

Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

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

BULLETIN: Autumn 2013



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Goodbye to an old friend

In June the beautiful willow tree which had hung precariously over the old carp pond at the Canons collapsed.

Unstable ground led to the willow's roots being unable to support its bulk. For years its trunk had grown around the pond railings forcing these to bend. It is likely the railings caused the eventual toppling of the tree by pulling the trunk to an ever more acute angle to the ground/pond. Once the roots gave way the trunk split right through to the heartwood.

This is a reminder to all of us that trees are wonderful but fragile things which should not be taken for granted. Our cover photo shows what we have lost.

Latest News

Mitcham Carnival. Our stand at the Carnival in June was a great success. We made lots of new friends and welcome all the members who signed up on the day.

Willow Lane's special character destroyed. In the last bulletin we expressed shocked at the insensitivity of the Council's reopening Willow Lane. We secured a small concession in getting new steel fencing made green and not silver. Now large road signs and crash barriers have been installed. What was once a semi-rural lane is now a vastly over-engineered road. Its special character is lost for ever.

Civic Day success. Our Civic Day event on 22 June involved a guided walk of Cricket Green Conservation Area's three mile boundary and lunch at Park Place. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Cricket Pavilion open to all 21st September for Open House London.

Mitcham & Morden MP Siobhain McDonagh will join us at 11:30am. Come and see a vast array of cricketing memorabilia, and enjoy a free guided walk. Full details on back page.

The horse trough at Cricket Green, cricket memorial stone just inside the cricket ground, and milestone outside the CAB on London Road will soon get a clean-up thanks to our Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The horse trough will be moved back from the road slightly so it is in a safer position. Look out for the work over the coming weeks.

Cricket Green hit the big screen in August with the release of Alpha Papa, the Alan Partridge movie. This was filmed at Brook House (the large brown office building on Cricket Green), and provides some lovely views of the cricket green and surrounding buildings.

Merton Memories project

The Merton Memories project is an initiative of Merton Council's Heritage and Local Studies team and has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

More than 15,000 photos are being digitised and will become accessible via a new web site to launch in the first half of 2014.

Most of the images are from the Borough's local history collection, but some are being provided by local organisations. MCGC&H is contributing some photos with a cricketing theme.

We are delighted to support this project which will widen access to a vast store of historic photos.

Why we are opposing floodlit sports pitches at the Canons

Merton Council has shocked people with crude and damaging plans to construct floodlit sports pitches in local woodland and on the site of former tennis courts in the heart of the conservation area.

We have long campaigned for the old tennis courts in the grounds of the Canons to be brought back to life, but Merton Council has plans to develop two "multi use games areas" and floodlight them till 9.30pm every day, all year round. Six towering floodlights will be erected and a swathe of woodland will be lost.

We are concerned about light pollution, local wildlife including bats, and the fact that the planning application fails to provide any guarantees that the new facilities will be available for use by the local community. There are underused facilities nearby at the KNK Stadium and Cranmer School, and a Council study of sports pitches concluded that provision in Mitcham is "significantly better" than elsewhere in the Borough.

So there is no excuse for such a devastating development.

We are asking Merton Council to think again and return with plans to restore the old tennis courts for use in daylight hours by local people. We are even offering to help with the fundraising. Our full response is at our web site.

Glebe Court in Conservation Area

We're delighted that Glebe Court has been added to the Conservation Area. This comes in a new Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan which was adopted by the Council in July. It's a beautiful document packed with information and photos about the Conservation Area. It is well worth a look – download it from the Council's web site at <http://bit.ly/14fKCOH>.

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 that's about more than just cricket. 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 are part of a national network of hundreds of civic societies through our membership of Civic Voice.

Dates for your diary

21 September Open House London. Two free events.

- The cricket pavilion is open from 10am to 5pm. Cricketing memorabilia, superb views across the cricket ground. Refreshments.
- Cricket green and environs free guided walk. 11:30 am start. About an hour long. Start/finish at Cricket Pavilion. Booking essential - info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk.

Join us and make a difference

As a local charity and voluntary group we rely on your support. How you can help us:

- Join us. Annual membership costs £10. You will find a joining form at our web site or send an email to info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk
- Give us your views on issues in this Bulletin (info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)
- Ask us for more information about anything in this bulletin
- Come along to one of our meetings. We meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 6pm in the Cricket Pavilion (except December). Everyone is welcome.
- Follow our lively and informative twitter stream - [@MitchamCrktGrn](https://twitter.com/MitchamCrktGrn)

Web: www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk

Twitter: [@MitchamCrktGrn](https://twitter.com/MitchamCrktGrn)

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