

## **Canning & Clyde Monthly Update – April 2024**

[www.canningandclyde.org](http://www.canningandclyde.org)

### **Canning & Clyde Quiz**

Saturday 4 May 2024 @ 7.30 pm

Clyde Hall

To raise funds for [ANCA](#) (Addiscombe Neighbourhood Care Association)

£12.50 includes small fish and chip supper. There will be a raffle.

If you enjoy a fun, social evening out with others and / or like Quizzes – come along to our latest Quiz.

You can either come as an individual or in a team of up to six people.

There will be a range of questions for everyone.

Please let me know by Friday 26 April if you would like to come.

Flier attached.

### **Public land – part of Shirley Heath – under threat of being taken away from public**

One of the good things about living in Croydon is the amount of public green space accessible within walking distance or public transport. This includes Shirley Heath.

Shirley Heath, like part of Addington Hills, contains heathland that is enjoyable to walk in and provides a valuable natural habitat for a range of plants and animals. It is particularly beautiful when the heather is in bloom. See attached pic I took from walking on Addington Hills.

It is reported that The Addiscombe Golf Club want to annexe for themselves six hectares (15 acres) of Shirley Heath to make a golf driving range and irrigation pond.

There is concern that Croydon Council may be tempted to sell the land to the golf club.

Click here for more information on [The Addington Golf Club's plans](#)

If you would like, click here for information on [how to sign a petition](#) against The Addington Golf Club's plans to annexe public lands.

## **Clyde Hall – call for volunteers**

Clyde Hall in Clyde Road is used both by local groups and individuals who can hire it for parties or other events. Clyde Hall is run as a company for community use. Surrey Opera are based here and the hall is let out to community groups – including us!

*'We need local people to open and close Clyde Hall for occasional hirers. We already have a small pool of volunteers who are keyholders to look after this job, but most of them live quite a distance from the hall, so it's a bit of an imposition for them to make the round trip (twice, if they're opening and closing for the same function). The result is that it tends to be the same two or three people among them who live closest that do the honours most of the time, and it's getting a bit wearisome for them, which is why I would like to enlarge the pool and thus spread the load.'*

*Opening the hall is fairly straightforward, consisting mostly just of unlocking and showing the hirer where everything is (if they don't already know), and also impressing on them the importance of reading and observing the safety rules (which are posted on the main notice board and in the kitchen).*

*Closing, apart from just locking up, can require a bit of diplomacy but also a firm hand since hirers are required to dispose of rubbish properly, and leave the hall clean (swept) and tidy, with everything put back where it belongs, and not all hirers are as punctual or conscientious as they should be. We do take a deposit as part of the hire fee which is refundable, but only if the hirer leaves on time, and everything at the hall is as it should be, so I need a report from whoever closes (with photos, if there's a problem).*

*Anyway, if any of your folk are willing to do this from time to time, please ask them to get in touch with Ian Jones who handles bookings for us (and is copied into this email), and he will add them to the volunteer pool. We have a keysafe by the main door (which also has a key to the car park barrier padlock), and I will make sure whoever volunteers to open and close has the combination.'*

If you would be willing to volunteer to open and close the hall to occasional hirers, please could you let me know? I'll then give you the email address of the person to contact.

## **Addiscombe Railway Park**

**Sunday 14 April 2024 2 – 5 pm**

Addiscombe Railway Park is largely looked after by a Friends group. Thanks to them there is an orchard and community garden. They meet on the second Sunday of each month to maintain the park. Here is information from them about April's work day.

Our next volunteer day will be on Sunday 14th April between 2pm and 5pm. We will meet up in the Community Garden.

There is a lot to be done, due to weather conditions resulting in 3 previous days being cancelled.

The Community Garden needs a lot of work, We are into Spring and the beds are not ready for planting.

Apple trees are starting bloom so we need to give them some attention too.

*Suggested Tasks:*

1. Weed Raised Beds, (plant vegetables).
2. Weed Wildflower beds, (seed weeded beds).
3. Clear grass and undergrowth around Orchard trees.
4. Litter picking.
5. Tidying the School Exit Triangle.
6. Weeding and tidying the Boggy/Honeysuckle area.

### **Croydon Central West Local Community Partnership**

Croydon Central West Local Community Partnership have a meeting on Wednesday 17 April 2024 from 6.00 – 8.00 pm at the Clocktower Café, Katherine Street.

They seem to focus on health and social care. The King's Fund are involved.

For more information on their work see

<https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/croydon-central-west-local-c/>

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/adult-health-and-social-care/get-involved-adult-social-care/croydons-local-community-partnerships-lcp>

### **Healthy Streets CR0 11**

We are not 100% sure of exactly what will be happening when.

What we do know:

Following the first Co-design session in January (see our February 2024 email monthly update sent out on Sunday 4 February 2024) – the Council has got some traffic consultants to look at the ideas generated at that session to consider how feasible they may be. We don't yet know their conclusions.

The Council will be holding on 18 April 2024 a feedback session to those who attended the January meeting.

At some point the Council is going to send round a letter to all households in the CR0 11 Healthy Streets area. That is all roads from Colson Road to Shirley Road that run between the Addiscombe and Lower Addiscombe Roads. We don't know what will be in that letter. We have been told that this letter will be for information only and is not a consultation, as far as the Council is concerned.

The process will continue for some time during the summer. We are not clear when a decision will be made on what the Council will do with traffic in our area.

The final decision will be made by directly elected Mayor, Jason Perry. He will be responsible for the practical effects on residents and drivers of whatever he decides.

### **Preserving your right to vote at elections**

With the Mayor of London and Greater London Assembly (GLA) elections on **Thursday 2 May 2024** and a General Election sometime between now and 28 January 2025 – it is important that people take action to ensure they can still exercise their right to vote.

