LEISURE LINK

SCAN ME TO

FIND OUT MORE

APR / MAY 2023

The Leisure Link magazine will share with you information about accessible and inclusive activities and events.

The Leisure Link group meet in different Croydon venues once a month.

The Leisure Linkers talk about arts and leisure: things we have done and things we look forward to.

Produced by

CLUB SODA

We hope you find it interesting and that you have the opportunities to take part in some of the things we have featured.

APR / MAY 2023

WHAT'S INSIDE

Dates for your diary
page 2

Symbols Key
What they mean
page 3

The Map
Where things are happening
page 4

Features
Cool things going on
page 5

Reviews
What we've been doing
page 6

Share With Us
Leisure Linkers share photos and artwork page 8

What's On
Upcoming events
page 10

Get Involved
All about Leisure Link
page 14

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

13th Leisure Link social @ Riff Raffs

20th Club Soda bands @ The Oval Tavern

Apr-Jun Exhibition @ Museum of Croydon

28th SoDaDa @ Fairfield

29th Pool + Disco @ Frames

30th Wrestling @ Stanley Arts

May

16th Tuesday socials @ Victory Club

11th Leisure Link social

15-28th Commons Festival @ Stanley Arts

18th Poetry @ Matthews Yard

Leisure Linkers @ Riff Raffs

SYMBOLS

These symbols are here to help you see how accessible venues, events and services are.

VENUE

ACTIVITIES ONLINE

ON SITE PARKING

OFF SITE PARKING

CARD PAYMENTS

CASH PAYMENTS

DONATION

FREE EVENT

COMPANION / CARER DISCOUNT

FRIENDLY STAFF

SOCIAL

WELLBEING

FILM

DANCE

NATURE / OUTDOORS

ARTS + CRAFTS

SPORT

THEATRE

MUSIC

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

LEVEL ACCESS AND AUTOMATIC DOORS (OR NO DOORS)

RAMPED/SLOPED ACCESS, AND/OR MANUAL DOORS

RAMPED/SLOPED ACCESS THAT IS LONG/STEEP (MAY HAVE MANUAL DOORS)

LIFTS

SEAT/S AVAILABLE

SAFE / QUIET SPACE AVAILABLE

DISABILITY AWARENESS/EQUALITY TRAINED STAFF

STAFF TRAINED IN SIGN LANGUAGE

FACILITIES FOR ASSISTANCE DOGS

BRAILLE

AUDIO DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE

CAPTIONED

HEARING LOOP

ACCESSIBLE TOILET

GENDER NEUTRAL TOILET

INFORMATION IN LARGE PRINT

WIFI AVAILABLE

THE MAP

Croydon Leisure Linkers recommend places where things are happening this month

1 Turf Projects
Creative art space
Whitgift Centre, 46-47 Trinity Court, Croydon, CR0 1UQ
020 3251 0108
turf-projects.com

2 Frames Sports bar
Pool, snooker & events
202 Brighton Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2NF
020 8660 7660
framessportsbar.com

3 The Victory Club
Social club
227 Selhurst Road, Croydon, SE25 6XY
020 8653 2617
www.thevictoryclub.co.uk

4 Matthews Yard
Community & cultural venue
166 North End, Croydon, CR0 1UF
www.matthewsyard.com

5 Oval Tavern
Pub with regular community events
131 Oval Road, Croydon, CR0 6BR
020 8686 6023
theovaltavern.co.uk

6 Museum of Croydon
Art, film & exhibitions
Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR9 1ET
museumofcroydon.com

7 Stanley Arts
Arts & performance venue
12 South Norwood Hill, SE25 6AB
020 8251 0184
stanleyarts.org

8 Riff Raffs
Bar & coffee shop with DJ nights
28 George Street Croydon, CR0 1PB

9 Boxpark
Food & entertainment venue
99 George St, Croydon, CR0 1LD
www.boxpark.co.uk/croydon/

10 Fairfield Halls
Arts, events & conference venue
Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 1DG
www.fairfield.co.uk

SODA CREW DJs

PAST EVENT... AT BOXPARK

Feedback from a member of the audience at our Soda Crew DJ event.

