

# LEISURE LINK



A magazine about accessible activities and events for everyone

Oct / Nov 2023

**THIS IS  
CROYDON**



Produced by



Leisure Linkers make  
this magazine.

We meet every month  
to talk about arts and  
leisure.

Scan me to



find out more

# WHAT IS INSIDE?

<b>Page 2</b>	<b>Dates for your diary</b> - Dates to remember
<b>Page 3</b>	<b>Symbols Key</b> - What they mean
<b>Page 4</b>	<b>Venue Map</b> - Where things are happening
<b>Page 5</b>	<b>Features</b> - What we've been doing
<b>Page 6</b>	<b>Reviews</b> - What we've been doing
<b>Page 8</b>	<b>Share With Us</b> - Photos and artwork
<b>Page 10</b>	<b>What is coming up?</b> - Upcoming events
<b>Page 14</b>	<b>What Really Matters</b> - All about Leisure Link

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Oct-Nov</b>	<b>Exhibition @ Croydon Clocktower</b>
<b>12th Oct</b>	<b>Leisure Link social</b>
<b>14th Oct</b>	<b>Relaxed screenings @ David Lean Cinema</b>
<b>18th-28th</b>	<b>A Bit of A Do @ Front Room / Stanley Arts</b>
<b>20th Oct</b>	<b>SoDaDa @ Fairfield</b>
<b>21st Oct</b>	<b>SLiDE @ Stanley Arts</b>
<b>9th Nov</b>	<b>SLiDE @ Fairfield</b>
<b>11th Nov</b>	<b>Pool + Disco @ Frames</b>
<b>27th Nov</b>	<b>Soda Crew @ Boxpark</b>



**SoDaDa event**

# 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



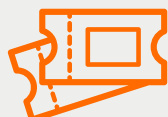
CASH  
PAYMENTS



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



# VENUE MAP

Places where things are happening  
in Croydon over the next 2 months





# INSPIRING OTHERS

BY VICKY AND GERRY SILK



## DON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER

**This is a message that our young adults can do anything they want to do as long as we don't take no for an answer...**

Here is a photo of Vicky in action as Virgin crew complete with a Vivienne Westwood designed uniform.



## IT'S A LONG STORY

**We pursued several airlines for a few years to fulfil Vicky's dream of working as crew.**

The only one that came through was Virgin Atlantic. Despite never having given anyone work experience, they eventually agreed to give her a day in crew training in 2013. Vicky enjoyed an additional day in the office in Crawley. As we happened to be flying with them to St Lucia shortly after that, they told the crew to allow her to lend a hand.

If you would like to get involved in being part of Leisure Link, sharing your work and inspiring others, please email: [rachael@clubsoda.org.uk](mailto:rachael@clubsoda.org.uk)

## CHASING DREAMS

We met Ryan, he has become a superstar supporter. This year to mark Vicky's 30th birthday we took a trip to Walt Disney World Florida. Ryan changed his rotas to be on our flight, he took her to the Crew briefing and onto departures.



Vicky jumped up to assist during the 8 hr flight and was, of course, loved by crew and passengers.

It was a spectacular performance and one we will all treasure.

Hope it inspires others to chase their dreams.

# 'A BIT OF A DO FESTIVAL'

## AN INCLUSIVE FESTIVAL OF THEATRE, DANCE AND CABARET PRODUCED BY DRUNKEN CHORUS

A Bit Of A Do is a festival celebrating the work of disabled and non-disabled artists. The festival runs every year in Croydon and this is the sixth year the festival has happened!

**A Bit Of A Do is being organised and produced by arts charity, Drunken Chorus, who also recently organised Liberty Festival.**

**Free tickets are available for all of the performances and events.**

**THEATRE, COMEDY, DANCE, CABARET AND FAMILY SHOWS.**



photo by Corinne Cumming

**18TH - 28TH  
OCTOBER 2023**

At the festival you can see lots of different art, such as; theatre, comedy, dance, cabaret and family shows.

This year the festival features artists such as:

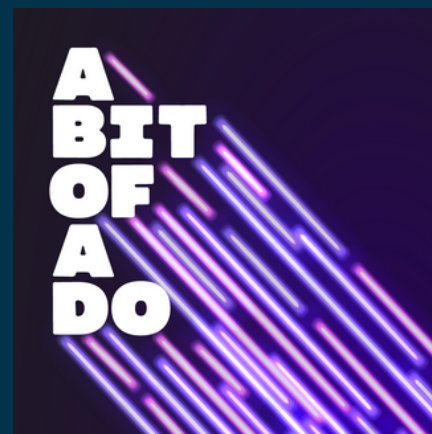
**FlawBored Theatre  
Rinkoo Barpaga  
Jo Fong and George Orange  
Small Acts  
Dan Tiernan  
Shelf  
Ellen Renton**



## IN THE FRONT ROOM AND STANLEY ARTS, CROYDON



photo by Graeme Braidwood



### Access

All performances and events are relaxed meaning you can move around and make noise and tic as needed.

