Valley Residents' Association Committee

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

Cover: Winter 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.



Letter from the Editor

As I begin to write my final letter to you as editor I find myself looking out of my window at a beautiful late winter's morning in early December. The sky is blue and the sun is shining down making the frost on the fallen leaves sparkle like jewels.

Seeing the seasons change so dramatically makes my heart swell and often brings a tear to my eye with the magnificence and beauty of nature. I cannot get over the incredible show of colours we have had this autumn. Apparently due to the very dry spell in spring.

But with this glorious season the cold is settling in.

It is our luck that we have some interesting articles about wildlife and birds in particular, who will, soon be suffering the effects of frozen ground and water supplies. My 4 year old son and I placed bird feeders around our garden to make sure our winged visitors have a regular supply of food and water. We have been amazed at the different species we have spotted from our windows. We hope to attract more birds this winter and are looking forward to taking part in the RSPB Garden Birdwatch in January. Visit www.rspb.org.uk for more details and how to take part. You can also find out more about our green spaces, nature and the garden visitors you may encounter when you read the lovely articles by Ted Forsyth's, Ian Leggatt and John Birkett from RSPB Croydon.

If you find yourself with time to spare take a look at our listings pages, crammed with ideas for a chilly winter or perhaps you want to start the New Year with a new hobby? There are plenty of activities to entice you. Or our advertisers, Modern Jive could be just the thing you are looking for.

Within the CVRA management committee there has been a reshuffle, we welcome Jeremy Gill as our new chairman, Jeremy has been a member of our community for many years as well as a member of the CVRA committee. Edward Glynn our old chairman is now a Vice President.

We are always looking for new members and welcome any input from you, the residents, if it weren't for you there would be no residents association, we want to know we are getting it right, so if you have any ideas, comments or would like help please contact us.

So as we hurtle to the end of another year, I am now at the end of my term as editor of this newsletter. I took on the role knowing absolutely nothing about editing anything and very little about my neighbourhood having only moved here 2 years ago. It has been a pleasure to have been given the opportunity to revamp the newsletter, I have been really happy with the results and have met some wonderful people through the publication. Unfortunately we didn't get any volunteers to take over from me at the AGM so I'm not sure how the newsletter will evolve but if you or anyone you know is interested in taking on the job please contact Jeremy, our new chairman or myself for more information.

Merry Christmas to All!

Sara Pevsner

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Letter from the Chairman

Let me introduce myself

I have been a resident of Castlemaine Avenue for 22 years. My wife and I moved here because we liked the mixture of greenness and nice affordable housing and a quick journey up to London Bridge from South Croydon Train Station - which many of us within the area can walk to. It is funny to think that given the current crush at South Croydon train station, our main worry was whether the powers that be were going to close it given how quiet it was then.

I think the area on balance has improved over the 22 years. We have not lost any of the greenness but the quality of the housing has improved. The houses are generally better maintained than they were as they have been taken over by people with young families. The tram is also an asset to the area despite some of us being skeptical at the beginning. Whether the area will continue to improve is another question. Certainly there will be pressure for more housing. The challenge will be to make it sympathetic with what we have.

I have always been impressed in the diligence of the Chairmen and members of the Committee over the last 22 years. When Edward asked me to take over it was a pleasure to say yes. Thank you Edward. Also a large thank you to Wendy and Sara who as far as I can see do most of the work.

I have always tried to use what we have in the area. I play an occasional round of golf at Croham Hurst Golf Club and tennis at South Croydon Sports Club. I walk my fathers dog in Lloyd Park most days. If you see a fiftyish year old man walking a slow small white terrier in the park, that will be me.

"This is the last newsletter with Sara as editor. Again thank you Sara. Copying an idea from "Have I Got News for You" would anybody like to be guest editor for 2018. It would be your chance to shape the newsletter to your style - and give you a small introduction to publishing. If you are up for the challenge please contact me or Sara."

Jeremy Gill



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Planning

The Council will in future no longer be putting up Site Notices that advise Residents of new planning applications and will only be advising the neighbours on each side by letter of new planning applications.

To view the Croydon Public Access Register of Planning Applications enter the following web link

<http://publicaccess2.croydon.gov.uk/online-applications/>

This link takes you to the planning simple search screen where you can enter a keyword, reference number, post code or a single line of address

As an alternative to the simple search you can also choose the other options of advanced, weekly / monthly lists, property and map

Area A

A revised application at **21 Melville Avenue** to demolish the existing

bungalow and erect a 3 storey building (plus lower ground floor level) containing 6 two-bedroom flats has been approved. The demolition of the adjacent property at **23 Melville Avenue** has commenced pending construction of a new building comprising 7 one and two-bedroom flats.
re-notified.

Area B

21 Croham Valley Road

We understand a developer is interested in building a property at the rear of 21 Croham Valley Road and has additionally approached 19 Croham Valley Road to see if they would be prepared to sell some of their land to enable the developer to gain access to the rear of 21 Croham Valley Road, we understand they are not prepared to sell this land.