### **Ensuring you are on the Electoral Roll**

Deadline to ensure you are on the Electoral Roll is 16 April 2024 at 11:59 pm.

People can register online at <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/council-and-elections/voting-and-elections/voting/register-vote>

Those who are unable to register online can phone Croydon's Electoral Services on 0300 373 0595.

### **Photo ID – a change to how we are now allowed to vote**

The Government has introduced a new system. Starting with these May elections – people can only use their right to vote if they come to the polling centre with some form of acceptable photo ID. To find out what forms of photo ID the Government says are acceptable see

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id>

There is an alternative, however, for those who do not have photo ID. That is the Voter Authority Certificate.

#### IF YOU DON'T HAVE PHOTO ID - DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR AN ALTERNATIVE (VOTER AUTHORITY CERTIFICATE) – 24 April 2024 at 5 pm

So that you or a neighbour / friend / family member does not lose the right to vote if you / they don't have photo ID – contact Croydon Council to obtain a free Voter Authority Certificate.

You can do this online at <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/council-and-elections/voting-and-elections/voter-id-required-voting-elections>

Or phone Croydon's Electoral Services on 0300 373 0595.

If you find you are unable to get through on the phone to Croydon's Electoral Services, you can also try 020 8726 6300 or the main Croydon Switchboard number 020 8726 6000 (Monday to Friday 9am – 4 pm).

If you cannot get through on any of these numbers, you may wish to contact one of our local Councillors so they are aware of what is happening:

Sean Fitzsimons 020 8819 5597 [sean.fitzsimons@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:sean.fitzsimons@croydon.gov.uk)

Clive Fraser 020 8653 9618 [clive.fraser@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:clive.fraser@croydon.gov.uk)

Patricia Hay-Justice 020 8819 5597 [patricia.hay-justice@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.hay-justice@croydon.gov.uk)

To find out more about this new system see

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id>

#### **Postal votes**

An alternative to attending a voting booth is to apply for a postal vote.

The deadline to apply for a postal vote for the 2 May 2024 elections is 5pm Wednesday April 17 2024.

Croydon Electoral Services can be contacted at

Email: [electoral.services@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@croydon.gov.uk)

Phone: 0300 373 0595

## How to spot fake news

With the Mayor of London and London General Assembly elections in May – and with a General Election sometime in the next nine months – we may sadly be subjected to fake news and lies, including half-truths, in various forms and by various individuals and outlets. In fact this has already happened for the May elections.

The following information is from the British Council site. Although aimed at English language learners, it is concise and relevant to all English speakers.

*'Every time you're online, you are bombarded by pictures, articles, links and videos trying to tell their story. Unfortunately, not all of these stories are true. Sometimes they want you to click on another story or advertisement at their own site, other times they want to upset people for political reasons. These days it's so easy to share information. These stories circulate quickly, and the result is ... fake news.'*

*There is a range of fake news: from crazy stories which people easily recognise to more subtle types of misinformation. Experts in media studies and online psychology have been examining the fake news phenomenon. Read these tips, and don't get fooled!*

### 1. Check the source

*Look at the website where the story comes from. Does it look real? Is the text well written? Are there a variety of other stories or is it just one story? Fake news websites often use addresses that sound like real newspapers, but don't have many real stories about other topics. If you aren't sure, click on the 'About' page and look for a clear description of the organisation.*

### 2. Watch out for fake photos

*Many fake news stories use images that are Photoshopped or taken from an unrelated site. Sometimes, if you just look closely at an image, you can see if it has been changed. Or use a tool like Google Reverse Image search. It will show you if the same image has been used in other contexts.*

### 3. Check the story is in other places

*Look to see if the story you are reading is on other news sites that you know and trust. If you do find it on many other sites, then it probably isn't fake (although there are some exceptions), as many big news organisations try to check their sources before they publish a story.*

#### 4. Look for other signs

*There are other techniques that fake news uses. These include using ALL CAPS and lots of ads that pop up when you click on a link. Also, think about how the story makes you feel. If the news story makes you angry, it's probably designed to make you angry.*

*If you know these things about online news, and can apply them in your everyday life, then you have the control over what to read, what to believe and most importantly what to share. If you find a news story that you know is fake, the most important advice is: don't share it!*

Source: [British Council](#)

### **Tram closures until 24 April 2024**

This is for essential maintenance.

Until Wednesday 24 April there will be no service between:

- Wellesley Road and New Addington.
- Wellesley Road and Beckenham Junction/Elmers End
- New Addington and George Street
- Beckenham Junction/Elmers End and George Street

Trams will run between the following stops:

- Wimbledon and Wellesley Road
- George Street and Wimbledon

Replacement buses will run between East Croydon and New Addington and East Croydon to Beckenham Junction/Elmers End to ensure that customers can get where they need to go. There will also be uniformed tram staff at key tram stops to support customers with their travel plans.

Click here for more information on [the replacement bus services](#).

## Outside this month

Things to see / hear in the month of April

### Cuckoo spit

Have you ever noticed plants with frothy stuff on their stems or leaves? Cuckoo spit is something you can see anywhere on plants. What causes it?

Basically it's caused by insects called Froghoppers.

The RSPB site explains it neatly – *'Froghoppers are small, brown insects that can jump great distances if threatened. They hold their wings together like a tent over their body.'*

*Their larvae are more commonly seen coated in a mass of froth – or cuckoo spit – on plant stems.*

*This froth protects the larva from predators as it feeds on young leaves and shoots, and it also stops it from drying out. The larva produces the froth by forcing air into a fluid exuded from its anus.'*

Click here for [more information and a video](#) from the National History Museum

See attached pic from the National History Museum site.