All performances will either be BSL interpreted or be performed in BSL with voiceover in spoken English.

Some performances will have live audio description, touch tours, pre-recorded audio description or integrated audio description.

Check the programme for details.

**We can't wait to welcome you to  
A Bit Of A Do Festival this  
October!**



photo by Guy Saunders

### Tickets?

All events at A Bit Of A Do are Pay What You Can. You can pay either £0, £5 or £10 to experience the performance. Check our website to find out more about the performances and book your tickets:

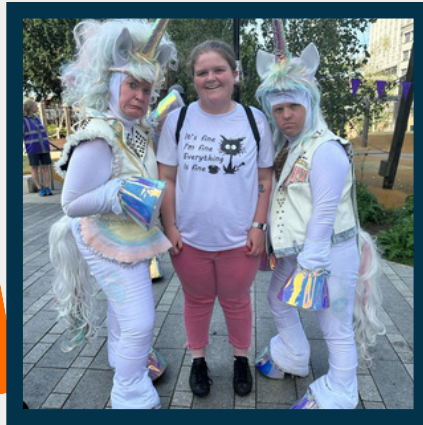
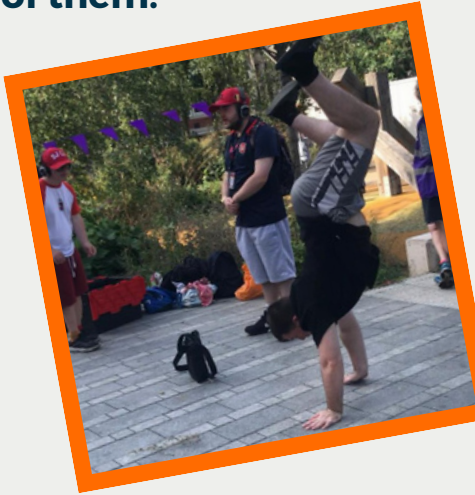
<https://www.drunkenchorus.co.uk/a-bit-of-a-do>

or email [lila@drunkenchorus.co.uk](mailto:lila@drunkenchorus.co.uk) for access support with ticket-booking.



"The silent disco was so good at Liberty Festival. The DJs should do more of them."

**DARYL**



**SLIDE Collective members Will, Kirstie, Tasha, Aaron, Takeshi and Devaki had a wonderful time performing <insert title here> at the Liberty Festival.**

# WHAT WE HAVE DONE + WHAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO



**EMMA,  
TOYIN  
AND  
BRIAN**

"We saw a relaxed screening of Barbie at the David Lean Cinema. The movie was really good. We all enjoyed ourselves."



**We had fun at Gypsy Hill Brewery Taproom and are interested in the ceramic sessions they run.**

**"I am looking forward to SAVVY performing Pinocchio in December."**

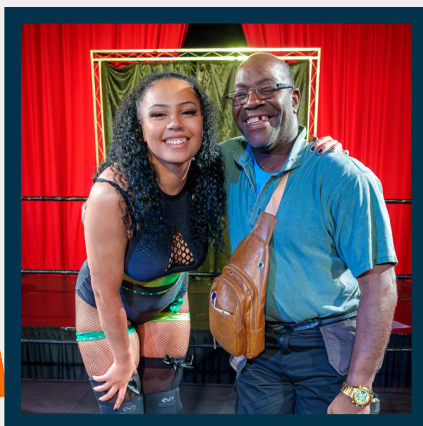


**"I enjoyed the Soda Beat gig."**  
**SOLOMON**



**"I saw wrestling at Stanley Arts with a friend and had a photo in the ring."**

**SEDLEY**



**"The Breathing Room at the Liberty Festival was a calming place where you can find yourself moving around in it. When you take it easy, you feel calm and relaxed."**

**WENDY**

**SHARE YOUR  
VIEWS / PHOTOS / FEEDBACK**



**YOUR  
PICS**

**"I am interested in going to the tech support sessions for people with disabilities that run on Tuesday mornings at OurSpace."**

**EMMA**



**"I am DJing at an event in Sutton soon."**

**TONY**



**"I made this mug at Turf projects."** **ROBERT**

**"I have been teaching cricket sessions in Lloyds Park."** **KHUSH**



Share with us by emailing [rachael@clubsoda.org.uk](mailto:rachael@clubsoda.org.uk)