Area C

There are currently no new applications for planning within Area C.



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AGM 2017

Once again Chris Philp MP opened the AGM and updated us on his year as our MP.

Chris first outlined the big surprises of the year. First the 2nd general election, second the election of President Trump and third, Ed Balls doing well in a popular vote – albeit for his dancing.

Southern Rail

Chris has continued to spend a lot of time on Southern Rail. Southern's performance has been adversely affected by five issues over the last year;

Continuing refurbishment of London Bridge.

Lack of points maintenance.

Doubling of rail traffic over the last 25 years.

Southern Rail is too big and the contract lacks incentives for good service.

Strikes.

On the second issue Chris in conjunction with other affected MPs has obtained an extra £300million from the Department of Transport for points maintenance. He went individually to Sec of State for Transport Chris Grayling, then Phillip Hammond and then organised the other 25 affected MPs to see PM in December. Only then was a decision made.

He has also lobbied for the widening of the track through East Croydon to 8 lines from 6 to reduce congestion. He is sure funding for this will be announced in "Control Period 6" and this will be completed with three years.

On the size of Southern, Chris has lobbied for the contract to be split between operators on the basis it cannot be run efficiently by one operator.

On the strikes, Chris put forward a private members bill to reduce strikes on critical infrastructure. This was similar in scope to legislation already passed in other European countries. There was insufficient support for this bill.

Purley Skyscraper

This was awarded planning permission by the Council in December 2017. As the scheme has both more than 10 floors and 150 units, Chris lobbied the Sec of State for Communities and Local Government to apply for an independent planning inspector's review into the scheme. The Inspector will report in January 2018.

Purley Hospital

After much lobbying, Purley Hospital will reinstate morning minor injury services to complete an all-day service. All injuries except glass removal and

broken bones will be treated. Chris implored residents to use the service.

Schools Funding

Chris has lobbied for outer London schools to receive a fairer settlement. Higher levels have now been agreed. As a result, the secondary schools in South Croydon will receive an extra 10% above inflation. These are much needed extra funds.

Planning Applications

The Council have consistently overridden local objections to insensitive developments whilst missing opportunities in developing Croydon Town Centre whether for residential or commercial. Two examples where the Council have failed to agree schemes with landowners are the Nestle Building and the Post Office Building at East Croydon.

Questions from the Audience for both Chris Philp and Councillors Maria Gatland and Jason Perry
Chris was against Coombe Wood School but the decision was with the Inspector of the Council Plan. There was some sympathy for a school in that location as currently the local primary schools have no natural secondary school to feed into.
Chris thought that councils would

become more important in the coming few years as it is intended for councils to be able to retain business which they do not do at present.

Regarding the Boundary Commission Review of Parliamentary seats in Croydon, Chris said he would stand in Croydon South West if the Commission's proposals were enacted.

It was mentioned that there was excessive parking in Ballards Way on both sides. Councillor Maria Gatland explained the process for triggering a formal council consultation and offered to follow up.

There was a lot of disquiet about overhanging branches in the area. Again Maria Gatland offered to follow up. Regarding Whitgift Centre/Centrale development, Jason Perry explained there is general agreement that more housing is needed in the scheme and that clear proposals need to be agreed soon to avoid further decline in the town centre environment. However all parties are still talking.

Regarding the Fairfield Halls, the Council's plans to fully develop the site are dependent upon the sale of College Green for development. The project is significantly delayed and will not be ready for some time.

The President thanked Chris, Maria and Jason for attending.

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Nature Notes: Bird song – Listen to the rhythm

Words and Images by Ted Forsyth

At this time of the year few birds will be singing, though Great Spotted Woodpeckers will drum and Tawny Owls will call to advertise their territories, but it is possibly the best time to start paying attention to bird song as there are so few songsters to cause confusion.

While learning to identify bird sound can at first be a confusing exercise, each bird species has characteristics which help in the learning process. The rhythm with which the notes are released can often be described in words which act as a memory aid.

The rhythm of a Woodpigeon's notes sounds like "Take two cows Taffy, take two cows, take" with the first phrase being repeated and often ending on the single "take". A Collared Dove sounds like "coo, COO, coo" with the emphasis on the second syllable but it can add in a harsh note. Stock Dove, often out of sight, has a distinctive "Oo hoo, oo hoo, oo hoo".

Most people will recognize the flight call of a Jackdaw - "Jack", the "Caw" of a Carrion Crow, the harsh squawk of a Jay, the rattling chatter of Magpies, or the screech of a Ring-necked Parakeet but it is the genuine song birds which seem to produce difficulty.

