Working Age Bulletin

Wednesday 4th November



JustGiving Link:

https://www.justgiving.com/charity/croydonvisually

Weekly Meetings:

Bedford Hall 1.30pm – 3.00pm every Wednesday.
Please arrive at 1.15pm for tea and coffee.

WAG Timetable:

Monday

ESL: 10.30am – 12.30pm – Bedford Lounge
Craft Skills: 11.00am – 3.00pm – Art Room
Braille: 1.30pm – 3.00pm – Second Floor

Tuesday

Braille: 10.30am – 12.30pm – Second Floor
Craft Skills:11.00am – 3.00pm – Art Room
Knitting: 11.00am – 2.00pm – Bedford Lounge
Book Club: 1.30pm – 3.00pm – Second Floor

Wednesday

Braille: 10.30am – 12.30pm – Second Floor
Craft Skills: 10.00am – 1.00pm – Art Room
WAG: 1.30pm – 3.00pm – Bedford Hall

Thursday

Poetry Group: 10.00am – 12.30pm – Second Floor

Craft Skills: 11.00am – 3.00pm – Art Room

Itinerary for Oct/Nov:

4th November	Talk by Sickle Cell Group
11th November	Energise Croydon – Citizen Advice Bureau
18th November	Quiz
25th November	Health/Motivational Talk

London Marathon Projects:

1. Showdown (a fast-moving blind sport, with similarities to table tennis and air hockey) in East Croydon on **Tuesday 10th November**. The session starts at 6.00pm and finishes at 8.30pm. There is a maximum of 6 spaces.
2. Rock climbing Purley Way on Tuesday 1st Dec**ember**. The session starts at 11.00am and finishes at 12.00 midday. There are 2 spaces left.

Please contact Shalini on **07915 720132** to book a space.

Croydon Vision Christmas Fayre:

When: Thursday 3rd December 2026
Where: Bedford Hall, 72-74 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR0 2AR
Time: 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Would you like to book a stall – contact ancella.george@croydonvision.org.uk

A VAT break on Electricity for Charities, Starting Now

From 1 October 2026, VAT on some electricity supplies has dropped from 5% to 0% for six months.

If your charity already pays the reduced 5% rate, usually because you use electricity for non-business charitable work, this change applies to you. You don't need to do anything. Your supplier will bill you at 0% VAT for the full six months.

Not sure which rate you pay? This is a good time to check. As a SHARE member, you get Utility Aid's online bill checking service for free. Utility Aid will go through your bills with you, explain what each line means, and look for quick wins or anything you've been overcharged for.

Read more about the VAT reduction: Temporary

VAT reduction announced for some electricity supplies | Utility Aid.
Email: partnerships@utility-aid.co.uk to make the most of this free service
Book your free bill check - Contact Form | Utility Aid.
Just have a question? Ask Utility Aid, with no obligation.

Winter Energy Support for Visually Impaired People – Find Out More and Apply Soon
With winter approaching, we wanted to share information about an external support scheme funded by British Gas to help visually impaired people access a range of practical products, energy-saving support and advice.

The scheme may be able to offer eligible people support in several ways, including:

- Hygiene packs: Everyday essentials such as shampoo and conditioner.
- Fuel vouchers: Support for eligible households using prepayment meters.
- Household appliances: Products such as slow cookers, air fryers and talking microwaves.
- Winter warmth products: Items to help keep you warm at home during the colder months.

- Free energy advice: Guidance on energy use and ways to save energy.

Do I need to be a British Gas customer? No. You do not need to be a British Gas customer to enquire about the scheme.

However, eligibility requirements may vary depending on the type of support you are seeking. For example, certain household white goods products may only be available to people receiving qualifying means-tested benefits. Availability will also depend on the scheme's criteria and remaining resources.

How to Find Out More and Apply:

If you are interested in exploring the support available, please follow these steps:

1. Call the RNIB Helpline on 0303 123 9999.
2. Tell the adviser that you would like to find out more about the British Gas winter energy support scheme for visually impaired people.
3. Provide your details so that a callback can be arranged with the relevant team.
4. When the team contacts you, they can discuss the available support, explain the eligibility requirements and advise you on the next steps towards making an application.

Please be aware that you may not receive a callback immediately, as demand for the scheme could be high.

