

PARK HILL NEWS

FAIRFIELD HALLS
PROGRAMME INSIDE

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ISSUE 135 // PARK HILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER // WINTER 2019

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



For many of us, getting Brexit sorted would be the best start to a New Year. We have been in a dense jungle for a long time. Every time we thought that we were nearing the end of the journey, there was another twist – and we were as far away as ever.

It is not simply that we are weary of all the incomprehensible jargon – the backstop, customs union, frictionless trade. Brexit has been so divisive – creating splits and hostility in the nation and even among families and friends. As Tim Harford the journalist said recently: 'At the moment, everyone seems to agree that half the people in the country are ignorant, wicked or both. The only disagreement is over which half.'

What now? Somehow we need to find a solution which balances the well-being of Britain with the benefits we get from being part of a wider world. More generally, we need to focus on what unites us, not what divides us. Surely we all want a just, fair and prosperous

society which looks after those in need, creates opportunities for all and secures the future of the planet – and this goes far beyond Brexit.

We also need to recognise that we cannot rely on Governments to solve all our problems. As Dr Johnson (no relation to Boris) put it two hundred years ago:-

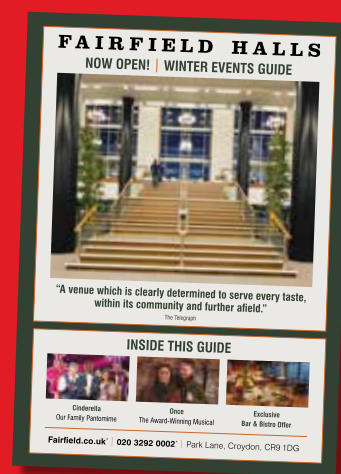
How small, of all that human hearts endure,

That part which laws or kings can cure.

It is up to us - not to others - to secure the future we want.

In that spirit, Park Hill Residents Association sends good wishes to everyone at this season and our hopes for brighter prospects in the New Year.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:
Fairfield Halls 4-page
Pull-out! Save 20% on
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SPRING CLEAN 2020

Once again, we invite residents to help collect litter from the verges of Park Hill. The spring clean will take place on **Sunday 12 January, at 12 noon** (weather permitting).

Meet by the sundial at St Matthew's Church, at the corner of Chichester Road & Park Hill Road. The clean-up will last an hour but you are welcome to come for less. Please bring gloves – we will provide sacks and sticks.

Do come! It's a good deed to start the New Year – and badly needed. You meet your neighbours. We'd be very grateful for your support.



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Park Hill Personalities:

PATRICIA BONHAM, LOCAL PARK HILL RESIDENT



We talk to Patricia Bonham, about a career that has ranged from Bermuda to Fiji, and a retirement that has helped many people in the community.

'I have never planned my life' says Pat, 'I have just seized what came my way. Once when I had just started a job in Sydney, they wanted someone to go for two weeks to a plant in a remote part of Western Australia. Who could resist an opportunity like that – paid travel, accommodation and adventure? I jumped at the chance and had a great time'.



By then she was a seasoned traveller. Starting as a receptionist in the City after leaving school, she soon moved on to working as a receptionist in hotels in England and developed the self-confidence she had lacked at school. In 1963, a friend persuaded her to join her in Bermuda. One thing led to another and she ended up working in a hotel there for two years. Armed

with that experience, she joined British Airways (or BOAC as it was known then) as a stewardess followed by another spell in Bermuda. Then after time back in Britain she was off again – on a slow boat to South Africa, and having explored different areas there, her friend Judy enticed her to be her bridesmaid in Australia.

After the wedding, Judy and her husband left for Fiji where they had managerial posts in a hotel. Before long Pat was offered a post as Public Relations Officer and Social Hostess at the hotel and off she went to Fiji. Here she was at her happiest. 'It wasn't a job,' she says, 'It was sheer enjoyment.' She got involved in the celebrations for independence and met Prince Charles in the process – as well as coping with the aftermath of a hurricane. Then New Zealand, Fiji again and Australia where she travelled across the Continent by bus, and worked with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Alice Springs (and climbed Ayers Rock as it was known then). During this time she met and subsequently married Kevin, a ground engineer with QANTAS. Sadly the marriage did not last but they remained friends.

