

**IN BRIEF**

**Town launches flood scheme**

**PURLEY:** The town has launched an 'advanced' flood plan - during the third driest March on record.

One of the first of its kind in London, the strategy has been spearheaded by Purley and Woodcote Residents' Association chairman Tarsem Flora, who said the action plan would be crucial for the town if it finds itself in deep water again.

A core team of flood wardens have been appointed who will act as a first point of contact while keeping a watch on high-risk areas and liaising with emergency services.

For more information call 020 8686 6663.

**Netballing cap**

**SHIRLEY:** Netballing star Alima Priest has gained her first international cap.

Alima, 17, from Coloma Convent Girls' School in Upper Shirley Road, took part in the European Netball Championships in Glasgow.

The England U17 team were undefeated all weekend.

Alima played goal keeper against Northern Ireland and contributed to a stunning 70-10 victory.

The Conservative candidate and current Mayor of London tells us

**CROYDON QUIZ**

We will be asking each of the mayoral candidates how much they know about Croydon. Here's how Boris got on...

**Q: What's the name of Croydon's concert hall?**

**A:** Um, urr. The big one. I've been there loads of times. The Fair-something? Fairfax?

**Answer:** Fairfield - Generous half mark.

**Q: What's the population of Croydon?**

**A:** 375,000. Actually a bit less than that - 350,000?

**Correct.**

**Q: What's the name of Crystal Palace's ground?**

**A:** Um...I know this. Wait, wait - Selhurst Park.

**Correct.**

**Q: What's the name of the Channel 4 sitcom which was filmed in Croydon?**

**A:** Um, I know - it's that sport one isn't it? The one in a health farm...

**Wrong.**

**Answer:** Peep Show.

**Q: What's the name of Croydon's historic market?**

**A:** Oh, oh, oh, cripes! It's the long one with all the fruits - sod it - I've been there billions of times. Wait! Oh, pass.

**Wrong.**

**Answer:** Surrey Street.

**SCORE: 2.5 out of 5.**

# Boris talks business and bikes

ON MAY 3, voters from Croydon and across London will go to the polls, to elect the capital's next mayor. Over the next three weeks, the Advertiser will be speaking to each candidate from the three main parties, finding out what they would do for Croydon, if elected to City Hall. News editor **Gabriel Shepard** grills the current mayor and Conservative candidate **Boris Johnson**

**Why are you in Croydon today?**

We're launching the economic manifesto. Croydon is the economic powerhouse of the economy. We're going to continue with the investment programmes that we've got underway and we're going to do more of that. There are big discussions going on at the moment about the shopping centres. One of our jobs in the next few months will be to bring that to a peaceful resolution.

In a recent survey by South London Business 90 per cent of the 200 local businesses consulted said they didn't feel they had the support of you or the assembly. Do you take that as a failure?

I haven't seen that. I'll have a look at that and what they're saying. It may be that there are benefits that they are not yet getting.

Westfield has become iconic as the London shopping centre. How do you feel about it not getting the development of the Whitgift Centre?

There are two big brands competing there. It wouldn't be right for me as mayor to adjudicate.

The shareholders, the council, everyone's got to work out how to do that. What would be a shame would be if they can't cooperate and get things going because it's vital that we get on with it.

If things did stall would you get involved?

We are already involved in a facilitating way.

But what about in a 'Boris I'm going to get involved in this' way?

We are already involved, but I'm not going to... the council's involved and we're going to be keeping a very close eye on it. It's very important for London.

One of the major issues in Croydon is public transport and in your manifesto you mention the bike hire scheme potentially coming here. When is that actually going to happen?

It won't be immediately but we'll try and



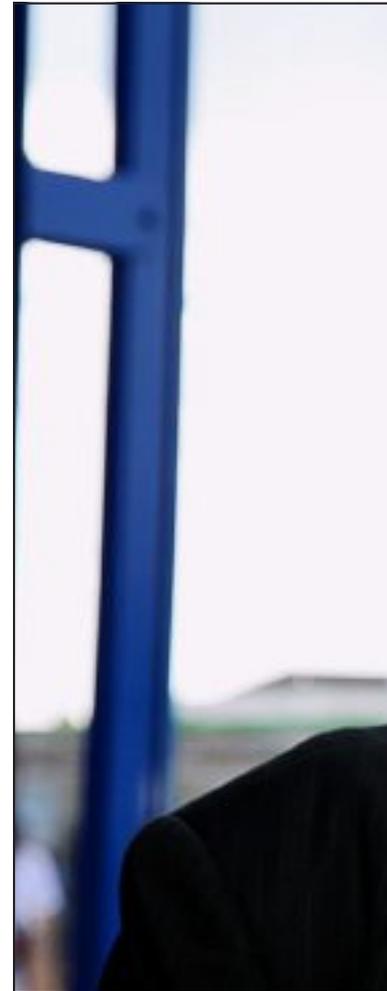
do it this term. Within Croydon you've got a very good natural area that could be used for a bike hire scheme. The question is does Croydon become part of the organic expansion (from central London) or do we create a 'peninsula' in Croydon? Do you think Croydon should be the first place to get them outside of central London?

(Pause - aide jumps in): Certainly one of the five outer London areas. (Boris chips in): I'm trying to think of the other areas. Romford, Bromley... (Splutters)

Let's put Croydon to the top of the list. Gabriel, since it's you, let's put Croydon to the top of the list.

Thank you very much. On to trams now - the tram extension to Crystal Palace. Is it going to happen in the next five years?

Yes. We're going to get on with it. Obviously we need to get the funding for it. You've got to make the best case to Government. I'll tell you why I think I'm, in a better position to get this than Ken Livingstone: When he ran TfL he ran the budgets in a very, very profligate way. The money was being lost on stuff that wasn't going to bring value. The Treasury doesn't like that at all and they won't give you more money unless they feel that things are being well-managed. We've cut costs massively. We've cut 25 per cent of directors, 20 buildings we've got rid of - cutting £2 billion in waste. They will give us funding for that kind of scheme, like the extension of Croydon Tramlink when



they see that London's being well managed.

When do you think that's going to be? In the next term.

Which do you prefer as a mode of transport - bike or tram?

I use all modes of public transport. Which do you prefer though? You can't love two things at the same time can you?

Ah, well that's a deeply philosophical question.

I use all modes that we supply. I love using a bike because I have a sort of rolling focus group with Londoners and I enjoy that.

Moving onto the riots. There's a bit of a feeling locally that politicians are trying to profit politically by turning up for photos at places like Reeves Corner, for example.

I hope I've not been accused of doing that. I've certainly been there and I've been to Croydon quite a lot. It's my job to come and discuss the regeneration funds that we've put in and what we're doing, not

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**FACT FILE: Boris's life**

**Full name:** Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson.  
**Age:** 47.  
**Party:** Conservative.  
**Political career:** Former MP for Henley and shadow minister for the arts and higher education. Became Mayor of London in 2008 after defeating Labour incumbent Ken Livingstone. He then resigned his seat in Parliament to concentrate on his new responsibility. With over a million votes, Mr Johnson received the largest personal mandate of any politician in British history.  
**Other jobs:** The former editor of The Spectator magazine and a Daily Telegraph columnist.  
**Personal life:** Married with four children.