**PAGE 09**

# WHAT IS COMING UP?



## FUSE PRESENTS SODADA

**What:** SoDaDa 2023  
Showcasing learning disabled artists.

**When:** 20th October,  
7pm-10pm

**Where:** Fairfield, Park Lane,  
Croydon, CR9 1DC

 **See map on page 4**

**Cost:** (18+years) £5 on the door  
(£2 for carers)



**An evening of live performances:  
music, art, dance and unusual talents!**

Find out more: [www.clubsoda.org.uk](http://www.clubsoda.org.uk)



## 'POLITE SOCIETY' RELAXED SCREENING



**Film screening for people living with  
autism or other neurodiversity,**

To book online: [davidleancinema.org.uk](http://davidleancinema.org.uk)

**What:** Relaxed film screening  
of 'Polite Society'.

**When:** Saturday 14th October,  
2pm

**Where:** David Lean Cinema,  
Croydon Clocktower, Katharine  
Street, Croydon, CR9 1ET

 **See map on page 4**

**Cost:** £5 (£2 for carers)

**Note: Advance tickets are  
available from the Box Office,  
30 minutes before the start of  
each film screening.**





## SLIDE 'FAMILY (DYS)FUNCTION'



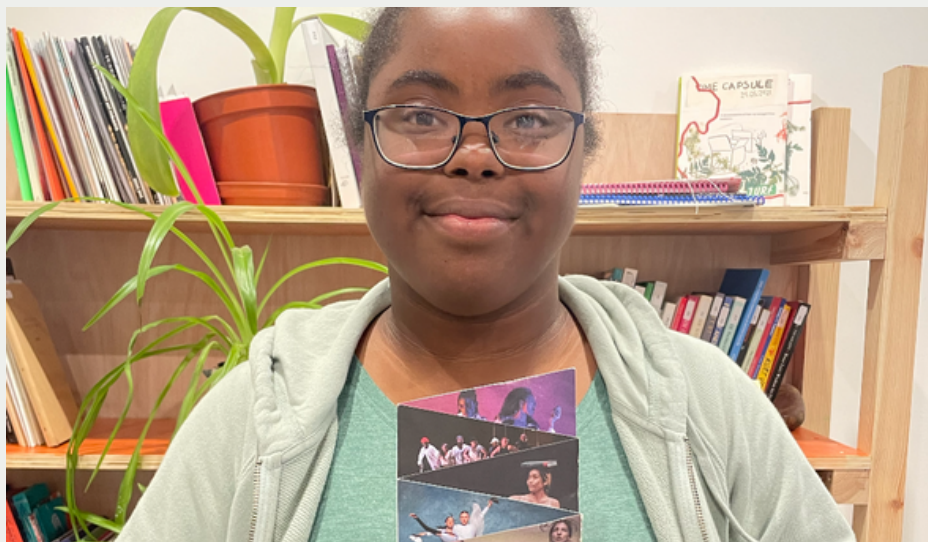
**What:** A performance of movement, spoken word and music.

**When:** Saturday 21st October, 2.30pm + 7pm

**Where:** Stanley Arts, 12 South Norwood Hill, SE25 6AB

**6** See map on page 4

**Cost:** £8 - £10



**Catch SLiDE dancer and Gig Buddies member Safiya performing alongside BirdGang at Stanley Arts.** The performance is part of annual festival Dance Umbrella and includes a multi-generational cast.

**Access requirements?** email [bookings@stanleyarts.org](mailto:bookings@stanleyarts.org) or call 0208 251 0184

**Note:** This is a standing performance

Find out more: [stanleyarts.org](http://stanleyarts.org)

## SLIDE 'UNEXPECTED ITEMS'



**In the age of reduce/reuse/recycle vs bigger/better/more the piece is about consumerism, raising deeper questions about productivity, power and knowledge.**

**What:** (Croydonites Festival)  
A dance performance with a cast of local disabled and non-disabled dancers.

**When:** Thursday 9th November, 7.30pm

**Where:** Fairfield, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 1DG

**4** See map on page 4

**Cost:** £10 / £15

Find out more: [www.croydonites.com](http://www.croydonites.com)

# WHAT IS COMING UP?



## POOL & DISCO AT FRAMES

**What:** Pool Knock Out, disco, bingo, food & more

**When:** Saturday 11th November, 6pm-12am

**Where:** Frames Sports bar, 202 Brighton Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2NF

**5** See map on page 4

**Cost:** £15

A night of fun and games including a pool tournament, some great food, buzzing music and atmosphere.



