

SURREY STREET MARKET

This picture is the winning entry from the recent Croydon Culture Click photography competition and is now on permanent display in Croydon Council's new offices at Bernard Weatherill House. The contest was jointly organised by Councillor Yvette Hopley, who is Mayor of Croydon, and Croydon Commitment.

The organisers were looking for an image which captured the essence of Croydon and photographs were judged on how they captured the vibrancy of Croydon's culture, transporting people to the heart of the place and showing passion for the town. The photographer, Michael Farley, chose this location as it represents much of Croydon's history, present and future. This image shows buildings both old and new, the bustle of the market and was timed to include one of its iconic trams passing by.

There has been a market continuously held at Surrey Street for around 800 years and it is thought that it might date back even earlier to Anglo-Saxon times. The market is located in Croydon's Old Town which boasts a number of historic buildings. These include the Almshouses and the palace of Archbishop John Whitgift, now part of Old Palace School.

These days Croydon is home to a large population and is well known for its modern tram system. It has seen many changes since then and there are a number of new developments planned, including the new Westfield shopping centre.

This winning image is included in the 2014 Croydon Charity Calendar which also features the other finalists. It is available at this cafe priced just £5 and proceeds will help support the Mayor's charities. These are the South East Cancer Help Centre in Purley, supporting people with cancer and their families, and the British Heart Foundation, which has just opened a shop in George Street in the town centre.

Michael Farley has been interested in photography from the time when he used to "help" his father process black and white prints in his darkroom. He asked for his own camera for his 8th birthday and has been a photographer ever since. He is a member of Croydon Camera Club, which meets at 8:00 pm on most Wednesdays at Shirley Methodist Church.

