

# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



NEXT MEETING: 7PM ON TUESDAY 6TH JULY 2004 AT LORENZO'S RESTAURANT

[www.norwoodchamber.org.uk](http://www.norwoodchamber.org.uk)

*For more information about the chamber, its objectives, minutes of the last meeting, copies of our newsletter and the opportunity to join the mailing list visit [www.norwoodchamber.org.uk](http://www.norwoodchamber.org.uk)*

## UPPER NORWOOD JOINT LIBRARY

After a major, nine month refurbishment costing more than £1m, the Upper Norwood Joint Library in Westow Hill was re-opened at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd of June in an official ceremony by the Mayors of both Croydon and Lambeth. Audrey Hammond marked the occasion with the presentation of a folder for pictures by local artists and included some of her own to get it started. The library re-opened to the public on Saturday 26th of June with a special fun day of activities, competitions and events.

The library is unique in local government because it is managed by a Joint Committee of councillors from Lambeth and Croydon, and although the annual running costs are provided by the two boroughs, UNJL sets its own policies, priorities and procedures and does not form part of either borough library services. It is the only independent library in the UK!

The capital costs of the refurbishment were provided by the Crystal Palace Partnership/SRB, Sure Start and the London Borough of Lambeth, resulting from a series of funding bids by the library staff. The library (which first opened in July 1900) now benefits from a host of new or improved facilities including a Youth Library, full disabled access, public toilet and lift to the first floor, a new ICT suite with computers and full Internet access, a Meeting Room for public hire, improved facilities and accommodation including upgraded heating, ventilation, lighting and



new furniture, an enlarged Children's Library relocated to the ground floor, a Homework Club, private Advice Room and new collections of books. This will be in addition to the existing stock of 60,000 books, videos, CDs, DVDs, newspapers, magazines and CD-ROMs.

Library staff are also planning to establish a range of partnerships with organisations in the Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood area, to maximise learning, leisure, cultural, employment, training and educational opportunities for the whole community. Priorities will include services aimed at the under-25 age group, young children, excluded groups, the older learner and local businesses. Improvements in basic skills, literacy and reading development will also be targeted and 'focus groups' of community groups and library members will be set up to help to identify and meet local needs more effectively.

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## BAIRSTOW EVES OPENS

Managing Director Audrey Simolli welcomed Croydon Council Leader Hugh Malyan to Crystal Palace on Tuesday 29th June to conduct the official opening of the new Bairstow Eves estate agents on Church Road.

## HANGING BASKETS

The Chamber of Commerce is working with the Town Centre Management to provide hanging baskets in the triangle. Although probably too late for this year we are gradually working our way through the council machinery to get some for 2005.

## EVENT BANNERS

Do opposites attract? Do you get on with the shop across the road? If you do there could be some money in it for you because local event organisers are looking for new locations to

unfurl banners across the street. If you think you have a suitable location please speak with your neighbour and then get in touch with the Town Centre Manager (based in the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays).

## HATCHET JOB

The Chamber of Commerce is unimpressed with the 'skill' of recent utility workers who dug up the street outside Los Toreros in Westow Street. We have asked the TCM to follow up on these vandals and get things put back the way they should be.

