

# Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

For the benefit of Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation  
Area and its environs

**BULLETIN: Summer 2012**



**IN THIS ISSUE** • The future of the Fire Station • Update on the Cricketers pub • Latest news • Celebrating London Open House • Who we are and what we do • Become a member

## Welcome

Welcome to this new Bulletin from Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage. We're a voluntary civic group dedicated to the Cricket Green conservation area and its surroundings. We want this Bulletin to keep you up to date with local issues, share wonderful things about Cricket Green and invite you to join in some of our activities – don't miss the diary date on the back page.

Find out more at [www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk) and follow us @MitchamCrktGrn on Twitter.

## Latest News

Over the last few months Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage has been busy. Here are some of the many things we've been working on.

We've responded to plans to build housing on the site of the Cricketers pub on Lower Green. See separate story on this.

We're on a Community Liaison group with SITA, owner of the Benedict Wharf waste management site. SITA was given permission by Mayor Boris Johnson to develop an anaerobic digestion facility and waste transfer station on the site despite this being turned down by the London Borough of Merton. We were instrumental in securing money for the local community as a condition of the Mayor's permission. Now we are working to minimise disruption caused by heavy lorries on Church Road and to champion the interests of the local community in the development of the new plant.

We're paying close attention to the futures of the Wilson Hospital and Birches Close which will be affected by local health authority developments.

Along with many other groups in Mitcham, we are helping to guide the spending of £1.37m of new money in Mitcham Town Centre. This money has been provided partly by grants (from a resource called the Outer London Fund), and has been allocated to areas such as open space, public realm (the 'streetscape – how the streets look), and the market.

We're also involved in discussions about the future of Canons House and grounds. This may involve Heritage Lottery funding and could see a number of projects being put forward by Merton Council in the coming months.

We participate in Merton's Heritage and Design Working Group which considers heritage projects and issues across the whole Borough.

## **The Cricketers pub: past, present and future**

There's been a pub on the Cricketers site for over 200 years. The current building was constructed after a WWII bomb destroyed what was originally the pavilion for the cricket club.

Chatsworth Land, owner of the site, intends to submit its third planning application to build homes on the site. Preliminary information has been available via a poorly publicised public exhibition held on 7 July at the Vestry Hall. We were only informed of it earlier the same week!

In 2010 Chatsworth Land, put in a planning application for flats on the site. MCGC&H was among many opposing the scheme and Merton Council refused it.

Chatsworth Land appealed to the Secretary of State. With our support the refusal was upheld by an independent Inspector. A key reason for refusal was that the plans did not do justice to the setting of the locally listed Vestry Hall and Fire Station next door.

Chatsworth Land returned with a different design. Our objections were shared by the Campaign for Real Ale and others. We spoke at the Planning Committee where one councillor described the Vestry Hall as one of the most important buildings in Merton and let down by the design. Councillors refused the application unanimously.

Our concern with the new third proposal is that it again fails to reflect the special nature of this prominent location. We also believe strongly that this piece of land, part of old Mitcham Common land, should be for community and not residential use. Get in touch by email ([info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)) to be kept informed.

## **What next for the Fire Station?**

Our much admired fire station, a 1920s locally listed building, sits alongside the Cricketers pub. The London Fire Brigade (LFB) has announced plans to build a new fire station on the old 'Funnells' site on London Road, currently an empty plot. We expect a planning application to be made soon.

The LFB has indicated that it will have no further use for the existing building

which will be sold. We fear it may be sold for new development and the building could be lost. We need to keep a close eye on developments and do all we can to protect and retain the building.

We think the future of the fire station, Cricketers pub and Vestry Hall should be considered together, with a focus on community use.

## **Did you know?**

The Cricket Green is the ground where cricket has been played continuously longer than anywhere else in the world – since 1685. That's 327 years!

## **Spotlight on..... The Vestry Hall**

The Vestry Hall is a grand, imposing building overlooking Cricket Green. It was erected in 1887 for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

Once the town hall for Mitcham it has a strange unexplained tunnel, a flat on the upper storey, and reportedly a ghost. Today it houses community groups and has rooms for hire, including an impressively large hall.

## **A date for your diary**

- 22 September - London Open House, Cricket Pavilion. Look inside the pavilion and get a taste of history. Entry free.

## **About Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage**

Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage is the civic society for Mitcham Cricket Green conservation area and its environs. Cricket Green has great historical importance including a really interesting sporting heritage. We work hard to protect Cricket Green, maintain its much valued village character, and encourage everyone to enjoy its open spaces and take pleasure in its history and diverse local community.

We meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 6pm in the Cricket Pavilion (except August and December). Everyone is welcome to join us. Membership is just £5 annually.

Web: [www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)

Twitter: @MitchamCrktGrn

Email and membership enquiries: [info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)

*This newsletter was produced with support from Blythe and Co, chartered accountant and registered auditors, 352-354 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 3ND Tel: 020 8646 0000*