Song Thrush is the most distinctive as it repeats a number of notes then switches to something slightly different and repeats that. The repetition is all that is needed for identification. The related Mistle Thrush is a larger bird and has a more powerful voice but contents itself with relatively short series of notes. It is not also known as the Storm Cock for nothing as it can be heard hurling its defiant song to the wind from the top of a tree during inclement weather.

Blackbird has a quieter and sweeter song than the Mistle Thrush and can be heard anywhere in the woodland, usually ending in a clatter of alarm call if it is disturbed.

I would suggest starting by convincing yourself that you can recognize the song of the Robin. For me it is reluctant to give away its whole song at once, dribbling out a few slow notes before stopping as though making sure it has been noticed before graciously throwing out a few more notes – it can even be heard singing late in the evening. The next step is to latch on to the Wren. For such a small bird its song, coming from low vegetation, is an explosion of notes released as though from a machine gun and identifies the bird as soon as it is



Ring-necked Parakeet

heard. The third bird I would associate with Robin and Wren is the Dunnock. Dunnock is a bird which skulks in the undergrowth and is often invisible when it sings, though it can sing from the top of a tree in the right conditions. Its song is a sweet jumble of notes which last longer than the Robin's and are at a higher frequency. If you can sort out this trio you are well on the way to learning bird song.

Many people express difficulty in separating the songs of Blackcap and Garden Warbler. In most woodlands around Croydon the song you are likely to hear in the summer is that of the Blackcap. The song is a cascade of notes but at some stage there is always a clear fluty note. If a passing Garden Warbler stays long enough to start singing there can be confusion but the song is a continuous out-pouring of notes with a more bubbling quality than the Blackcap and usually issuing from a hidden perch whereas the Blackcap is often happy to sing in full view.

In summer the woods are usually full of Chiffchaffs repeating their name – “Chiff, chiffchaff” but the similar-looking Willow Warbler, which might be present, has a song composed of a series of sweet descending notes. The third of this group of birds is the Wood Warbler, probably only a passage migrant nowadays though it used to breed on

Addington Hills before the tramway was built. It has two parts to its song, a plaintive “piu, piu, piu” followed by a long trill. Though these three birds are somewhat difficult to separate on sight, they are easily identified by their songs. The separation into three species originated from the observations of the clergyman/naturalist Gilbert White whose letters about general natural history were eventually collected in the book “The Natural History of Selborne”. The finches have very distinctive songs. Goldfinch has a tinkling quality which is also heard in the contact calls made in a flock of Goldfinches. The male Greenfinch sounds as though he is swearing “Dzweer” and will often issue his song as he flutters around in a song flight. The Bullfinch has a very quiet “tyou, tyou” which might be the only indication you have that a Bullfinch is nearby. The Chaffinch has a rhythm that is reminiscent of a bowler in cricket running up to deliver the ball. The first part of the song is like the patter of footsteps as the bowler makes his run but ends with a sudden release which is distinctive. Great Tit has a simple song which sounds like “Duty, duty” or Teacher, teacher” but it is notorious for making many other noises which means that an unknown song or call might be another of the Great Tit's repertoire. Blue Tit has a song which sounds like the

high-pitched squeaking of a gate “Ee, ee, ee”. Coal Tit is “See too, see too” or “Titty wee, titty wee”. Marsh Tit is very variable but usually contains a rapid “Chip, chip, chip” or “Schoopi, schoopi, schoopi”.

Parties of birds moving through woodland will make calls to maintain contact. Blackcaps hidden in bushes will give an alarm call which is a series of “Tick, tick” noises (as will Common Whitethroats) and there are other sounds made by birds at different times. One noise which is worth being aware of is when a Carrion Crow makes a number of urgent repeated calls – look up, it is probably mobbing a bird of prey or a Grey Heron.

There are other species which can be heard in or over the woods such as Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Goldcrest, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, and occasional

birds which pass through such as Lesser Whitethroat but I will leave these as exercises. There are many UK birds I have not mentioned and in other parts of the country, even close to Croydon, you will hear songs which you do not immediately recognise. Listen to the rhythm and consult the field guides. When you think you have narrowed down the possible candidates try listening to a recording, either on a DVD or on a site like the RSPB, but this is only worthwhile if you know which species you want to investigate. You could, of course, do the reverse and start by listening to one particular species on a recording then go out to look for it. However, it is not a good idea to attempt to memorise all the songs at once on a recording unless it is something like Robin, Wren, Dunnock which you are trying to separate.



Newsletter Editor

Wanted

To compile 4 newsletters per year, starting with the spring 2018 issue.
Please, contact the chairman to apply.

