

Canning & Clyde Monthly Update

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March 2023

Addiscombe West Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

Ashburton Library on Saturday 25 March 2023, 11am-2pm

From PCSO Angela Chalmers – ‘Come and meet the Addiscombe West safer neighbourhood team and tell us about any issues you may be experiencing in Ashburton Library on 25th March, 11am-2pm’

The Leslie Arms – update from Councillors

Negotiations between the owner and Croydon Council are nearing completion. The proposal is for the front area of the ground floor to be a community cafe. Because of the building's nationally listed status (Grade 2), the owner will work with Heritage England to restore the bar area to its original appearance; the owner will also work with Heritage England on the appearance of the outside of building. The rear area on the ground floor will be a community space. The upper floor will be residential.

Voter photo ID needed to vote from May 2023

Although there are currently no elections scheduled for this year, people need to be prepared in advance. The Government has brought in legislation so that anyone without photo ID or voter ID (called a Voter Authority Certificate) will not be allowed to vote in local or national elections.

Forms of photo ID that are accepted are:

Passport

Driving licence (including provisional license) i.e. not old-style driving licences that don't have a photo

Blue badge

Certain concessionary travel cards

Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)

Biometric Immigration document

Defence identity card

Certain national identity cards

There are plenty of people who do not have one of these forms of photo ID. In order to be able to vote those people have to apply to Croydon Council for a free Voter Authority Certificate. They can do this either online or get a paper application form from the Council.

There is [clear, simple information on the Government website](#).

Click here for Croydon Council [information and to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate](#).

Alternatively you can contact Croydon Council's Electoral Services as follows,

Electoral Services

The Town Hall

Katharine Street

Croydon, CR9 1DE

If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, contact the Electoral Services Team on 0300 373 595 / electoral.services@croydon.gov.uk

EVERYONE'S VOTE IS IMPORTANT INCLUDING THE MANY WHO DO NOT HAVE PHOTO ID

Seasonal fruit and veg

Turnips have been in the news recently!

Click here for a quick, handy guide from the British Dietetic Association to which [UK grown vegetables and fruit are in season each month](#).

Mending clothes

As many of us look to save the pennies, some may have already discovered / rediscovered the near lost art of mending clothes.

The Textile Repair Café in the Whitgift Centre (near Boots and M&S) is offering free courses on:

Basic mending skills (hand sewing)

Basic jeans repair workshop (hand sewing)

Introduction to a sewing machine and various sewing projects

Knitting, crochet, embroidery.

For more information see

<https://greencroydon.co.uk/textile-repair-cafe/>

For those who would like to give socks a much longer lease of life, darning is the option. If you don't already know how to darn socks, there are plenty of videos online.

Finding darning wool nowadays is less easy. A good source of darning wool (wide range of colours) and darning needles in various sizes is at

<https://www.sewessential.co.uk/scanfil-mending-wool-15m>

Outside this month

Things to see / hear in the month of March

Coltsfoot

Coltsfoot is a yellow flower that appears in March and April. It looks quite like a small dandelion. Coltsfoot grows in a variety of places, including gardens and between cracks in pavement and tarmac.

It has long been used as a cough remedy. A Scottish name for it is TushyLucky. This is said to be a corruption of the Latin word 'tussilago' for a cough.

Coltsfoot is an early source of nectar for honey bees and for moth larvae.

Click here for more information on [Coltsfoot and other wildlife to see in March](#).

By the way – four days after sending round our February update I heard a woodpecker. I have heard it again since. It's coming from somewhere towards the middle of the roads either in Clyde Road or one of the roads further east. Woodpeckers only drum in early Spring while they are establishing territory.