Looking back on her travels, she was, she says, very fortunate. Tourism was booming in the 1960s and 70s as jet planes made distant places accessible to ordinary people.

Anyone with the right mix of skills and experience could travel and work freely. But what emerges too was how well Pat learnt to work with the public – smoothing their way, overcoming difficulties with her sense of humour, and rising to the occasion.

“Tourism was booming in the 1960s & 70s as jet planes made distant places accessible to ordinary people.”

These skills stood her in good stead when she finally returned to England in 1977 and took a job as a passenger service agent with British Caledonian Airways at Gatwick where she worked for nearly twenty years. For the final part of her career it was back to the City – as she described it 'the oldest office junior in the profession'.

However the skills she had gained in her travels were put to good use in retirement. She volunteered at Mayday Hospital as it was then known – first in the Friends shop and

then on reception where she still works two afternoons a week. She greatly enjoyed the opportunities to be involved in initiatives like the Health Information Group where she helped vet leaflets for patients and the Buddy scheme escorting lonely patients to their appointments in out-patients. And there has been all her work for the Residents Association. She joined the Committee in 2002 and is still an active member – packing and distributing Newsletters, and delivering nearly two hundred copies, as well as collecting subscriptions – and litter. She is active too on the Management Committee for her part of Park Hill where she has now lived for nearly 40 years.

What is impressive about Pat is her commitment to all she takes on. Indeed when asked as to what drove her on, she immediately said 'Honouring my commitments to others'.



She manages however to fit in some time for herself – going to concerts (she is delighted with the new Fairfield Halls), going to art exhibitions, walking in Lloyd Park – her back garden as she calls it – and lunching with her friends. These days, due to 'retreating youth' as she puts it, she is much less active and adventurous than she was – but still keen to do what she can.

Her ambitions are to remain independent and to make the most of life – and it is typical that what irritates her most is people who are more concerned with themselves than with others. That will never be said of Pat. We thank her for all she does for others around her.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR/PUBLISHER & ADVERTISING -
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Other members are: Patricia Bonham, Fiona Nicol (Membership), Bill Smart (Police Liaison), David Stanton (Treasurer) and Robert Webb (Secretary).

The publication of an advertisement in the Newsletter implies no endorsement by the Association of the advertiser or his/her products or services. If you use any of the services advertised, please let them know that you saw the advertisement in this Newsletter. Thank you.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I/We wish to join/renew membership of Park Hill Residents Association and enclose a subscription of £5 to cover the membership to March 2020.

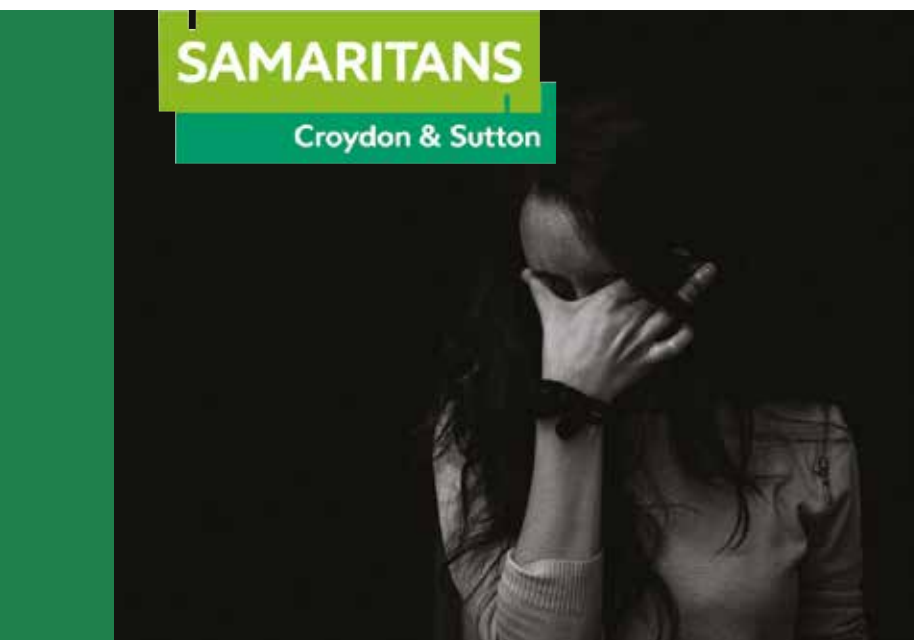
Name(s).....

