

LEISURE LINK



A magazine about accessible activities and events for everyone

Dec / Jan 2024

**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?

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dec-Feb	Exhibition @ Croydon Clocktower
8-9th Dec	'A Very Croydon Christmas' @ Fairfield, The Oval Tavern, Croydon Clocktower + DLC
Nov-Jan	Art Fair @ The Bethlem Gallery
12th Dec	Live Music @ The Ivy House
14th Dec	Leisure Link @ Riff Ruffs
14th Dec	Pool + Disco @ Frames
17th Dec	SAVVY @ Fairfield
13th Jan	Relaxed Screening @ David Lean Cinema
11th Jan	Leisure Link @ (TBC)
2nd Feb	SoDaDa @ Fairfield



Leisure Link Social

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



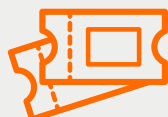
CASH
PAYMENTS



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

(TBC)
TO BE
CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED



VENUE MAP

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



INSPIRING OTHERS

BY ROBERT LOVEJOY



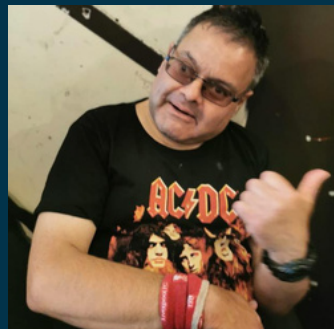
Robert has attended all except one of our socials this year and regularly sends us content for the magazine. He is one of our most dedicated Leisure Linkers, the magazine would not be what it is today without his engagement in the project.” Leisure Link Manager

ART-MUSIC-POETRY

Robert has developed his own unique style by learning new skills at college and as a MOSS artist at Turf Projects. He enjoys sharing his love of art, music and poetry as well as activities like kayaking too. With such a vast collection of creative work, Robert always has something to share at socials. The group enjoy his great sense of humour, funny videos and comic style images he produces.



Heavy metal music is good to play. I am a big fan of Iron Maiden. This is my old jacket.



I went to a Primal Scream concert in Crystal Palace, it was a lot of fun. I got a t-shirt... lovely jubbly!



FEELING MORE CONFIDENT



I have been going to Leisure Link socials for many years. I like it. I just want to join in. I enjoy coming so I know what is going on in Croydon and seeing places to go...
... I think it has helped me overcome problems that I've had, things that really got to me!
It has made me feel more confident.



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

CELEBRATING SLIDE

SLIDE TURNED 10!

In October SLiDE celebrated ten years of dance in Croydon



We had a whole weekend of celebrations which we kicked off with SoDaDa followed by a group trip to watch SLiDE dancers Safiya and Kavina perform at Stanley Arts finishing off with pizza, cake and a good ol' dance party with SLiDE members past and present!

Thank you to everyone who attended one of these events or has supported us over the last 10 years.



'UNEXPECTED ITEM' CROYDONITES FESTIVAL



10 years on from when it was originally created, 25 SLiDE dancers took to the stage at Croydonites Festival to bring back a bigger and better version of Unexpected Item.



“ I expected reflections on supermarket shopping, consumerism, the impact of waste on the planet and a celebration of the poetry of the everyday. It was all of this, and more. The long, black vinyl runway flanked by rows of chairs on either side, resembled a conveyor belt. Instead of groceries though, what followed was a series of delicious dance sketches. Some involved the whole company, some in pairs or triads. The flow of ideas was relentless, matched only by the enthusiasm and skill of the company. ”