"I have been living in London all my life. This is the first time I've been to Boxpark in Croydon. It's only 2 minutes walk from the station. I love the atmosphere, I love the vibe, there should be more events like this."

★ **Please tell us what you think of our events**

www.clubsoda.org.uk/feedback/

CLUB SODA

SODADA

NEXT EVENT... AT FAIRFIELD

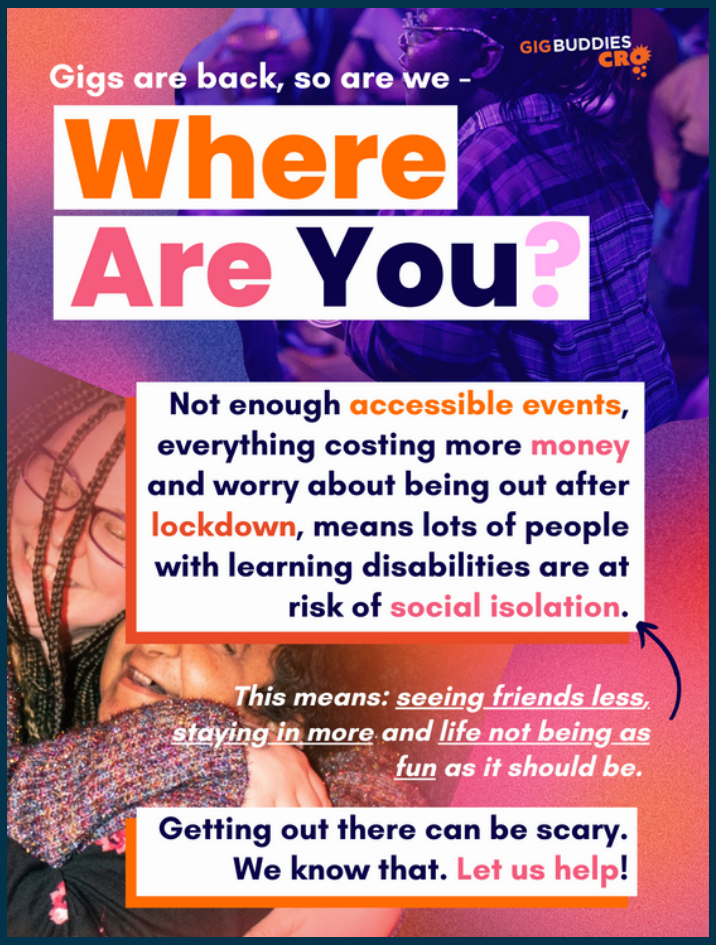
Friday 28th April at 7pm

Fairfield Halls

£5 on the door

GIG BUDDIES CROYDON

No one could tell us how many adults with learning disabilities there are right now in Croydon...
So we are shouting from the rooftops:



Where Are You?

Gig Buddies want everyone in our community to have an equal choice in how we live our lives. Everyone with a learning disability should be able to go out and enjoy the things they love.

Community is important, you should be part of it.

Be part of the fun, help us change Croydon for the better and make heaps of friends along the way...

Or.... if you have a friend or family member with a learning disability who could do with some good times after a tough couple of years, we want to hear from them!

Find out more **www.gigbuddiescroydon.co.uk**

BUDDIES STORIES

JIM + JORDAN
YEAR MATCHED 2019
THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES

Jim and Jordan are our first Gig Buddy match since the project started in 2019. Jordan didn't really have a social life outside of college or his family. He was quite shy and not confident going out on his own. He was matched with Jim 4 years ago and has grown in confidence so much.

Jordan was the reason that a group of matched pairs now meet up together regularly and plan events outside of the Gig Buddies socials. This has changed the way the Gig Buddies project works!

He is always excited to meet new buddies and is bringing people together on the project. He now has a group of friends he helps arrange outings with and enjoys finding new events to go to.