Address.....

Please forward your subscription to Fiona Nicol, 10 Selborne Road, Croydon CR0 5JQ

HELPING OTHERS AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Every year at this time we invite you to contribute to organisations which help others in need. This year we invite you to make a gift to the Samaritans who help people in distress and the Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation helping to educate young people about the dangers of drug use. Please give generously.



OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

Samaritans Vision is that fewer people die by suicide. We work to achieve this vision by making it our mission to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feelings and suicidal behaviour.

We do this by offering, confidential emotional support to anyone in distress (a safe place to talk without being judged) by face to face interviews, email, telephone and SMS support.

The service is available 24 / 7 – 365 days a year and is free to callers on 116 123.

The service is non-judgemental and confidential and whilst advice is not offered we do signpost to other organisations and charities where it is felt the caller may benefit from practical assistance.

Roles at Croydon Samaritans, such as training, recruitment, fundraising, publicity and community outreach are carried out by voluntary staff (in addition to their listening duties) with the exception of the cleaner.

If you'd like to support the work of the Samaritans in this area, search on line for www.samaritans.org/Croydon. Scroll down the site, look for the link for donations to the local Branch and make a gift there. Thank you for your support.



Daniel Spargo Mabbs died in January 2014 after taking an unexpected overdose of ecstasy at a rave. He was just 16 and a popular pupil at Archbishop Tenison's School. It was a huge shock to everyone, and his parent felt that if this could happen to Dan, it could happen to anyone. They wanted to do all they could to prevent this.

So, they set up a drug education charity in Dan's name, the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation, to try to prevent other families from having to go through the pain of losing a child, and to stop the damage done by drugs to young lives. The Foundation aims to improve young people's awareness of the risks of drugs and equip them to make safe choices. They are working with young people, their teachers and their parents and carers, and with other professionals working with young people, in schools, colleges and communities. They offer



workshops, resources for schools, training for staff and Theatre in Education. A moving play about Daniel – 'I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die' – was seen by 14,000 people earlier this year on its third professional tour, and will return to Archbishop Tenison's for a second public evening performance next spring – see the website for details.

The Foundation has grown rapidly from the start and needs more funds to continue and expand its work. See www.dsmfoundation.org.uk to find out how to give, or post donations to 18 Wyche Grove, South Croydon CR2 6EX.

Help make sure that all our youngsters get home safely this Christmas.

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tickets@croydonphilharmonic.org or pay at the door

Carmina Burana—Carl Orff

Rhapsody in Blue—George Gershwin
Saturday 28 March 2020—FAIRFIELD HALLS
With Basingstoke Choral Society and
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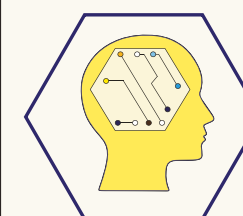
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HERE & THERE

A ROUND UP OF LOCAL NEWS

THE BIG CONVERSATION

Croydon Council has launched a Big Conversation seeking residents' views on the shape of the town by 2030. They are seeking views on the issues which should underlie a new Local Plan for Croydon. There will be workshops of various kinds, There will be exhibitions in various libraries and drop in sessions at the Croydon Art Store in the Whitgift Centre (Wednesdays to Saturdays). We will be attending some of these events and will report back. In the meantime, search the Council's website for 'Local Plan Review'.

www.bigconversation.croydon.gov.uk

Westfield

We wish that we could bring you some firm news about Westfield. All that we can report is that there was a 'productive' meeting at the end of October between the Council and Croydon Partnership which discussed progress on a revised scheme. The proposals include more offices and 'co-working spaces' (whatever they are), a hotel as well as shopping.

Also under consideration are fewer parking spaces and more open space. But when will we see firm plans? And when might the redevelopment start? One informed guess is that the project would complete in 2024 –but don't bank on it. There is also a rumour that buildings on the site will start to be demolished in the New Year after the 'Christmas rush' – but which New Year?

East Croydon Medical Centre

Talking of long delays there were recently some signs of activity on the protracted renovation at East Croydon Medical Centre – but the impetus seems to have faded and the site is quiet again. We have tried in vain to find out from the practice when the current work is likely to finish –they simply don't reply to our enquiries. In the meantime the reception area at the practice is cramped and the 'temporary' staircase to the first floor is hard to access even by the able-bodied. It is surely time that conditions for both patients and staff improved.



