



CROYDON CONTACTS

NEWSLETTER March - April 2023

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We have our usual updates about regular events below but, first, we need to let you know of important changes coming soon.

IMPORTANT UPDATE

We urgently need to recruit more Trustees and Volunteers to maintain our activities, because some Trustees will be stepping down later this year.

It is vital that we have other people lined up to take their place as soon as possible, so that we can have a smooth handover and keep everything running properly. We are very pleased to have recently welcomed James Savory as a new Trustee but really need a few more Trustees...and Volunteers!

So, this is a plea to Friends, Carers and supporters to think about whether you can help us - as a Trustee or a Volunteer - to keep going into the future. We can arrange for you to have an informal, confidential chat with the Chair, if you might be interested. You can contact us by phone, text or email.

From May onwards, to run a programme that can realistically be maintained by the current Trustees, our main regular activities (Bowling, Lunch, Cinema and Drama Workshop) will each take place every two months, and not every month as now.

On the positive side:

- We are actively planning an outing (probably a Coach trip) to the seaside.
- We are looking at some new activities alongside old favourites; these might for example include visits to the Croydon Games Arcade, and the Croydon Board Games Café (Ludoquist), supported by Trustees
- We also plan to have other outings in the course of 2023, for example a River Trip, and a Visit to a City Farm. **What do think about these ideas?**
- We now receive generous regular funding from Edge Lighting Services PLC <http://www.edgelighting.co.uk/> which means we can keep our activities as affordable as possible. Many thanks to Edge and to James for supporting us this way

More dates and details in the next Newsletter, due out in April

THANK YOU !!....

Nearly all our Members have renewed their membership. Sadly we will say goodbye to a few people not renewing, but have told them they are always welcome to rejoin in future.

Croydon Contacts Calendar at a Glance - Make a note in your diaries now	
Saturday 4th March	Drama Workshop
Sunday 5th March	Cinema Club
Sunday 19th March	Lunch Club
Sunday 26th March	Bowling at Tenpin
Sunday 2nd April	Cinema Club
Sunday 16th April	Lunch Club
Saturday 22nd April	Drama Workshop
Sunday 30th April	Bowling
More details on Pages 3 and 4	

Booking for activities

Please remember:

- **For all activities, you must let us know if you want to attend. If you turn up without booking, we may have to turn you away if the activity is already fully booked.**
- You can text or email us – our contact details are at the top of this Newsletter.
- If you book for events and then don't turn up, we reserve the right to charge you if Croydon Contacts has paid for an activity on your behalf.
- It is also disrespectful and inconsiderate not to come if you've booked.
- **Please remember - carers, relatives and staff accompanying Members must also pay the relevant charge for each event (unless the venue itself offers free tickets for carers, for example the Vue Cinema)**
- We ask that managers in supported housing schemes ensure that Members living in their services are given information about our programme, are helped to book in, and that staff working different shifts e.g. at weekends, are aware of arrangements. We work very hard to maintain good communication about events and look forward to everyone's cooperation

Contacting us by Phone and Text

Please remember

- The Croydon Contacts phone is managed by Trustees. They are unpaid and are usually busy with many other things, as well as Croydon Contacts work! We do not have an office, or paid staff.
- You are welcome to call any time to leave a message but we may not be able to answer... and please don't expect us to answer if you call or text late in the evening!
- If we don't answer the phone, please leave a voice message or text us. The phone is checked at least once a day, usually more often – and very frequently on days when we have activities (also the day before), in case we need to let you know of any changes
- If you have left a voicemail or sent a text, we will deal with it as soon as possible
- We are unlikely to call you back if you are just booking, unless you have asked us a question, or we need to check something with you.
- If you have booked for an activity, please don't keep contacting us about the same thing. We will know you are coming!
- It is your responsibility to make sure we have an up to date mobile number for you so we can text and call you if necessary

Lunch Clubs 19th March and 16th April

- We plan to hold these at the 'Porter and Sorter' at East Croydon.
- We will send you reminders and more information about menu choices and details closer to the dates

We expect the **cost of a main meal plus drink to be £14**

Bowling Club 26th March and 30th April

- Venue - Tenpin, Valley Park Leisure Complex, Hesterman Way, Croydon CR0 4YA.
- Please meet at 12.30 in the Bar area, beyond the Games machines – please don't arrive too early
- You **must book in advance**. Bowling is popular so don't leave it too late to book!
- Cost for 2 games is expected to be £10. Please bring cash (exact amount please if possible) on the day
- The session starts about 1.00 and normally finishes by 3.30, but can run late for various reasons beyond our control.

Cinema Clubs 5th March and 2nd April

- You can tell us sooner if you are interested but don't expect to receive the film details before the previous **Thursday**
- We cannot confirm the film or time till then as the Cinema does not publish its programme till a few days before
- Please let us know **at the latest if you are coming, by 5.00 on the day before** (Saturday)
- Vue's prices are now variable, but we will always try to get the best value seats which are still £7.99. We will let you know of any changes when we confirm the film information

Drama Workshops 4th March and 22nd April

Workshops are run by our own, excellent, Lizzie Penny.

- Time - from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. Short lunch break. You must bring your own lunch with you (there are lots of shops nearby)
- Venue - Dayspace Penge, Kentwood Centre, Kingsland Road, Penge, SE20 APR. (10 mins walk from Beckenham Road tram stop or near bus routes 197,194 and 75 to/from Croydon). Parking available on site
- Open to all Croydon Contacts members **but you must book by midday the day before, Friday**– as nos. are limited for each session.
- The cost for each 3-hour session is £6.00, payable on the day
- We aim to produce a short video of Members' performances at the Workshops, to show at future events & celebrations.
- If you have any queries or concerns about appearing in these, please speak to Lizzie on the day, or email her using the Croydon Contacts email address

With our Best wishes, from the Trustees of
Croydon Contacts – Christine, Frank,
James, Jon, Ken, Laura and Lizzie