Local Birds

Words by John Birkett, RSPB Croydon Local Group

At first glance Croydon may not seem to be a good place to see birds, but every year at least 100 species are found. This is the story of some of the birds you may encounter here. As you might expect, tits, robins and



blackbirds are resident virtually everywhere, but there are some surprises. Some of the robins and blackbirds around during the winter will have come over from the continent to escape from the harsh weather over there. The best time for blackbirds in your garden is probably late winter! More amazingly, the goldcrest (our smallest bird, weighing about the same as a 20p coin) manages the stupendous feat of crossing the North Sea in the autumn when large

numbers come over from Scandinavia; and they then make the return journey in spring. Coming over at the same time as goldcrests are the winter thrushes (redwings and fieldfares) that will feast on berries and windfall apples. You might see flocks flying over in October/November as they arrive from Scandinavia. If we are very lucky a flock of waxwings could turn up and grace a berry bush; last winter four spent some time in South Croydon.

Who would have thought just twenty years ago that our skies would be graced with buzzards, red kites and peregrines? These



three species have expanded their range since the 1990s and are now established locally. Al-

though they may not be seen on a daily basis yet, keep your eyes looking skywards from time to time and you may have one flying over. They are now vying with kestrels and sparrowhawks to be kings of our skies.

Croydon is not well served with sources of water. There are very few streams and only a handful of large areas of standing water, but wherever there is water there will be a greater diversity of birds with the commoner waterfowl such as Canada geese, mallards, tufted ducks, coots and moorhens breeding. Even small ponds can turn up surprise visitors like the drake mandarin and shoveler that have appeared on Sanderstead pond. We are probably all aware of grey herons, some of which can be seen patrolling our skies looking for a pond to fish in, but their smaller cousin, the little egret, occasionally spends time with us. Another water bird that has established itself in Croydon is the Egyptian goose, which has now bred at two sites.

While we may all appreciate the everyday birds and those regular seasonal visitors it also pays to keep an open mind for the less expected. It is not unknown for pheasants to turn up in gardens and every so often red-legged partridges have been found, including one a few years ago in Croham Valley Road!

The RSPB Croydon Local Group has run a survey of Croydon's birds since 1995. This has given us a good insight into what birds are around and where, but we are always

ready to welcome new volunteers for that.

You can find out more about the Group and its activities on our website: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon> or better still, come along and talk to us at one of our meetings.

“Two Centuries of Croydon's Birds”

The book “Two Centuries of Croydon's Birds” is still available. Containing information about the birds seen in Croydon between 1800 and 2000 it shows how the fortunes of many species have changed in that time. You may even be surprised at just what has turned up over the years. As well as obvious losses, some species have fared extremely well. There are also sections on habitat changes in Croydon and several birdwatching sites are listed. The price is now just £3.00 and applies to purchases at meetings and events or for collection from a member of the group's committee. For orders to be sent by post, please add £1.50 per copy to cover post and packing. All proceeds will go towards supporting the RSPB's projects. To order a copy by post please write to John Birkett, 24 Briton Hill Road, Sanderstead, Surrey, CR2 0JL. Cheques should be made payable to ‘RSPB Croydon Local Group’

Winter. The Friends of Littleheath Woods

By Ian Leggatt



Snow covered paths

Winter can be a time of quiet contemplation in Littleheath Woods. The majority of trees are bare of leaves with only the native holly, yew, scots pine, juniper and box retaining their coats. The daylight, although short, illuminates the woodland floor and the occasional sunshine will cast long shadows through the trees and on the fields and glades. The Friends of Littleheath Woods will be coppicing to rejuvenate the hazel and removing old and damaged trees to create areas for new planting, to continue the cycle of growth. When, and if, the snow falls an almost magical air pervades the woods as a

stillness envelopes the trees and a hush falls. Fallen Oak Field, behind Croham Valley Road, will be alive to the sound of children whizzing down the slopes or playing snowballs or making a snowman, probably all three. You may see flocks of Redwings or Fieldfare feasting on the last of the berries.

You can find out more about Littleheath Woods and The Friends of Littleheath Woods and our work at www.folw.co.uk We have a Facebook page and you can now find Littleheath Woods on Tripadvisor and leave a review.



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Tuesday Nights
Whitgift Sports Club
The Clubhouse, Croham Manor Road
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LISTINGS & EVENTS

St. Paul's Guild

St. Paul's Guild invites you to join our local community group who meet on Tuesday mornings from 10.15-11.30. We have speakers lined up on various topics, including: The Making of a Monarch; Mindfulness and Meditation; RutherfordS hook; Gut Instinct and Kafir; Silk painting; The Knights of St James-A Spanish Odyssey; and more.

St. Paul's URC, Croham Park Ave, CR2 7HF

Tuesdays 10.15-11.30

Carol Singing at Selsdon Library

Join in the festive fun at Selsdon Library. Choirs from local primary schools will be performing in the library to get everybody in the mood for the Christmas season. Put a smile on your face with a mixture of carols and Christmas songs both traditional and modern.

Admission: Free. No Booking Required.