Planning - 34 Brownlow Road

The owners of this property have applied to replace the chalet bungalow there with a four storey block of eight flats. There is already a single storey house at the rear of the site. We are strongly opposed to the proposed development. Its height and breadth are totally out of keeping with the surrounding area and will be very intrusive. It will affect not only the house at the back of the site but also

overlook houses in Rushmead Close. Replacing a small detached house just 1.5 storeys high with a four storey block of flats on a site which has already been partially redeveloped can only be achieved by intensive development which pays no regard to surrounding properties. We are working with Councillor Vidhi Mohan and local residents to stop this intrusion.



FAIRFIELD HALLS

NOW OPEN! | WINTER EVENTS GUIDE



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The Telegraph

INSIDE THIS GUIDE



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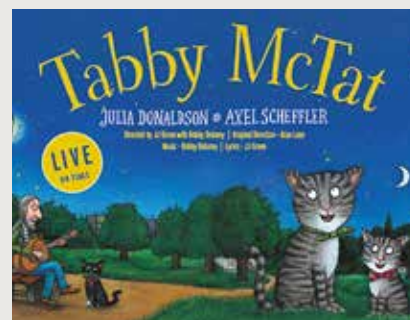
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**Len Phillips Big Band -
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Fri 6 Dec



**Whitney -
Queen of the Night**
Sun 8 Dec



**An Evening of
Eric & Ern at Christmas**
Mon 9 - Sat 14 Dec



**London Mozart Players -
A Christmas Carol**
Sat 14 Dec



**Lost In Music -
One Night at the Disco**
Sat 14 Dec



**Santa's Elves
and the Shoemaker**
Fri 20 - Sun 22 Dec



**London Mozart Players -
The Snowman**
Mon 23 Dec



**Sandi Toksvig Live!
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F:15

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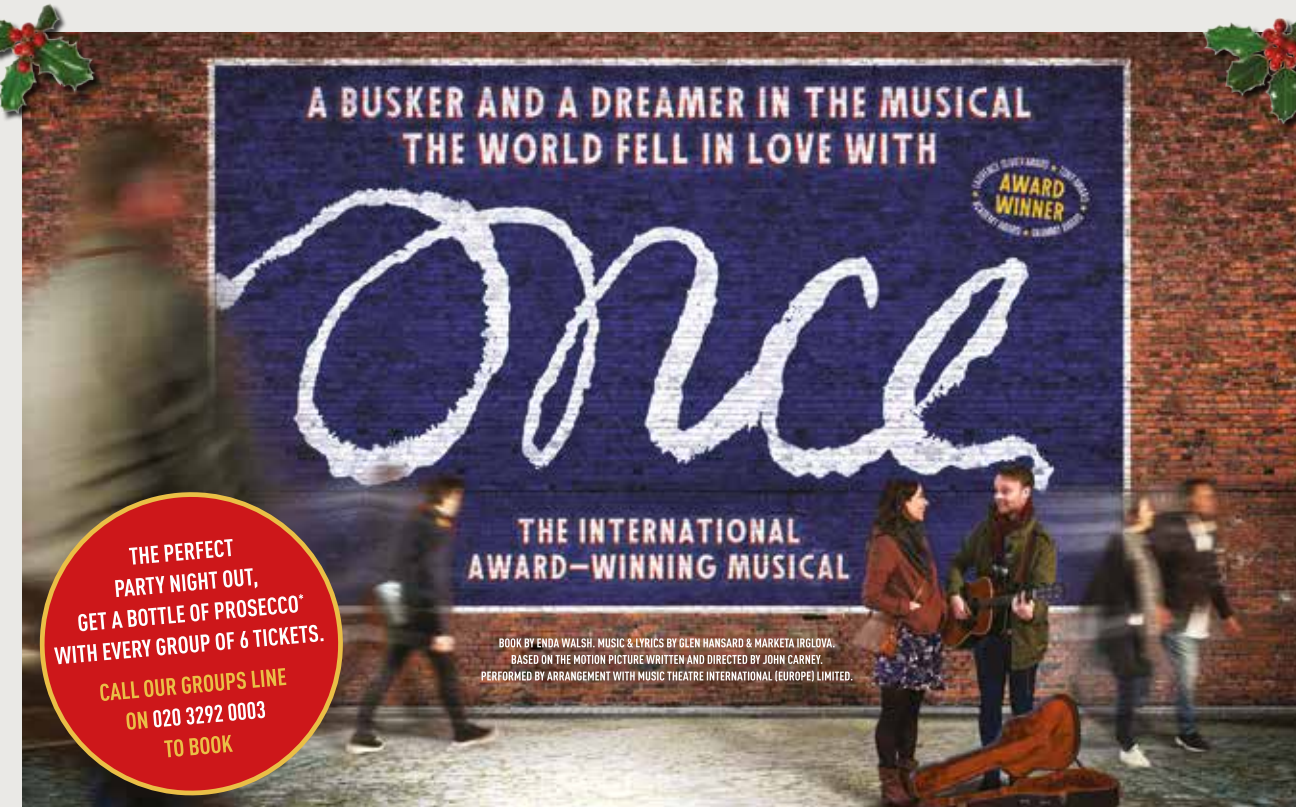
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*Terms & Conditions: Ticket Prices: Transaction fee may apply. Fairfield Season Saver & Fairfield 15 ticket prices are for selected performances only, subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Season Saver must be booked in a single transaction and a maximum of two tickets can be booked for each show. Ticket prices may change and we encourage you to book early. Terrace Bistro: Set menu price is for starter and main, or main and dessert. These prices are available on the Autumn / Winter menu. Prosecco Offer: Subject to availability. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

