



Bulletin Summer 2015



At our recent AGM we were delighted to present Mitcham Cricket Club with its official certificate showing that the cricket pavilion is an Asset of Community Value. This important designation – the first in Merton – gives the cricket pavilion a range of important protections. Along with its presence on the local list, the status further emphasises the importance of the pavilion to local people.

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Contracting out the management of green spaces

You may have heard that Merton Council plans to contract out the maintenance of its green spaces. It has bundled this contract alongside one to contract out the borough's waste services.

We have a number of concerns about both the process and the outcome. We are not alone. Merton's green spaces benefit greatly from the involvement of volunteer Friends' groups, community groups and others who work hard to look after them.

This is not 'just' about litterpicking, important though that is. It is also about much more intensive work too, such as maintenance of plants and open spaces. Many people have said they would reconsider involvement in this kind of activity if it were in support of a commercial enterprise rather than the local council. The loss of both goodwill and valuable effort from local people would be a severe blow to open spaces management across our borough.

Just as important as the value of volunteer work is the accuracy of the specification of work in any contract. This needs to take account of the particular needs of specific areas as well as being sensitive to different types of open spaces. As a result of discussions with Merton Council we have been told that we – and other groups – will be given sight of the final specification in order to make input to it.

We have met with other organisations across Merton which share our concerns, including the locally based Friends of the Canons and Mitcham Society. A new independent Greenspaces Forum is being considered to work on this important issue in the hope of securing the best outcome possible for our valued green spaces. This is very much a 'live' topic so please let us know if you want to be kept informed.

Brook House on Cricket Green is in the process of being converted into 46 flats. There is no new building work, and under Government legislation offices can be converted to flats without seeking planning permission in most cases.

We are **changing the start time of our regular monthly meetings** for the next few months. Up to and including our August meeting we will start at 7pm instead of 6pm. This is an experiment to see if people who work during the day will find the later

start more attractive. Please join us if you can. We meet on the last Tuesday of every month, at the Cricket Pavilion. More details on the back page and at our web site.

If you have not already tried it, then please do download our **free audio trail**. It is a wonderful hour long guided walk around Cricket Green designed for your smartphone. Get it from our web site – www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk/free-audio-trail

The Canons Lottery bid update

You will recall from our last Bulletin that we are working with Merton Council, Friends of the Canons and Mitcham Society as the Canons Partnership on a Lottery bid for The Canons and its grounds. We secured 'Stage 1' funding and are working on detailed proposals for just shy of £4 million being invested in the area.

We had hoped a Project Manager and Community Engagement Officer would be in post by now, but the Council wheels turn slowly. By the time you read this the posts may have been advertised, but the timescale for this project is not open ended. The final bid needs to be with HLF by the middle of next year. We have already put in a lot of volunteer time behind the scenes and are happy to continue to do this and support a project which could dramatically change our area for the better. But Merton Council, as the owner of the bid, must lead on moving it forward.

Burn Bullock update

In our last Bulletin we passed on the information that the Burn Bullock has been added to the national Heritage at Risk Register – a record of listed historic buildings and structures across England most at risk from being lost or irrevocably damaged.

Merton Council required the owner to submit a planning application to repair the listed building, and permission was granted in March for a range of internal and external repairs. Further information on the Tudor parts of the building has been requested by English Heritage and permission to work on these held back pending the submission of a report by the applicant. The repairs are required to be completed within five months of the approval date of 3 March 2015 – i.e. by 3 August 2015. Watch this space!

Summer events

We've got three events coming up over the summer months:

13 June – Mitcham Carnival. Come and say hello at our stall at Mitcham Carnival.

20 June – morning. Join us for a guided walk round Cricket Green on 20 June when we join hundreds of organisations across England to celebrate Civic Day. Full details will be on our web site.

29 July – from late afternoon. We are holding our second Community on the Green event on the cricket ground. This is a celebration of our work, and we want as many local people as possible to join us. There will be refreshments and a chance to meet local people who care about Cricket Green. Consider this your invitation!

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 among 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

30 June, 28 July, 25 August, 29 September Monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of the month at the cricket pavilion on Cricket Green. 7pm start for June, July and August. Check online for September start time.

13 June Mitcham Carnival. We will be there – come and say hello!

20 June Civic Day. A morning walk in Cricket Green to celebrate this national day for civic societies. Check our web site for further details.

29 July Community On The Green. Our summer evening celebration for members, friends and guests. Check our web site for further details.

19 September Open House London. We will be opening the cricket pavilion on Cricket Green to the general public working with Mitcham Cricket Club. There will be refreshments and an exhibition about women in cricket at Mitcham.

Check www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk for additional diary dates

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 you can write to us at our registered office (address below)
- Send your views on issues in this Bulletin to 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 (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

Web site: www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk

Twitter: @MitchamCrktGrn

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