Families

Croydon High - *Monday 4 December - 1.30 - 2.15pm*

Forestdale Primary - *Thursday 7 December - 10.00 - 11.00am*

Redgates School - *Friday 8 December 2.00 - 2.45pm*

Courtwood Primary - *Monday 11 December - 1.30-2.15pm*

Storytime: 'One Christmas Night' with Pinecone craft

Christmas is near - but little Hedgehog has

forgotten to get presents for his friends, so he sets off into the forest to find gifts, but the night is cold and the woods are growing dark...

Find out what happens to Hedgehog in our Storytime.

Admission: Free. No Booking Required.

Under 5s.

Selsdon Library

Tuesday 5 December 10.30 - 11.00am

Rudolph the Reindeer Event.

Create your own wooden Rudolph. Enjoy a fun afternoon with the ranger team and learn some new craft skills.

Suggested donation £3 per reindeer. Ages 8+
Booking required. For more information and booking call 01372 279 083

Couldson Common CR3 5QQ

Saturday 9 December 1 - 3pm



Wildings family Fun

Learn how to make seasonal crafts from willow. There will also be plenty of opportunity for free play and exploration in the

beautiful woods with a campfire and hot chocolate to keep you warm. Ages 5+. To book email wildingsforestschoo@gmail.com
Sutton Ecology Centre, Carshalton SM5 0HS

Saturday 9 December 10 - 12noon & 1-3pm

WW1 Volunteers on the home front.

Find out about Croydon Women's Patrol and the Volunteer Firefighters

Admission free

Museum of Croydon

Saturday 9 December 11-4pm

Christmas Wreath Festival and Christmas Concert

There will be a display of wreaths, wreath making workshops, children's treasure hunt and refreshments. Then on Sunday 10th December at 6pm finish the weekend off with a Christmas Concert Musical entertainment "Come and sing your favourite Christmas carols and songs!" and readings for Christmas with mulled fruit punch and mince pies.

Free entry!! Donations welcome and will be shared equally between

St John's church and St Christopher's Hospice

St Johns Church, Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon CR2 8PU

Saturday 9 December: 10 - 4pm & Sunday 10 December 12noon - 4pm

RSPB Croydon

Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon. Second Monday of each month.

Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members. Free refreshments. A selection of RSPB goods, nuts & seeds are on sale.

"Essex and Suffolk Estuary Wildlife and

Habitat" - Alex Bass. Alex is a passionate bird and wildlife enthusiast who runs local birding tours in and around Suffolk.

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578 or see

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon

Admission £4.00

Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor rd CR2 7BG

Monday December 11: 2pm & 8pm



Skating Ring 📖

Get your skating boots on and join us at Selsdon Library to create your very own ice ring just in time for Christmas.

Admission: Free. Advance booking

Required. Ages 6+

Selsdon Library

Monday 11 December 4.00 – 5.00pm

Menorah on Trafalgar Square. 📖

Go along and see the giant menorah lit up for Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. One of the lights will be lit each day.

For more information visit www.london.gov.uk

Trafalgar Square, Westminster WC2N 5DN
11 - 20 December

Storytime: 'Ferdie's Christmas' with snowflake craft 📖

It's Christmas Eve and Ferdie has had a terrible thought- what if Father Christmas can't find the rabbits new burrow, so come on down and help him at Selsdon library with our special Christmas craft and story time.

Admission: Free. No booking required.
Under 5s.
Selsdon Library

Tuesday 12 December 10.30 – 11.00am

Christmas Paper Chain Craft 📖

Deck the halls this Christmas season. Drop by Selsdon library and make your own Christmas paper chain to decorate your home.

Admission: Free. No Booking Required.
Families
Selsdon Library

Thursday 14 December 4.00 – 5.30pm

Storytime: 'I've seen Santa!' with Santa hat craft 📖

Join us for our Christmas storytime at Selsdon library with little bear as he can't wait for Santa to deliver his presents.

Admission: Free. No booking required.
Under 5s.
Selsdon Library

Saturday 16 December 2.30 – 3.00pm

Christmas Messages from the Trenches

Send a Christmas message to someone you care about, inspired by the card sent from the First World War trenches in our collections.

Admission free
Museum of Croydon

Saturday 16 December 11- 4pm

Storytime: 'Dave's Christmas Cracker' with Christmas cracker craft 📖

Have fun at Selsdon Library listening to our exciting story and make a Christmas cracker which will make your Christmas extra special.

Admission: Free. No booking required.
Under 5s.
Selsdon Library

Tuesday 19 December 10.30 – 11.00am

Croydon and District National Trust Centre: Working for The Churchills by Nonie Chapman

Admission £4.00 per person on the door
Shirley Parish Hall, 81 Wickham Rd
CR08TB

Wednesday 20th December 14:00n

Christmas Coffee Morning

Come along to our festive Christmas coffee morning, where you'll have a chance to chat over some coffee, cake and biscuits.

Admission: Free. No booking required.
Adults.