CAITLIN + HOLLY
YEAR MATCHED 2019
PART OF THE FAMILY

Caitlin & Holly's friendship has survived a lot of changes. They are one of our first matches who quickly became very important to each other.

The pandemic really affected them. Holly, who lives in supported living, was sheltering during Covid and isolated from her family and regular groups. Her connection with Caitlin helped her deal with the effects of the pandemic. During the pandemic, Caitlin gave birth to her first child. Although their meetups have changed, they are still a really important part of each other's lives. Holly and her mum came to Caitlins son's first birthday party and their Gig Buddy match has become a true friendship.

A big thank you to Gig buddies for being part of this Leisure Link feature.

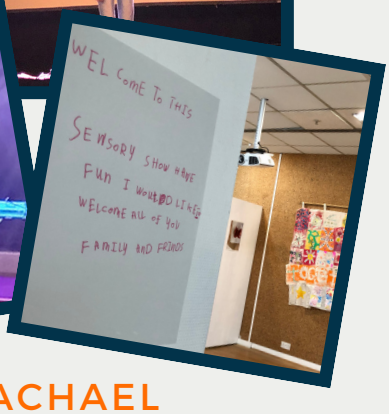
WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO...

"I went to a **Status Quo concert** in Brighton. I had a great time."

ROBERT

"I had an **art exhibition** at **TURF projects** on my birthday, all my family came."

BARAT



"I recently saw a talent competition at **Stanley Arts**."

RACHAEL

YOUR PICS

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS & TELL US WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING

"I went to **M's cafe** at Longheath community centre. We celebrated the first year of running a drop-in cafe for people with learning disabilities and mental health."

LEISURE LINKER

"I went to a Ceilidh run by **SLiDE Dance**."

SEDLEY

"I am excited about the **King's Coronation** on 6th May."

LEISURE LINKER

"I'm looking forward to being the DJ for a **Borough of Culture** event at TURF."

BRIAN

Share with us by emailing **rachael@clubsoda.org.uk**

"I performed some poems at a gig called **Poetry Mix** in **Matthews Yard**."

SEDLEY

"**Any Neighbours fans out there!** I had the opportunity to meet the cast of Neighbours including Dr Karl Kennedy and Paul Robinson before the show in Brighton. It was amazing."

TERRY

YOUR PICS

SHARE YOUR VIEWS / PHOTOS / FEEDBACK

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO...

"I am looking forward to the next **SoDaDa** event at Fairfield."

RACHAEL

"I enjoy **knitting, cooking and helping others** in the community."

WENDY

"I would like to hear more from **Luminus Starchild** during **LBoC**."

BRANDON

"I am going to see wrestling at the O2."

ROBERT

LEISURE LINK SOCIAL

What: Leisure Link social
When: Thursday 13th April, 3:30pm-5pm
Where: Riff Raffs bar & cafe 28 George Street, Croydon, CR0 1PB
Cost: Free

Leisure Link is a group for people with learning disabilities and supporters who meet once a month to talk about arts and leisure: things they have done and things they are looking forward to.

Find out more: clubsoda.org.uk

WHAT'S ON

THE OVAL TAVERN

What: Live Music
When: Thursday 20th April, 7:30pm
Where: The Oval Tavern, 131 Oval Road, Croydon, CR0 6BR
Cost: Free

TV TRANSIENT VISITORS + THE CARBONATORS

Transient Visitors and The Carbonators are performing live in this welcoming community pub.

Find out more: 020 8686 6023
theovaltavern.co.uk

SODADA AT FAIRFIELD

What: SoDaDa event
When: Friday 28th April, 7pm
Where: Fairfield, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 1DG
Cost: £5 / £2 suggested donation for support workers. Cash on the door

SoDaDa is an event with different kinds of live performances, including dance, art and music.

WHAT'S ON

Find out more:
email **anna@slidedance.org**
07754 639009
www.fairfield.co.uk

POOL & DISCO AT FRAMES

What: Pool Knock Out, disco, bingo, food & more
When: Saturday 29th April, 6pm-12am
Where: Frames Sports bar, 202 Brighton Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2NF
Cost: £15

A night of fun and games for people who live with special educational needs and/or learning difficulties.