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HERE & THERE

A ROUND UP OF LOCAL NEWS

Post Boxes Change in Collection Times

If you are posting a letter, check carefully the collection times. Most boxes in Park Hill now have a collection time of **9.00am Monday-Friday** or **7.00am Saturday** – including those in Chichester Road and Stanhope Road which used to have later collection times. In practice the collection time from these boxes is rather later than shown. But if you want to be sure that a letter is picked up the same day, go to the post box on the corner of Fairfield Road and Fairfield Path (beside Alden Court) where the last collection is at **5.30pm**.



Park Hill Juniors endorse our Litter Campaign

Many thanks to Ann Pratt, Head Teacher, responding to our campaign: "We as a school take litter very seriously and some of our children made a presentation on this ... they are very aware that we should not litter our streets and we should be looking after our environment."



OUR INTREPID CORRESPONDENT YOUR CHAIR BRAVES THE ELEMENTS FOR ART'S SAKE

As your Chair fought his way through wind and rain to a concert at the Fairfield Halls on Saturday 26 October, he muttered to himself that it had better be good.

It was good – so good that it deserves to be in the Newsletter. Why?

First, a superb performance by the Croydon Philharmonic Society and the London Mozart Players of Verdi's Requiem. There was a chorus of over 150 who sang the lengthy and complex score by heart – and with heart. They ranged fluently from fortissimo to pianissimo. They had been rehearsing since June and the effort was reflected in their mastery of the piece. They complemented a capable team of soloists – in particular Erica Eloff whose soprano soared into the sublime – and the London Mozart Players, our own orchestra at last back where they belong.

Second, the glory of the Verdi Requiem. It is a remarkable work,

more like an opera than a Mass – passionate in its emotion and immediacy. 'Every number a cracker' as a friend of mine used to say of Bach's St Matthew Passion and this work shares the scale and range of that Passion. It is a massive masterpiece.

Third, the concert hall. Nearly fifty years after my first visit to Fairfield, it was a great joy to be at a concert there again. And oh that acoustic. I'd forgotten how good the Fairfield sound can be – resonant, reverberating, and clear – and the scale of this work and performance showed it off to the full. There was a marvellous moment when trumpeters (and there were seven trumpeters in the orchestra) sounded from the back of the hall flooding it with sound.

Fourth, the renewal of Fairfield after so many years of waiting. I used to say that I could paper my walls with plans for renovating Fairfield which never

seemed to come to anything. Now we have so much more than a concert hall – so many activities appealing to a wide audience and so handsomely presented. On a winter's evening, the entrance hall is a sight to see from the main staircase.

There is room for improvement. No parking yet. Booking tickets on the website can be a pain. Finding out what is going on is not easy. Why don't they have a monthly programme on line and in print? On a busy wet Saturday night there were not enough staff on the bars or in the Cloak Room leading to irritable queues.