Selsdon Library

Thursday 21 December 10.30am – 12.00pm



Christmas Rhymetime and Wiggle & Jiggle 📖

Join us in singing all your Rhymetime

favourites with a Christmas twist.
Admission: Free. No Booking Required.
Under 5s
Selsdon Library
Friday 22 December 10.30 – 11.00am



Christmas Stories. Coulsdon Common 📍

Take a walk across the Common and sit by the fireside roasting marshmallows and listening to Christmas stories. Ages 4+
For information and to book call
01372279083
Coulsdon Common, CR3 5QQ
Friday 22 December 6 - 7.30pm

Storytime: 'Something Magic in the Night' with Christmas tree craft 📍

The cookies are baked, the shopping done. The tree is up, the balls are hung, everything's ready for Christmas so come down to Selsdon library and enjoy our storytime and tree making craft and get your hands on some candy cane treats!
Admission: Free. No booking required.
Under 5s
Selsdon Library
Saturday 23 December 11.30am – 12.00pm

Christmas Rhymetime and Wiggle & Jiggle 📍

Join us in singing all your Rhymetime favourites with a Christmas twist.
Admission: Free. No booking required.
Under 5s
Selsdon Library
Saturday 23 December 10.30 – 11.00am

Happy new Year

New Year's Day Parade. 📍

Celebrate the New Year, join over 10,000 participants at this annual event. The parade starts at 12noon on Piccadilly at the junction with Berkeley Street and finishes at 3.30 in Parliament Square. For more information and to buy grandstand tickets visit www.lny-dp.com
Central London
Monday 1 January 12noon - 3.30pm

Free, family workshops and events.

All our family workshops take place from 11am - 4pm and are free, drop-in, family events. Each activity is suitable for 5-11 year olds, although other ages can enjoy them too. They can take as little as 20 minutes to complete., but feel free to take as long as you like. As well as our 3 free galleries, Croydon Clocktower also has a great cafe and Library.

Design your Own New Year Calendar.

Inspired by the Museum of Croydon
Admission free
Museum of Croydon
Saturday 6 January

RSPB Croydon

"Filey Bay". Mark James Pearson, an ornithologist based at Filey Bird Observatory in North Yorkshire, tells us about Arrivals and Departures at this North Yorkshire

hotspot where migration never stops.
For more information contact John Davis on
020-8640 4578 or see
www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon
Admission £4.00
Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor rd
CR2 7BG
Monday January 8: 2pm & 8pm

100 Banners Project

Find out about the women who fought for
equality.
Admission free
Museum of Croydon
Saturday 13 January

Horse drawn Wagons.

Create horse drawn wagons, inspired by the
Surrey Iron Railway
Admission free
Museum of Croydon
Saturday 20 January

Colour Wheel

Have fun making colours from colours by
creating an art Wheel.
Admission free
Museum of Croydon
Saturday 20 January

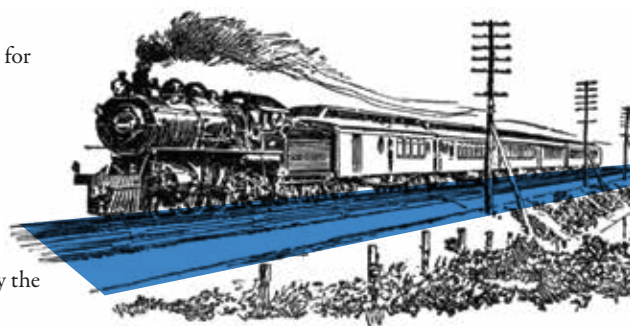
Bones of Croydon

Get up close and personal with one of the
earliest Croydonians.
Admission free
Riesco Gallery, Croydon Clocktower
*Tuesday - Saturday 10.30am - 5pm (except
public holidays). Until January 2019*

Gujarati Yatra

The exhibition is inspired by Subrang arts,
supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and

curated by Rolf Killius and Lata Desai in
partnership with the Museum of Croydon.
For more information visit [www.gujaratiya-
tra.com](http://www.gujaratiya-
tra.com)
Admission free
Croydon Clocktower
*Tuesday- Saturday 10.30am - 5pm (except
public holidays). Until Saturday 14 April
2018*



The David Lean Cinema

January programme. Tickets on sale from
Thursday 7th December.
Tue 2 Jan, 2.30 & 7.30 – MURDER ON
THE ORIENT EXPRESS (12A):
Rescreening of this retelling of the Agatha
Christie mystery, with an all star cast lead by
Kenneth Branagh.
Thu 4 Jan, 2.30 and 7.30 – THE DEATH
OF STALIN (15): Rescreening of Armando
Iannucci's comedy-drama of how the Soviet
dictator lives out his final days and the chaos
after his death.
Tue 9 Jan, 11am – Babes in Arms screening
– MURDER ON THE ORIENT
EXPRESS (12A)
Tue 9 Jan, 7.30 – THE KILLING OF A
SACRED DEER (15): Colin Farrell plays a
surgeon who is forced to make an unthink-
able sacrifice after his life starts to falls apart.
Thu 11 Jan, 2.30 (HOH) & 7.30, & Tue 16

Jan, 2.30 – **FILM STARS DON'T DIE IN LIVERPOOL** (15): Annette Bening and Jamie Bell star in the story of a young actor's love affair with screen icon Gloria Grahame.
Tue 16 Jan, 7.30, & Sat 27 Jan, 2.30 (*Holocaust Memorial Day*) – **MENASHE** (U): In Brooklyn's Hasidic Jewish community, a widower battles for custody of his son in this tender drama.