Find out more:
email **Alannah.farr@achievetogether.co.uk**
Alannah or Fiifi **020 8651 9670**

WRESTLING AT STANLEY ARTS

What: Colosseum
When: Sunday 30th April, 4pm-7pm
Where: Stanley Arts, 12 South Norwood Hill, SE25 6AB
Cost: £13-£17

Featuring an all-star roster including Sha Samuels, Joel Redman, Levi Muir, The 87 and KM Lane.

Witness a compelling, emotionally-driven professional wrestling extravaganza as it delves into the past to recover its roots and bring this ancient tradition back to form.

Find out more: stanleyarts.org
020 8251 0184

WHAT'S ON

VICTORY CLUB SOCIALS

What: Tuesday Social Club + Live music by Brian (Order fish and chips by Monday 2pm.)
When: Tuesdays, 12pm-4pm
Where: 227 Selhurst Road, Croydon, SE25 6XY
Cost: Visitors / guests are required to pay £3 per visit or apply to join - (Full membership £20 per year, over 65's £10 per year).

The Victory Club has a variety of entertainment for the whole family including live music, quiz nights, bingo and karaoke.

Find out more: www.thevictoryclub.co.uk
020 8653 2617

POETRY MIX AT MATTHEWS YARD

What: Poetry Open Mic
When: Thursday 20th April & Thursday 18th May 7pm-10pm
Where: Matthews Yard, 166 North End, Croydon, CR0 1UF
Cost: Free

WHAT'S ON

The Poetry Mix is a free monthly poetry themed open mic. Hosted at multiple venues in South London.

Find out more: **www.matthewsyard.com**

SLIDE DANCE LEADERS

Fifi, Izzy, Natasha, Will and Noelle have been working hard over the last 6 months developing their leading and performance skills.
In May the group will work with the MOSS artists and degree students from London Contemporary Dance School.

"It makes me feel good." Will

"Being a dance leader makes me more confident. I am so much better now and stronger." Nastasha

Do you have a learning disability and **want to choose how to live your life, in your community?**

leisurelink Croydon

Where Are You?

We want to tell you more...

Come join Leisure Link in Croydon

We run **monthly socials where you can join us and:**

- **Meet people** who are passionate about making Croydon accessible to all
- **Share activities** you have been doing and things you look forward to
- **Recommend events** & venues locally
- **Discover new places** to go

#WhereAreYou?

CLUB SODA

We create **regular magazines** **where you can help to:**

- **Review** **accessible places** in Croydon
- **Provide** **information** about where to go
- **Discuss** **what is important** to people in Croydon with learning disabilities

We produce **regular podcasts** **where you can help to:**

- **Promote** **local artists** & organisations
- **Feature** **venues,** events & activities
- **Celebrate** **inclusive arts** & culture

To find out more
email **rachael@clubsoda.org.uk**
or visit **clubsoda.org.uk**

SCAN ME TO
FIND OUT MORE

OTHER STUFF...

OUR PODCAST

OUT NOW...Listen to Episode #6

Alice, Mario, Sara and Ryan from Club Soda's media team (Soda Streamers) talk about their experiences. Also the latest tracks from The Carbonators, Transient Visitors, Luminous Starchild and Theophilus Oluwafifehami Ajayi.

- **Do you think you would be a good host?**
- **What would you like to hear on the podcast?**
- **Let us know**

Email: rachael@clubsoda.org.uk

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CLUB SODA?

Email: olly@clubsoda.org.uk

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GIG BUDDIES?

Email: chez@gigbuddiescroydon.co.uk

We work hard to make sure that the information in this newsletter is correct. Please always check with venues and services before heading out.

"I love Market Tavern"
ROBERT

"I love SAVVY Theatre"
CHRIS

"I love Boxpark"
WAYNE

"I love OurSpace Hub"
SEDLEY

"I love Front Room"
BRYONY

"I love Monday Club"
SHANNEN

"I love PHAB Club"
VALERIE

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