Jo Bodley, Croydon Writes Programme

SAVE THE DATE

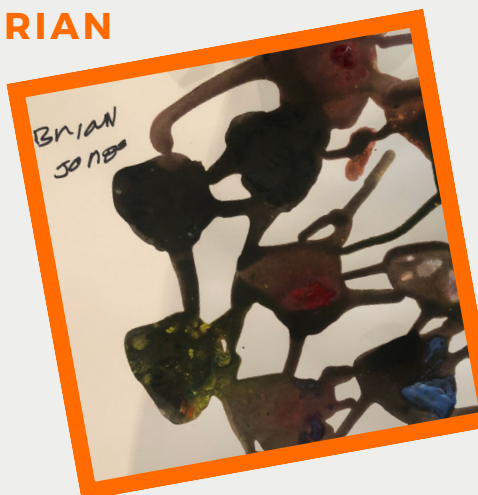
**AN EVENING OF LIVE
PERFORMANCES: MUSIC,
ART, DANCE AND
UNUSUAL TALENTS!**



To find out more, go to page 13

**"I like Turf, I like to work there,
I like painting and drawing."**

BRIAN



**"We have some good news.
We got engaged!"**

**BRYONY
& KHUSH**



**"M's Cafe has a Christmas
party and raffle on Dec 16th."**

**"I have some of my work being
exhibited at The Bethlem Gallery."**

PETER

WHAT WE HAVE DONE



+ WHAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO

**"I met a friend at Matthews Yard. It was good to see
that they are installing an accessible toilet there."**

TERRY



**"I like Eldon Phab club on Wednesdays from
5pm-8pm. We play pool and board games."**

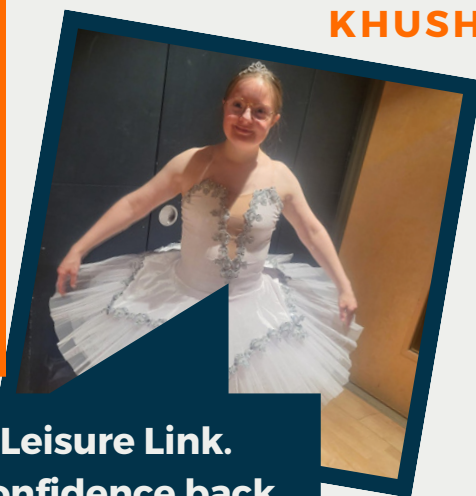
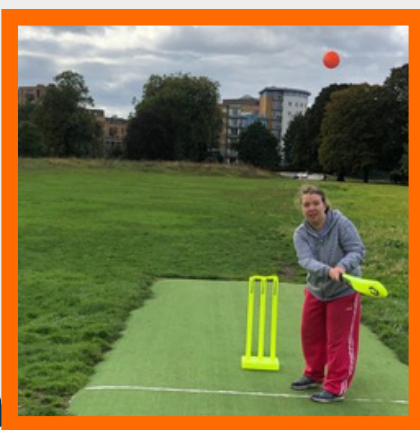
**"I enjoyed seeing
Shaniqua Benjamin's
performance at the Front
Room. I was pleased that
I could buy tickets with
cash on the door"**



"When I go out walking, I take photos of my favourite trees."



"I have been running coaching sessions and hope to run some indoor activities like Botcha soon."
KHUSH



"Eleanor would love for you to put this picture in Leisure Link. This is her first show in 2 years. She has got her confidence back. She was absolutely amazing! She brought a tear to my eye."

**GIG
BUDDY**

**SHARE YOUR
VIEWS / PHOTOS / FEEDBACK**



**YOUR
PICS**

"I visited the Bethlem Museum of the Mind. I enjoyed the exhibition and would like to go back to see the Art Fair in Bethlem Gallery." **LORAIN**



"I received a 'Spirit of the Community' award from Croydon Mencap."
SEDLEY



"I am interested in going to the indoor festive experience 'Kingdom of Winter' at the ExCel London." **EMMA**



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

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WHAT IS COMING UP?



EXHIBITION AT CROYDON CLOCKTOWER

What: 'Little Manhattan'

A free exhibition with film, audio trail and posters.

When: 6th December 2023 - 23rd February 2024, 7pm-10pm

Where: Museum of Croydon, Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR9 1ET



3 See map on page 4

Celebrating Croydon's magnificent skyline, capturing the memories of those who lived through the regeneration of the area between the 1950s and 1970s.

Find out more: museumofcroydon.com

'A VERY CROYDON CHRISTMAS'



Many events are free, but some of these free events require booking in advance.

What: A weekend of winter celebrations with music, dance, stories, crafts and arts activities for all ages.

When: Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December

Where: Croydon Clocktower, Fairfield Halls, The Oval Tavern, and David Lean Cinema.

