

# Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

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

## Bulletin Summer 2014



Our work to clean the Tom Ruff Memorial Stone, horse trough and milestone, and to move the horse trough back from its precarious position on the busy road junction at Cricket Green is complete.

Visit us at Mitcham Carnival on 14 June to see a photographic exhibition of this work.

**IN THIS ISSUE** • Heritage Lottery Fund bids in preparation • Yet more Cricketers pub planning applications • London in Bloom needs you! • The Bull pub on Church Road • New wildflower beds for WWI commemoration

## **Heritage Lottery Fund bids being prepared - have your say**

Merton Council is preparing two Heritage Lottery Fund grant applications which could transform our local area. A Townscape Heritage Initiative grant would focus on the businesses and buildings around the Cricket Green end of London Road including the Vestry Hall complex. A Parks for People grant would concentrate on the Canons and surrounding open spaces.

We are already involved in these projects and are working with Friends of the Canons and the Mitcham Society. We want to ensure a partnership with the community at all stages of the process. We believe new building and structures should only be considered if they enhance the open spaces that are a key part of the Canons, and nothing proposed should change the special character of the heart of the Conservation Area.

Both grant applications will be submitted in August. There will be a range of opportunities to have your say. These include a picnic at the Canons on 1 June from noon, and a stall at the Mitcham Carnival next to ours. More details at [www.canonspartnership.org](http://www.canonspartnership.org).

The **Wilson Health Centre**, in the grounds of the Wilson Hospital, has been granted an extension to its temporary planning permission pending replacement by a Mitcham Local Care Centre. We supported the planning application, asking that intrusive lighting in the car park be toned down and requesting the provision of adequate cycle lockup facilities. These requests have been reflected in new planning conditions. Read our comments at our web site <http://bit.ly/1gdCvFU>.

We made suggestions for **Merton Council's Scrutiny process**. Scrutiny allows the council to ensure the councillors who make the majority of decisions (the cabinet) are held to account for decisions and their impact upon the borough and its residents. Read our suggestions at our web site <http://bit.ly/1jwD6d8>.

**Brook House**, which faces onto Cricket Green, is set to become flats under new legislation that lets the

owners of office buildings convert them without applying for planning permission. Whilst we recognise the need for new homes, we believe Cricket Green road is not appropriate as the main route in to Brook House, and have asked that subdued lighting be used. Read our comments at <http://bit.ly/1oQE8pK>.

Work has started to **convert Justin Plaza into flats**. The owner of this office complex has the same rights for conversion as Brook House. The building complex is large, and we are disappointed that yet more bulk is being added to the frontage. This will result in an unsatisfactory, blocky appearance to the new flats which could have been avoided.

**New wildflower beds** have been set into the grass around the Vestry Hall and elsewhere in Mitcham. These have been created as part of Merton's World War I commemorations, and should be a mass of poppies over the summer months.

## **Merton Memories web site is a fantastic trip back in time**

We were delighted to be part of the launch of the Merton Memories web site on 22 March, and then to have a stall and give a talk about our work and the things that make Mitcham special at the Discovery Day on 26 April. This attracted more than 2,000 visitors.

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Merton Memories is a web site that makes 15,000 historic photos of our borough easily accessible for the first time. We were part of the 'stakeholder group' advising and supporting this project since late 2012 and we're delighted with the web site. Visit Merton Memories at [www.merton.gov.uk/memories](http://www.merton.gov.uk/memories).

## **London in Bloom**

We have once again entered the Cricket Green Conservation Area in the It's Your Neighbourhood section of the London in Bloom competition. We entered for the first time last year and were pleased to receive a 'Developing' award.

Judging takes place in July. Everyone can participate in the competition by putting plants on

balconies, tidying front gardens, planting hanging baskets and generally brightening up their own 'patch'.

Meanwhile entry forms for the Borough's own Merton in Bloom competition will be available from Joyce Bellamy – call her on 020 8648 9469 for details.

## **The Cricketers pub - again**

The future of the Cricketers pub hangs in the balance again. A planning application has been submitted to add to the existing building and use the ground floor for shops. We anticipate a second planning application asking for permission to demolish the pub and replace it with a much larger block of flats.

These two applications come despite the owner already having permission to convert the existing building into flats and three earlier attempts at demolition having been turned down. Read comments on the planning application at our web site <http://bit.ly/1joKnx6>.

## **Keeping an eye on the Bull**

We are aware that the old Bull pub on Church Road, which has been empty for some years, has building work going on inside.

As we write, we are awaiting confirmation of what the work is, though we have heard that the pub may be converted into flats.

The building is locally listed, and its frontage, which includes some lovely tiling, makes an important contribution to the Conservation Area. We have written to the Borough Conservation Officer, asking her to ensure the frontage is not damaged or lost as part of the works.

## 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

**14 June 2014 - Mitcham Carnival.** Visit our stall to find out what we have been doing over the past year, including a photo exhibition of our cover story!

**24 June, 29 July 2014 - Monthly Meeting.** Our monthly meeting at the cricket pavilion on Cricket Green starts at 6pm. All are welcome.

**21 June 2014 - Civic Day.** Keep an eye on our web site to find out how we are celebrating this national day, along with hundreds of other local organisations around England.

**20 September 2014 - Open House London.** We are opening the cricket pavilion on Cricket Green for the fourth year. Enjoy an exhibition cricket match, a guided walk, and take tea on the balcony.

### 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](mailto:info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)
- Give us your views on issues in this Bulletin ([info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](mailto: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
- Like us on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/1mLDIQL>

**General enquiries:** [info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)

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