

UPDATE / NEWS

Covid 19 – reason for cautious optimism

Although there is still a long way to go, there are signs that infection rates are beginning to go in the right direction. [Click here](#) to see the Covid 19 Symptom Study summary of latest figures.

Covid 19 in Croydon – what we can do to protect everyone

Councillor Hamida Ali, Leader of Croydon Council, sends a 1 ½ minute message, recorded at the start of this lockdown, of what we need to do to protect our community, friends and families. She also says where we can find information on support available. [Click here](#) to listen to what she says.

Test and Trace in Croydon – how to access it and financial support if you have to self-isolate

Here is a [very handy link](#) for anyone who develops Covid 19 symptoms or is told to self-isolate. It includes practical information on how to get a test and financial support available to those who are eligible. It also tells you how to avoid scammers.

Love Croydon – Shop Local: The Big Crystal Palace Community Prize Draw

We wouldn't normally publicise something like a raffle but we thought this one is a bit special for two reasons. Firstly - it's to support small, independent traders who have had to close shop, while big chains selling essential items are allowed also to sell non-essential items. Secondly – as there are some fabulous prizes, we thought we'd let people know in case they wanted to have a go.

Tickets are £1. There are 41 prizes. Raffle ends on 3 December at 11.00 am.

Here's how they describe their draw.

'Our aim is to promote our wonderful independent traders, to encourage our community to shop locally and to bring some much needed festive cheer to our local area!

This year all profits from the raffle will be reinvested to support our local high streets in Crystal Palace.'

To view prizes and / or enter the raffle, [click here](#).

National Consumer Week

National Consumer Week begins on 16 November. This year the focus is on consumer rights when shopping online and what people can do if something goes wrong.

The Citizens Advice page, [Your rights when shopping online](#), contains links to a lot of information that may be particularly useful this year for obvious reasons.

Reminder - Free Zoom Talk about a former extraordinary Clyde Road resident, Stanley James

Tuesday 17 November, 8 pm

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7472042040?pwd=dnhyZGIHMkY5NkZjRmtoc1czNHFCZz09>

Stanley James' father, Daniel Bloomfield James, was the minister of the Congregational Church that used to stand in Canning Road until the 1970s. Two of our Canning Road neighbours, Betty and Gerald Huston, were the last people to be married there before the church was demolished and Chequers Court built in its place. Clyde Hall, that backs onto the site, was the church hall.

Stanley James led an incredibly varied and colourful life! From being a minister's son and reluctant pupil at Whitgift School in the 19th Century, he travelled to the Canadian West to become a cowboy, shepherd, navy, hobo, reporter, soldier in the Spanish American War. He returned to England and apparently settled down to an established and respectable life. But he had a secret ...

Stanley James' grandson, Robert Nurden, has written a book about his grandfather's exploits and will be giving us this talk. Please feel free to use the Zoom link to join us.

HINTS AND TIPS

Seasonal decorations for free

Now we are in the season of long nights and seemingly long Covid, I've noticed some people are talking about Christmas decorations already. In fact – there is a house in Deepdene Avenue, close to the entrance to Lloyd Park, that already has its Christmas decorations up!

Decorating homes in mid winter with greenery and lights has ancient roots and doesn't have to be confined to Christmas. Nor does it have to cost a lot of money. There are plenty of fir cones on the ground in the parks and woodlands nearby. Picking up a few of these will not damage the natural environment. We can: simply

put them in a bowl or on any surface; string them together in a pine cone wreath or garland; we can display them with or without LED lights; string them together to make a mobile.

We can do the same with acorns, paint them even, although squirrels and other animals would appreciate it if you left plenty for them.

At the moment in our parks and woods there are also a lot of beautifully coloured leaves that can be picked up. The sooner the better, as they will quickly naturally begin to go brown. They can be dried by pressing between tissues or kitchen roll inside books. Once they are dried, we could then: put them on windows; carefully put them on string to make a garland; carefully stick together to make a wreath; carefully string them to make a mobile or dream catcher – [click here](#) for practical suggestions on how to make a leaf mobile. We can carefully stick them on the outside of a glass jar and use it as a small vase.

[Click here](#) for a lot of autumn craft ideas.

[Click here](#) for some autumn craft ideas for children that can also be adapted by adults.

TO MAKE YOU SMILE

Glasses – please see attached jpeg

Alien abduction – please see attached jpeg

RELIABLE SOURCES OF ACCURATE INFORMATION

Croydon Council services

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/phealth/coronavirus-information/service-updates>

Test and Trace and If you have to self-isolate in Croydon

<https://new.croydon.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-and-service-updates/test-and-trace-keeping-croydon-safe/keeping-croydon-safe>

National – furlough, self-employed, small businesses, benefits, housing

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Job Help

<https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/>
[Seven key tips for finding a job](#)

Health

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Money

<https://new.croydon.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-and-service-updates/get-help-your-council-tax-and-benefits>

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en>

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

<https://www.fca.org.uk/>

Citizens Advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/>

Shelter

https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice/coronavirus