Thu 18 Jan, 7.30 – **INGRID GOES WEST** (15): In this frightening and funny study of social media, Aubrey Plaza plays an unhinged stalker who moves to LA and insinuates herself into the life of an Instagram star.

Thu 23 Jan, 7.30 – **MANIFESTO** (15): Cate Blanchett portrays 13 distinct characters in vignettes that incorporate timeless manifestos.

Thu 25 Jan, 11am & 7.30 – **JANE** (PG): Using newly re-discovered footage, and with a Philip Glass score, the film tells the story of Jane Goodall's groundbreaking study of chimpanzees in the wild.

Tue 30 Jan, 7.30 – **HAPPY END** (15): In Michael Haneke's latest film, a self-absorbed bourgeois family living in Calais pay little attention to the refugee crisis on their doorstep.

Thu 1 Feb, 2.30, & 7.30 (LGBT History Month screening) – **BATTLE OF THE SEXES** (12A): The true story of the 1973 grudge tennis match between World number one Billie Jean King (Emma Stone) and ex-champ and chancer Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell).

The David Lean Cinema is a 68 seat arts cinema located within Croydon Clocktower. Most screenings are now presented by the Save the David Lean Cinema Campaign; a non-profit Community Interest Company.

RSPB big Garden Birdwatch 📍

Take part in the world's biggest garden wildlife survey. spend just 1 hour observing and recording the comings and goings of bird life visiting your garden or local green space, then send your results to the RSPB. For information and to register visit www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch
Saturday 27 - Monday 29 January

Polka theatre

My Brother, My Sister and Me 📍

This playful new Polka show is based on conversations with young children about their own sibling relationships, and has been designed to keep children aged 2-5 enthralled throughout.

Until 11 February



The Snow Queen 📍

Kai and Gerda are best friends, as close as if they were brother and sister. Together, with their friends they reimagine the thrilling adventures of Hans Christian Anderson's classic winter fairy tale.

Until 4th February.

Polka Theatre, Wimbledon. Box office 020 85434888

RSPB Croydon

"A Year with the BTO". Penny Williams describes a year in the life of a regional BTO

(British Trust for Ornithology) Representative and the various surveys that the BTO carry out. You probably know some already, e.g. the Bird Atlas.

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon

Admission £4.00

Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor rd
CR2 7BG

Monday February 12: 2pm & 8pm

Croydon Ecology Centre: Workdays

Every Tuesday and Friday and on the first and third Sunday of every month

Sundays 10:30-15:30

Littleheath Woods: Workdays

Every Tuesday morning throughout the year.

Contact folw.co.uk for more information.

Woodlands Children's Centre

We provide a whole range of services for Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and their children. We run varied services and are sure that you will find something that appeals to you.

Here are just some of the things that we run:

Stay & play sessions

Cooking lessons for children and adults (£5 charge)

Parenting Courses

Baby Clinic

Baby Massage (£5 charge)

All our services are available to anyone with a child aged 0-5 years.

Woodlands Children's Centre Farnborough
Ave. CR2 8HD

www.woodlandscscc.info

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Phone: 07469 942 841

Email info@surreysharpener.co.uk

Or visit

www.surreysharpener.co.uk

Coombe Wood School

Words by Jeremy Gill

Coombe Wood School: Potential planning permission issues over the layout of the school - should the inspector give approval. The Trust plans to open the school in the Autumn of 2018 in temporary buildings on the site. They will start with one year group on the site comprising 180 pupils.

In their presentation on the 30 October the Folio Trust and the Department for Education show the Portakabin type buildings will be next to the existing car park. In addition, all access to the site will be from the existing entrance in Melville Avenue.

However they did say that pupils leaving and arrival times would be staggered to reduce congestion in Melville Avenue.

There is no information of the design or location of the permanent buildings.

We have two main requests.

1. Where is the access? Hopefully somewhere along Coombe Road.
2. Where are buildings and lit areas on the site? Hopefully as far as possible away from housing.

We know these are only the temporary buildings but we would rather these concerns are addressed now so the precedent is set.

However neither of these concerns were

dealt with in the 30th October presentation. Therefore should the Inspector give the go ahead for the school in his review of the Croydon Plan and the official planning permission submission for the temporary buildings stays the same, the Committee feels we should object to this access and layout.

We would appreciate your views.

