



READ ALL ABOUT IT: Children at Norwood Grove Pre-School enjoy a good book
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NOVEL JOY: Learning books can be magical
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WELL-READ: No such thing as a Gruffalo
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Enjoying a good book

YOU'RE never too young to enjoy a good book, as these children at Norwood Grove Pre-School proved.

The youngsters at the pre-school, based at The White House,

in Gibson's Hill, Norbury, were taking part in World Book Day last Thursday.

Its main aim is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and reading.

Thousands of items left on town's buses

Passenger joy when reunited with property

By **Ross Lidbetter**
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FROM 18 single gloves to 330 pairs of glasses – more than 5,500 lost items were handed in to Croydon bus garages last year.

The most common left-behind items were books, with 1,169 forgotten by passengers.

While smaller items like the 293 keys can easily be missed by the naked eye, one retired Croydon bus driver recalls pushchairs and even suitcases being left behind.

Henry Martin, once the borough's favourite bus driver with an internet fan club and hundreds of adoring passengers, said: "I've been in the office when they've brought in buggies or suitcases.

Holiday

"You can't believe it – we say to them 'are you going on your holiday?'"

"But there is something picked up every day.

"If you're on the late shift then you'll see everything when you got back."



LOST PROPERTY: Passengers left over 5,500 items last year

The statistics come from the garages in Beddington Farm Road, Thornton Heath and South Croydon, as well as on the borough border in Beddington Lane. It works out at about 15 items a day.

The majority were handed in at the busy South Croydon site on the Brighton Road.

The figure there of 1,897 lost belongings included 292 bags, 267 pieces of clothing and 128 umbrellas.

Other items left behind ranged from wallets and laptops to cameras and MP3 players.

Mr Martin says he is not surprised by the high figure with people rushing about their daily lives.

But he added that passengers were grateful when items were returned.

Considerable

He explained: "There was one middle-aged lady who left her handbag on the bus and there was a considerable amount of money inside.

"A passenger handed it to a bus driver and it was taken to South Croydon bus station.

"When she came to collect it she didn't actually faint or collapse, but she was overcome with emotion and we had to get her a cup of coffee with lots of sugar.

"That makes you feel very proud that we could reunite her with that."

The figures were sent to the Advertiser by Transport for London.

IN BRIEF

Girls beat off competition

SHIRLEY: Aspiring accountants from Coloma Convent Girls' School, in Upper Shirley Road, beat off competition from ten other London-based secondary schools in the regional heat of a competition.

Assuming the role of chartered accountants, the students worked in teams of six to analyse, discuss and decide on the next business steps for a fictional organisation.

The students had to prepare presentations to show to a business panel in a bid to go through to the national final of the ICAEW Business, Accounting and Skills Educational competition.

Tales of travel

CROYDON: An English teacher and author spoke to an audience about the highs and lows of travel and adventure writing last Wednesday.

Jonny Muir, who is a teacher at Royal Russell School in Coombe Lane, gave an illustrated talk to a capacity audience in the school's Performing Arts Auditorium.

He answered questions and signed copies of his three books afterwards.

School reunion

CROYDON: Pupils who attended Lady Edridge Grammar School for Girls in the 1960s are invited to a reunion next month.

The event will take place from noon on April 1 at The Milan Bar, in North End.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

"Embarrassed and frustrated with your dentures?"

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The Denture and Implant Clinic was founded by Dr Justin Stewart, the first bio-functional prosthetic system qualified dental surgeon in the UK. This system is an advanced denture making technique that enables the clinic to offer patients a cost effective long term solution to their denture problems. The Denture and Implant Clinic is one of only a handful of practices which dedicates its treatments to denture patients, and has Denture Technicians and a Laboratory on site. Meeting and talking with the technician making your denture is a key benefit. The team has been trained directly by Dr Stewart to be able to carry out treatment to the highest level.

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Free Special Report

For a free copy of our special report 9 Critical Questions you must ask before having Dentures Made", call us or download from our website. This information is valuable for all denture wearers.

"Denture Wearers' 5 Most Common Frustrations"

1. My dentures are loose which I find embarrassing.
2. My dentures are sore and painful when I chew.
3. I have never been happy with the appearance of my teeth and I hate having photos taken.
4. I am not able to chew food properly and can't order what I want at restaurants.
5. I have been told by my dentist that my dentures are as good as I can expect which leaves me feeling depressed.



"I am so pleased with my lower denture I am returning for them to make the upper"
Miss C. Johnson, Kent

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