1 3 4 See map on page 4

To find out more:
www.culturecroydon.com



BETHLEM ART FAIR 2023

What: A stunning variety of paintings, prints, drawings, ceramics, photographs, textiles and sculpture.

When: 25th November 2023
- 20th January 2024.

Gallery is open: Wednesday
- Saturday, 9:30am - 5pm

Note: Gallery is closed
24 Dec 2023 - 2 Jan 2024

Where: Bethlem Royal
Hospital, Monks Orchard Rd,
Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3BX

7 See map on page 4
Bus 119 + 194 / bus stop P



Bethlem Gallery's 15th annual open exhibition showcasing work by over 150 artists connected to South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

Find out more: bethlemgallery.com

LIVE MUSIC BY UNTAPPED + FRIENDS



What: Caretrade presents Untapped and friends

When: Tuesday 12th
December, 7.30pm - 10pm
Doors open at 7pm

Where: The Ivy House,
40 Stuart Road, London,
SE15 3BE

Bus 343 + 484 / bus stop EJ

Cost: Entry is free,
donations are welcome

Find out more about the venue:

<https://www.ivyhusenunhead.co.uk/about/>



The Carbonators and
Sam Castell-Ward
will also be performing.

WHAT IS COMING UP?



POOL & CHRISTMAS PARTY AT FRAMES

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

When: Thursday 14th December, 2pm-6pm

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

Alannah or Fiifi **020 8651 9670**



SAVVY THEATRE PINOCCHIO



What: Working with local community groups, SAVVY share the re-telling of the classic tale,

When: Sunday 17th Dec, 6pm

Where: Fairfield Concert Hall, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 1DG

4 See map on page 4

Cost: £12.75 + booking fee

“Rather than Pinocchio wanting to be a ‘real boy’ and ‘conform’ – it’s actually about him learning that it’s ok to be who he is.” - SAVVY Artistic Director





CINEMA RELAXED SCREENINGS

What:

Relaxed film screenings

When:

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Saturday 9th December, 2pm

Wonka

Saturday 13th January 2024,

11am (TBC)

Where: David Lean Cinema,

Croydon Clocktower,

Katharine Street, Croydon,

CR9 1ET

3 See map on page 4

Cost: £5 (£2 for carers)



Film screening for people living with autism or other neurodiversity,

Tickets are also available from the Box Office, 30 mins before the start of each film screening.

To book online: davidleancinema.org.uk

FUSE PRESENTS SODADA



What: SoDaDa

Showcasing learning disabled artists.

When: Friday 2nd February 2024, 7pm-10pm

Where: The Recreational, Fairfield, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 1DG

4 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!**

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.



“ **IT WAS EASY TO BOOK TICKETS FOR THIS FILM.** ”

DAVID LEAN CINEMA

**Croydon Clocktower,
Katharine Street,
Croydon, CR9 1ET**

Located within the Croydon Clocktower, this unique cinema has great access. The bar and cinema can be found on the first floor by using either a lift or stairs.

Signage is clear, staff are very helpful and it feels safe inside the building. Tickets are a good price and you can pay with cash or card.



3 See map on page 4

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

“ THE PROJECTIONIST CAME IN TO THE FILM AND ASKED IF THE VOLUME WAS ALRIGHT FOR EVERYONE. IT WAS NICE TO BE ASKED.

DAVID LEAN CINEMA

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

LEISURE LINKERS RATED
THIS VENUE 5 STARS



“ IT WAS HELPFUL TO HAVE INFORMATION ON THE SCREEN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FILM ABOUT HOW TO BOOK ONLINE.

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 or visit clubsoda.org.uk

🙏 A big thank you to the Leisure Linkers for being part of this feature.

Join our mailing list

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Want to know more about Leisure Link?

Email: loraine@clubsoda.org.uk



Want to know more about Club Soda?

Email: evie@clubsoda.org.uk



Want to know more about Gig Buddies?

Email: cherilyn@gigbuddiescroydon.co.uk

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

"I love
Gig Buddies"

WENDY

"I love
Croydon Knights"

TOFI

"I love
Riff Raffs"

STEPH

"I love
Matthews Yard"

TERRY

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

Please support Club Soda by donating **online** at <https://www.givey.com/clubsoda> **or in person** at our events

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