But those things can be put right. In the meantime the sound of that performance lingers on. A cause for celebration – and anticipation of more good things to come.

JOHN INGMAN

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IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH GOES ON AT ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

HERE'S A LIST FOR YOU TO KEEP...

DAY	ACTIVITY	WHEN
SUNDAYS	Morning Services	Weekly 8.30 and 10am
	Café Church	Monthly 2nd Sunday 10.30am
	Breathe	Monthly 3rd Sunday 5pm
	Evening Service	As announced
MONDAYS	Pilates	Weekly 11am – 12noon
	U3A Looking at London	Monthly 1st Monday 2pm – 4pm
	East Surrey Family History Group	Monthly 2nd Monday 7.30-9.30pm Not April, August, December
	Sandra's Singing Group	Weekly 2.00pm-4.00pm
TUESDAYS	10 O'Clock Club, Mothers & Toddlers	Weekly (Term Time) 10am – 12 noon
	Pilates	Weekly 11am – 12noon
	U3A History of London	Monthly 4th Tuesday 2pm – 4pm
	Wonder Kidz	Weekly 4pm – 6pm
	Cub Scouts	Weekly 7pm – 8.30pm
	Scouts	Weekly 7.30pm – 9pm
	Croydon Philharmonic Choir	Weekly 6.45pm – 9.45pm
WEDNESDAYS	Eucharist Service	Weekly 10am
	Gallery Group	Weekly 11am
	U3A Singing for Pleasure	2nd & 4th Wed 10.30am – 12 noon
	Circle Dance Group	1st Wednesday 2.00pm-4.00pm
	Adult Exercise Class	Weekly 2.30pm – 3.15pm
	Children's Ballet Classes	Weekly 3.15pm – 6.15pm
	Rainbow Guides	Weekly 6.10pm – 7.30pm
	Brownie Guides	Weekly 6.30pm – 8pm
	Guides	Weekly 6.45pm – 8.30pm
	Croydon Bach Choir	Weekly 8pm – 10pm
THURSDAYS	U3A Painting for Pleasure	Weekly 10am – 12 noon
	Helen O'Grady Drama Academy	Weekly 2.45pm – 7pm
	Wonder Kidz	Weekly 4.30pm – 5.30pm
	Pilates	Weekly 7.10pm – 8.10pm
FRIDAYS	U3A Table Tennis	Weekly 2pm – 4pm
	Upahaar School of Dance	Weekly 4pm – 6pm
	Alzheimer's Society - Singing for the Brain	Weekly 10.30am – 12.30pm
	Apply to the Alzheimer's Society	
SATURDAYS	Beaver Scouts	Weekly 6pm -7.30pm
	Coffee Morning	Weekly 10am – 12 noon
	Circle Dance Group	2nd & 4th Sat 10.30am – 12.30pm
	Forget – me – Not Café	1st and 3rd Sat 2.00pm-4.00pm
	Apply to the Alzheimer's Society	
OCCASIONAL	Park Hill & Whitgift Ward Councillor's Surgery	Monthly 2nd Saturday 10.00am
	Bible Study Groups	
	Concerts by Croydon Bach Choir, Croydon Philharmonic Choir Jubilate Choir, Cantilena Singers	
	Family Birthdays and special occasions	
	Residents Associations quarterly and annual meetings	

Further information about these activities is on the websites of the various organisations or leave a message with the Parish Administrator on **020 8681 3147** who will pass on your details.

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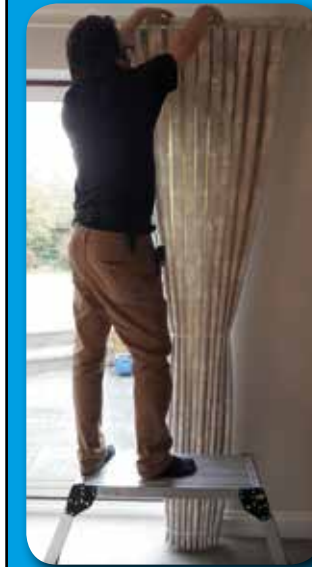
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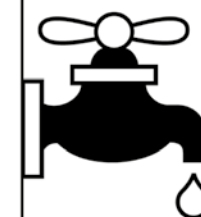
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