Since I wrote the above, the planning application for the temporary buildings has been submitted (still before the Inspector has reported). It can be found here: [http://publicaccess2.croydon.gov.uk/online-applications/case-](http://publicaccess2.croydon.gov.uk/online-applications/case-Details.do?action=dispatch&keyVal=OZTPGKJLOBK00&caseType=Application)

[Details.do?action=dispatch&keyVal=OZTPGKJLOBK00&caseType=Application](http://publicaccess2.croydon.gov.uk/online-applications/case-Details.do?action=dispatch&keyVal=OZTPGKJLOBK00&caseType=Application)
The application is as per the 30th October presentation - access is via Melville Avenue.

Therefore we will be objecting on the grounds of access, at this stage. Specifically on the location of access to the site of any vehicles whether construction vehicles or cars belonging to anybody accessing the site.

I recommend any interested residents send a comment to the Council on these plans.

Happy Holidays!

From the CVRA's committee



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

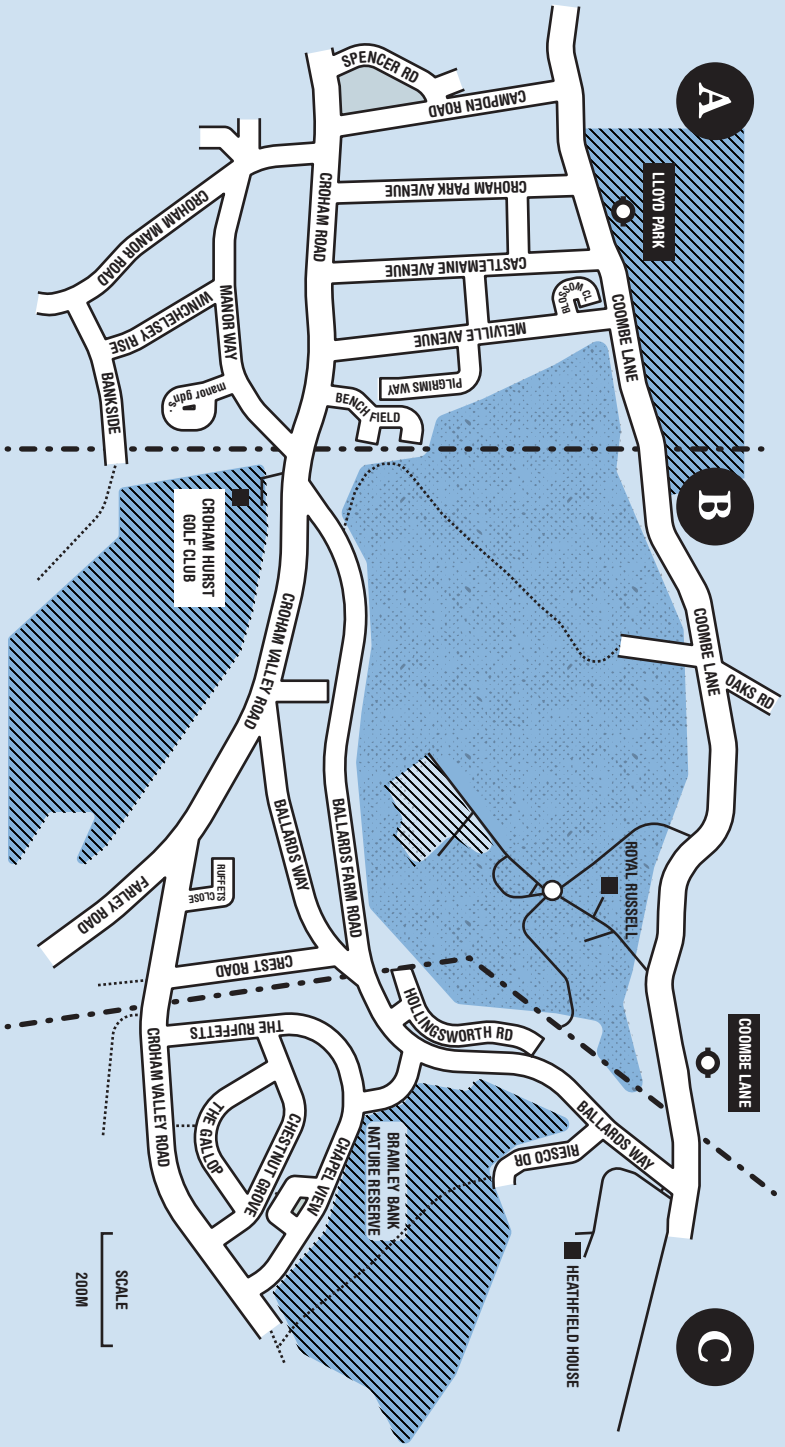
Blue recycling box: paper. Collection fortnightly

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 as follows:

A. 020 8688 9558 / B. 020 8657 8787 / C. 020 8657 6585