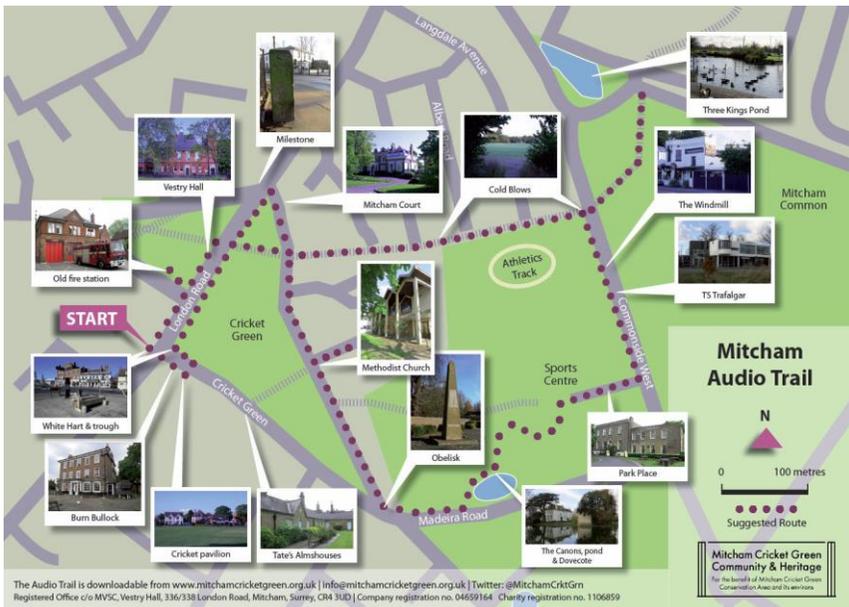


# Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

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

## Bulletin Autumn 2014



**Our new free audio trail** is available for download from our web site – [www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk). The audio trail takes you on a guided walk around Cricket Green and the Canons and includes conversations with local people telling stories of our heritage. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**IN THIS ISSUE** • Our free audio trail launched • £900 donation to Mitcham Cricket Club • Where will the Mitcham Local Care Centre be built? • Open House London, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September

## **Reporting on our celebration on 31 July**

The cover of this issue shows the route of the audio trail which we launched at our event on Cricket Green on 31 July. At that event we also presented a cheque for £900 to Mitcham Cricket Club. This was the result of our fundraising golf tournament and lunch held at Mitcham Golf Club earlier this year. We have stipulated that this money is used for the development of the young players – MCC calls them the Colts.

At the same event we also launched a free commemorative booklet about our Heritage Lottery Fund project to clean the Tom Ruff memorial stone, milestone and horse trough, and to move the horse trough back from the pavement. This project is now complete, and you can see the booklet at our web site - <http://bit.ly/1rgbgbZ>. We also arranged for the horse trough to be replanted and we think it looks stunning.

We were delighted to see so many old friends and new faces at the July event, and were pleased to be joined by the Mayor of Merton, representatives from English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, other local organisations, Merton Council and a Cricket Green ward councillor. Thank you all for your support.

The floodlit **Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)** which was built on top of the old tennis courts at the Canons is now finished and is expected to be in use soon. With pitches marked out only for football it seems unlikely that it will be used for other sports. We continue to push Merton Council to commit to providing free use for local people, but it seems increasingly likely that the facility will be unavailable to locals who can't afford commercial rates.

We dedicated our **Civic Day walk on 21 June** to contributing to Merton Council's Heritage Lottery Fund bids for the Cricket Green and Canons area. People who joined us on the walk toured the area and made comments and suggestions relevant to the bids.

Two bids have been prepared: A Townscape Heritage Initiative grant would focus on the businesses and

buildings around the Cricket Green end of London Road including the Burn Bullock and cricket pavilion. A Parks for People grant would concentrate on bringing the Canons back to life and investing in the surrounding open spaces.

We have worked closely with Merton Council, Friends of the Canons, the Mitcham Society and Mitcham Cricket Club in shaping both bids. If successful the bids will bring in a multi-million pound investment and will be transformational for our area.

**The Date Valley School** on Cricket Green has applied to extend its operation by having a Saturday school and evening opening for adult education. We are concerned about additional traffic this might bring into the already congested area, and have not been satisfied by the implementation of the school's existing travel plan.

## **Where will the new Mitcham Local Care Centre be built?**

We have been meeting with senior staff at the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group. The CCG is responsible for buying healthcare services for people in our borough and now that the Nelson Local Care Centre is nearly finished, is turning its attention to Mitcham.

The CCG has identified four possible sites for the Mitcham Local Care Centre: Birches Close, the Wilson Hospital, Sibthorpe Road car park and Raleigh Gardens car park. The CCG has already done a good deal of work internally with no public consultation or engagement. We are pushing for wide public consultations, not only on the location of the Local Care Centre but also on how the Birches and Wilson Hospital sites are handled. There will be ramifications for both regardless of which site is selected for development.

We anticipate some information to be made public at the CCG AGM at the Vestry Hall on 25 September. At the time of writing we are not aware of any decisions, but watch our web site for the latest news – [www.mitчамcricketgreen.org.uk](http://www.mitчамcricketgreen.org.uk).

## **Open House London, Saturday 20th September**

Our next big event is Open House London. This will be our fourth year of opening the cricket pavilion on Cricket Green to the public. We work with Mitcham Cricket Club on this event, and there will be a range of activities on offer.

The pavilion will be open between 10am and 4.30pm and you are welcome to join us at any time. There will be refreshments, a colt's exhibition cricket match, and Mitcham Cricket Club is staging an exhibition about the club in the First World War. At 2.30pm there will be a Heritage Walk taking in the diverse buildings and open spaces within the conservation area including Canons grounds, Cranmer Green, Three Kings Piece, monuments and the cricket ground. Meet outside the cricket pavilion in good time if you would like to join the walk.

## **Phantom community recycling facility and solar powered bin**

You may have spotted the appearance of a 'community recycling facility' behind Vestry Hall. This popped up without prior notice or consultation.

We questioned the logic of locating this facility in a spot where few people pass by because it is surrounded by roads. The green here is of great local significance as it houses the war memorial where remembrance services are held. We have been successful in arguing against the facility, and have been told by the responsible Cabinet Member, Cricket Green ward Councillor Judy Saunders, that it will be removed.

Subsequently one of the council's new solar powered 'smart' bins has arrived on the grass opposite the police station. We have questioned the sense of locating this oversized bin in the heart of the conservation area on the protected green.

## About Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage is the civic society for Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area and its environs. Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area was the first to be designated in Merton, in 1969. 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

**20 September 2014 - Open House London.** 10.00am to 4.30pm. We are opening the cricket pavilion on Cricket Green. Enjoy an exhibition cricket match, join a free guided walk at 2.30pm, and take tea on the balcony.

**30 September 2014 - Monthly Meeting.** Our monthly meeting at the cricket pavilion on Cricket Green starts at 6pm. All are welcome.

**28 October 2014 - Monthly Meeting.** Our monthly meeting at the cricket pavilion on Cricket Green starts at 6pm. All are welcome.

**25 November 2014- Monthly Meeting.** Our monthly meeting at the cricket pavilion on Cricket Green starts at 6pm. All are welcome.

### 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)
- Send your views on issues in this Bulletin to [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)

**Web site:** [www.mitthamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://www.mitthamcricketgreen.org.uk)

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