



PRESS RELEASE

CRYSTAL PALACE FESTIVAL 6th to 12th June 2009

“If we can’t escape the past let’s at least relive the good bits”

Boris Johnson

The 155th Anniversary of the opening of South London’s Crystal Palace is being celebrated with the first Crystal Palace Festival Week since 1974. The Festival forms part of the Mayor of London’s capital-wide celebration entitled ‘The Story of London’ and celebrates Crystal Palace’s famous past and vibrant future.

Events include:–

Grand Opening with a Victorian picnic, Collector’s Antiques Fair, re-construction of the Crystal Palace and Victorian-style children’s games (Saturday 6th June from 12.00 noon at Crystal Palace Park)

The Mayors of Croydon and Lambeth will launch a Victorian Afternoon, which includes a Magic Lantern Show, traditional Punch and Judy, ‘Dragonsfire’ Victorian-style musicians, Victorian Magician, period entertainers and walkabout characters, storytelling, refreshments, displays, face-painting and stalls (Saturday 6th June from 2.00 pm at The Upper Norwood Joint Library)

A unique ‘Darwin Symposium’ with speakers from University College London and Spurgeon’s College, to celebrate the Darwin bicentennial this year. (Thursday 11th June at 7.00 pm at The Upper Norwood Joint Library)

Festival Finale featuring - London and Crystal Palace on film presented by Tribute Trust, plus an audience participation production of ‘Joseph and His Amazing Crystal Palace’ and music from ‘The Effras’. Named after one of London’s lost rivers, The Effras are currently making a name for themselves singing soulful tunes about south London. Their lead singer and songwriter is Gipsy Hill’s very own parish priest, Andrew Rumsey. (Friday 12th June at 7.30 pm in the Balmoral Ballroom, Queens Hotel, Church Road, SE19).

The Festival will also feature historical walks, a Crystal Palace themed quiz, an on-line exhibition, together with a variety of musical, arts, poetry and children’s events. The full programme is attached.

More information:

Crystal Palace Festival –

Contact: John Greatrex on 020 8778 1865 or 07910 336548

or josephpaxton@hotmail.com

Upper Norwood Joint Library events –

Contact: Bradley Millington, Jerry Savage or Fiona Byers. The Upper Norwood Joint Library, 39-41 Westow Hill, London SE19 1TJ. Tel: 020 8670 2551. Website:

www.uppernorwoodlibrary.org



NOTES FOR EDITOR

The Story of London is a month-long celebration of the city's past, present and future, which takes place throughout the whole of June 2009. Organised by the Greater London Authority in partnership with a host of organisations across the capital, it is aimed at tourists and Londoners alike, with events and activities in every borough. More information can be found at www.london.gov.uk/storyoflondon.

Additional press information about the Story of London is available by contacting Ben McKnight at the GLA on 020 7983 4071, or email communitydesk@london.gov.uk.

London Mayor Boris Johnson says:

'There are so many stories to tell, in so many different ways, and the Story of London will be a kaleidoscopic exposition of the city's past, present and future. It will bring together some superb attractions for visitors and Londoners, who will also be able to 'revisit' their city with fresh eyes.'