Find out more:

[Alannah.farr@achievetogether.co.uk](mailto:Alannah.farr@achievetogether.co.uk)  
Alannah or Fiifi **020 8651 9670**



## SODA CREW AT BOXPARK



**What:** Soda Crew Djs

**When:** Monday 27th November, 7pm-10pm

**Where:** Boxpark, 99 George Street, Croydon, CR0 1LD

**1** See map on page 4

**Cost:** £5 on the door (£2 for carers)

Our pioneering South London club night returns to Boxpark Croydon, featuring DJs and MCs from South London with learning disabilities.





# EXHIBITION MUSEUM OF CROYDON

**What:** Pick a Path 4 Croydon

**When:** 14th October - 24th November

**Where:** Exhibition Gallery,  
Croydon Clocktower,  
Katharine Street,  
Croydon, CR9 1ET

 **3** See map on page 4

**Cost:** Free



**What does system change mean for you?** Come explore this vibrant virtual reality arts experience, inspired by how local civil society groups envision brighter, greener futures in Croydon and ways to get there.

Find out more: [culturecroydon.com](http://culturecroydon.com)

## MONDAY NIGHT SOCIAL CLUB



**What:** Croydon Mencap run a social club for adults with a learning disability.

**When:** Mondays, 7pm-9pm

**Where:** New Addington  
Leisure and Community  
Centre, 88 Central Parade,  
Croydon, CR0 0JB

 **7** See map on page 4

**Cost:** £6.50

Find out more:

email [liz@croydonmencap.org.uk](mailto:liz@croydonmencap.org.uk)

or call **07718 494 636**

Discos, Karaoke, bingo, dance competitions, crafts and more.

# WHAT REALLY MATTERS



**Leisure Linkers are passionate about making Croydon a more accessible and inclusive place to be.** We want to help guide positive change for people with learning disabilities in Croydon. We hope to empower people to go out more, make informed choices and share experiences with others.

## HERE IS WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY:

When we review a venue or gig we look at any barriers that could cause access to be a challenge. These barriers might be physical, such as a flight of steps or unclear signage. We also look at social barriers, like if a place makes you feel safe, welcome and accepted. It is all part of what really matters to develop our community and build a more inclusive social scene for everyone.



“

**I LOVE RIFF RAFFS  
AND ALWAYS  
FEEL WELCOME  
WHEN I COME.**

## RIFF RAFFS BAR

**28 George Street  
Croydon, CR0 1PB**

Riff Ruffs is very accessible for people with learning disabilities. The manager and bar staff are patient and helpful.

It is close to public transport and has double doors to enter the building so is **wheelchair accessible**. The bar at the back of the venue and accessible toilet are all on one level.





Leisure Linkers visit Croydon venues and share what really matters when it comes to going out.

“ **...IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE AN AUTISTIC FRIENDLY QUIET SPACE... WITH A COUCH TO RELAX AND GET AWAY FOR A BIT.** ”

## RIFF RAFFS BAR

- ☆☆☆☆ It is amazing
- ☆☆☆☆ It is really good
- ☆☆☆ It is good
- ☆☆ It is okay
- ☆ I did not like it

LEISURE LINKERS RATED  
THIS VENUE **4.5 STARS**



“ **HAVING AN EASY READ DRINKS MENU AND SIGNAGE WOULD HELP.** ”

## WHAT'S NEXT?

We are super excited to be creating a list of the best venues in Croydon. We are on the lookout for the most accessible and inclusive venues, events and gigs in Croydon. If you know of somewhere you think we should review next or if you're a venue and would like to appear in a future issue, please get in touch.



To get in contact and find out more email [rachael@clubsoda.org.uk](mailto:rachael@clubsoda.org.uk) or visit [clubsoda.org.uk](https://clubsoda.org.uk)

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## Want to know more about Leisure Link?

Email: [loraine@clubsoda.org.uk](mailto:loraine@clubsoda.org.uk)



## Want to know more about Club Soda?

Email: [olly@clubsoda.org.uk](mailto:olly@clubsoda.org.uk)



## Want to know more about Gig Buddies?

Email: [cherilyn@gigbuddiescroydon.co.uk](mailto:cherilyn@gigbuddiescroydon.co.uk)

Here are some places Leisure Linkers love to go...

"I love  
The Ship"  
ROBERT

"I love  
Croydon Knights"  
TOFI

"I love  
Disco Disco"  
BRYONY

"I love  
Oval Tavern"  
STEPH

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

We are grateful to National Lottery Community Fund and City Bridge Foundation for funding Leisure Link.

