

Trading at Croydon Harvest

5 and 6 October 2024, 11am – 4pm

Background

Croydon Harvest featuring The Walnut Fair will take place over the first weekend of October in Croydon Town Centre. It is a new event which hopes to bring Croydon communities and visitors to the borough to celebrate food, folk, faith, countryside/nature and sustainability. The event will represent multiple cultures and cultural traditions from bhangra dancing to wassails.

The Walnut Fair was established in September 1314; it later moved to October when the new Gregorian calendar was introduced in 1752. Originally held in Surrey Street and Middle Row, it attracted pilgrims travelling to Canterbury. It was moved to Fair Field because of the increasing size of the crowds. The final fair was in 1868, like many other travelling fairs ultimately being closed down for being too bawdy! You can read more about the fair [here](#). This year we will be supporting a mini toy version of **The Walnut Fair** with our partners at Pollocks Toy Museum, who will be working with the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society to bring together toy versions of the historic extravaganza as well walnut-based craft activities.

Croydon Harvest will take place around Surrey Street, Katharine Street, Croydon Clocktower and The Queen's Gardens where we will have a small petting farm. There will be outdoor arts; dancing; craft events; a market; storytelling and folk music (some of which will take place in Croydon Clocktower). Nearly all activities will be free (some exceptions around booked craft workshops). The event will be advertised through www.culturecroydon.com and our associated newsletter and social media accounts, there will be printed leaflets, posters and flyers.

Croydon Harvest Market

We would like to welcome traders who best reflect the theme of the event. We would hope to have an array of natural and/or handmade products from beauty treatments; craft; (gift) food/drink; clothing; wildlife/nature-inspired designs; flowers etc.. It is worth noting that toy stalls were a key feature of the original Walnut Fair. Traders should be not be selling mass produced goods.

We would also like to host food trucks/traders with a selection of food/drink from around the world so that our guests can enjoy a Harvest lunch/brunch.

Information stalls are also welcome for relevant organisations and charities – maybe that's Beekeepers, Conservationists, Wildlife Associations, local allotments etc.. These stalls cannot be used to collect donations, but people may sign up for newsletters, further information etc..

The normal busy Surrey Street market will operate on Saturday and we expect some of our regular traders to return on the Sunday. Additionally, we are happy to welcome vintage/recycled/upcycled/pre-loved goods for a bit of a 'Harvest Flea' in Surrey Street on the Sunday.

We will provide small stalls (2.1mx2.1m, table 2.1m long x 0.9m wide) in Katherine Street opposite Croydon Clocktower. A limited number of traders will be able to bring gazebos (max size 3x3m) and food trucks are welcome. Trucks and gazebos will be sited on Surrey Street.

As an introductory offer, other than mandatory costs for trading licences and admin costs for food trucks, all the pitch fee will be returned to traders who fully honour their booking commitment. More information on the application form attached.

We hope you will want to come and join us on the start of this new venture and look forward to hearing from you.