<u>Croydon Careers Fair 2026</u>
Event details
Tuesday 10 November 2026
9:30am – 3:30pm
Mosaic East, on the corner of Cherry Orchard Road & Addiscombe Road **CR0 6SR**, 1 minute walk from East Croydon Station

What's happening during the day
09:30 – Event registration opens
10:00 – 10:45 – Workshop: CVs with AI Jay Johnson
10:45 – 11:30 – Employer Panel Discussion: Built Environment With Gatwick Airport, Love Design Studios and Savills
11:30 – 12:15 – Workshop: Financial Literacy With NatWest
12:15 – 12:45 – Panel Discussion: Apprenticeships Including Matt Simms, Croydon BID
13:00 – 13:45 – Workshop: CVs with AI Jay Johnson
13:45 – 14:30 – Employer Panel Discussion: Professional Services With Social Value Portal, Blackthorn and Pension Protection Fund

14:30 – 15:15 – Workshop: Financial Literacy NatWest

Available throughout the day
09:30 – 15:30 – One-to-one Health Checks with Asian Resource Centre Croydon
10:00 – 15:00 – One-to-one Mock Interview Practice
Each mock interview session gives you the chance to practise typical interview questions and get constructive feedback. Bringing a copy of your CV will help you get the most from the session.

Croydon Culture
It might feel a little early to be talking about Christmas, but if past years are anything to go by, December has a habit of arriving at speed.

From Friday 4 - Saturday 6 December, A Very Croydon Christmas returns to town for a weekend of festive mischief, music, making and the kind of magical moments that only seem to happen when the nights draw in and the fairy lights go up.

Old friends will be back, including the much-loved Bjorn the Polar Bear. This year's programme is already shaping up to include illuminated barn owls, roaming skiers, luminous walkabout characters, live music from around the world,

hands-on workshops and plenty of chances to get creative. Expect everything from festive clay-making and upcycled jewellery workshops to storytelling, craft and family activities in and around the Clocktower.

And if you're the sort of person who likes to get the Christmas shopping done before the panic sets in, join us for our new Friday Night Market on Fri 4 Dec, packed with independent makers, artists, food producers and traders.

We're currently looking for stallholders selling handmade, locally made and thoughtfully crafted goods. So if that sounds like you, or someone you know, we'd love to hear from you.

For now, consider this your official excuse to block out the weekend in your diary. We'll be sharing the full programme soon, but trust us, it's already looking like a good one.

Interested in trading at A Very Croydon Christmas? Applications for the Night Market are now open and close on 1 November. **Best wishes, The Culture Croydon Team**

Join our free media creation workshop
Are you blind or visually impaired and interested in creating your own videos? Join us for a hands-on

workshop where you'll learn how to film videos, get started with basic video editing, and discover how AI can help you create graphics and visuals.

The workshop will be led by fellow blind and visually impaired content creators, who will share their own tools, techniques and experience.

When: Thursday 12th November, 11am to 2:30pm
Where: Stewart House, Central London, directly across the road from the back entrance of the British Museum
Getting there: We can meet you at your nearest public transport stop and guide you to the venue
Lunch: Provided

The workshop is free to attend and is part of a research project. As a thank you for your time, every participant will receive a £30 Amazon voucher.

How to sign up: Please register using this link: Media Creation workshop – Fill in form. When you sign up, let us know if you'd like to be met at a transport stop, and tell us about any access requirements.

If the link doesn't work for you, or you'd prefer to sign up another way, please email Anica Zeyen at Anica.zeyen@rhul.ac.uk

<u>Member's contribution -</u> Poem
Fisherman's Club by Faisal Conteh

The sea is wide, or so it seems,
A world of blue and ancient dreams.
But look beneath the silver crest,
Where weary spirits find no rest.

The Fisherman stands above the tide,
With nowhere left for the fish to hide.
His net is cast, a heavy mesh,
To trap the spirit and the flesh.

The fish looks to the water's grace,
His only home, his only place.
But the currents shift, the shadows grow,
And the water joins the Hunter's show.

How can you breathe? How can you stay?
When the very sea gives you away.
When the water betrays the life it bore,
And pulls the net toward the shore.

The Fisherman smiles, the trap is set,
The truth is tangled in the net.
When hope is gone beneath the deep,
The silent sea begins to weep.

Today's quote:

“The most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great in whatever they want to do.” – Kobe Bryant

A: Bedford Hall, 72 - 74 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR0 2AR

T: 020 8688 2486; Mob: 07395 247 699

E: ancella.george@croydonvision.org.uk | **W:** www.croydonvision.org.uk

Donate with JustGiving: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/croydonvision

Croydon Vision
Changing how we SEE

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS