

# ANNUAL REPORT



2019



## CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

This report gives details of some of THCAT's varied projects for 2018; however, we have also been involved in many other actions such as regular reporting of issues, litter picks, weeding and planting, representing THCAT on the council regeneration steering committee, supporting other local events and organisations plus maintaining our Facebook group and website. I would like to thank the many local organisations who have helped us by hosting meetings and events as well as all members who have joined in the action during the year.

## THE OBJECTIVES OF THCAT

The purpose of THCAT is to take action to improve Thornton Heath contributing to making it cleaner and greener as well as promoting local involvement in public policy-making and service provision at community level.

**COME AND JOIN US!**

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🐦 @THCAT1

📘 Group: Thornton Heath Community Action Team





# PEOPLE'S HEALTH TRUST STREET ACTION PROJECT



This 2-year project, funded by the People's Health Trust was launched in June 2017 to develop street teams of residents in 20 specified roads in Thornton Heath to improve their streets and social connections. The project is now in its 2nd year and will be completed by the end of August 2019.

Several highly successful projects became reality by the end of the first year: the Quadrant Road mural, the Brook Road mosaic, the lamppost baskets of Thirsk Road, the street banners of Melfort Road, the tree illuminations of Ecclesbourne Road, to name a few. Also, a very successful, award-winning, Big Lunch was organised by Marley King in Gillett Road.

Other streets have only recently joined and their projects will soon come to fruition: the flower beds of Cassland road, the security lights of Grange Park Road, possibly a mural in Frant Road.

While these projects are in the making, residents have not remained idle. Alleyways have been cleaned up in Frant and Ecclesbourne Roads and bulbs planted in Buxton Road and Alma Place and will burst into life very soon. Local artists and gardeners have also lent their support: Peter Lawrence and his street planters, Samantha Warren and her pavement stencils. Local organisations and businesses have opened their premises for meetings and activities: The Salvation Army, Aski., Fireaway Pizzas, to name a few.

The project part-funds our community free newspaper The Chronicle where project participants wrote articles and distributed copies in their streets. Some streets even started their own newsletters: Quadrant, Cassland and Thirsk Roads.

The People's Health Trust has marked our Street Action Project as unique, not only because of its gardening emphasis, making it more seasonal than other projects, but because of the legacy that will endure when it finishes in August. Gaëtane Jones, Street Action Project Coordinator, February 2019

# THE POND AND OUR GREEN MILE

Pete Lawrence



I had the idea of transforming the Pond after passing it many times and seeing a grey, sad looking space. I wanted to make it brighter, cleaner and safer, a place everybody could be proud of, bringing a smile as they pass by. A chance meeting with Malcolm Bell led to a discussion about connecting the Pond to West Croydon Station Energy garden. 'Our Green Mile' project was born with the idea of creating a one Mile Green Corridor along the very busy and polluted London Road.

The transformation of the Pond started in November 2017. Daffodils, tulips and bluebells were planted around the Pond, with the help of THCAT members and Malcolm. Selected areas were covered in dark grey wood chippings and little plots around the grass areas dug to make flower-beds.



In March 2018 'Our Green Mile' project was launched. A large planter was fixed and planted at the Pond, with another outside West Croydon Station. MP Steve Reed and many Councillors, community groups and THCAT members attended. Further planting sessions were arranged to create the word 'Pond' in flowers and plant two bee-friendly wild garden plots. We learned which flowers would thrive and which did not.

The summer was the hottest since 1976 but THCAT members stepped up to water the Pond on a rota. With no water supply, local businesses were brilliant in letting us use water from their shops. The plants survived and a splendid display of wild flowers bloomed late into the year.



Two Planters of Peace were fixed to commemorate the Armistice centenary, decorated with lines from poems by three local poets, Shaniqua Benjamin, Charles Barber and Jabeen Razvi on "What Peace meant to them". At a ceremony, the poets read their poems and a heart shaped Peace area was created with sensory plants by a bench.

After a successful meeting with local council members, a tap was installed at the Pond making watering much easier. In autumn 800 bulbs were planted and through the winter a mosaic of 'Pond Life' has been planned to be created in March 2019. All this has been achieved through the hard work, determination and commitment of a few THCAT members and Malcolm Bell. Support from local councillors, Stuart King, Janet Campbell and Mayor Bernadette Khan has made the Pond project a great success.





## PALLETS TO PLANTERS



In 2018 Graham Mitchell attended a workshop at Croydon Re-use Organisation (CRO). The workshop is run by Peter Lawrence to engage local people, increasing their confidence in using hand held and electric tools and creating a planter to be placed in their neighbourhood making it brighter and more beautiful.

People from THCAT, WeLOVESE25 and Portland Road attended and Graham started to make planters! Since then Michael Daniels and Peter Lawrence have installed 10 of Graham's highly colourful and original planters around Thornton Heath. In all there are now 31 planters with more planned to go out in 2019. Volunteers are needed to look after them.

## NEW TRUMBLE GARDENS GROUP FORMED



2018 saw the start of a brand new parks group. The Trumble Gardens group was formed by parents looking to improve their local park. During the summer they arranged several community clean ups, community picnics, a children's gardening club, planting new plants and flowers to brighten up the park and a very exciting event during Thornton Heath Arts week featuring several local artists.

## MAYOR OF LONDON'S GOOD GROWTH FUND

### THORNTON HEATH COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM / CVA BID



Since the summer of 2018, THCAT and CVA have been working together with CR7Culture, to prepare for an application to next year's Good Growth Fund (GGF) from The Mayor of London/GLA. The vision is to bring together under one roof (or maybe more) the new and exciting range of healthy living, arts, leisure, business and enterprise activities that are flourishing across Thornton Heath, but currently have no base. We've consulted with Councillors and senior council officers and are exploring potential opportunities for match funding as well as liaising with local groups. Steve Phaure, CEO of CVA, made a presentation about the GGF at our September THCAT meeting and a group of those interested in taking this forward was formed. Since then we've met regularly, held a meeting with Brick by Brick (BxB), the council established development company, and also with a representative from the GLA. We're expecting the Round 3 applications will be invited in autumn 2019, and, in preparation, have consulted locally through a questionnaire, promoted in The Chronicle, engaging as many local residents and partner agencies in the bid as we can.

## IN BLOOM COMPETITION



To help make Thornton Heath greener, deter flytipping and littering and encourage local residents and businesses to take pride in their frontage, THCAT started this competition in 2016. Initially, there were 39 entrants, rising to 72 in 2017 and 85 in 2018. A children's category was added to the existing ones - concrete front garden, front garden, business/organisation. Our In Bloom competition has become a community collaboration event, with support from THCAT members to deliver leaflets and spread the word, The Chronicle for publicity plus help from the library and Costa who displayed collection boxes for entry forms. Local garden designer and THCAT member, Andrea Perry, judged the competition for the 3rd year running and The Mayor of Croydon attended our prize-giving ceremony to thank all those who entered and award the prizes. These were kindly donated by local businesses and organisations: YBR cakes, Homebase, Tesco, FireAway Pizza, Tomatinos Pizzeria and Tapas bar, Croydon Council, Samantha Warren Designs and local artist, PINS. Age UK on Brigstock Road generously hosted the evening and the People's Health Trust (as part of THCAT's Street Action project) funded publicity and refreshments.

## PETITION AGAINST HIGH STREET ADULT GAMING CENTRE



Concerned and angry about the possibility of yet another gambling establishment - a slot machine arcade (or adult gaming centre) - in our High Street, THCAT organised an on-line petition and collected signatures one Sunday outside Tesco in January 2019. The petition was submitted to the council with 825 signatures collected in just one week. We are pleased to say that permission was refused by the council, thanks to combined efforts of local councillors and THCAT members.

## RE-IMAGINING THORNTON HEATH - ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION



Thornton Heath Community Action Team (THCAT) has launched a student ideas contest – with a £2,500 prize – to rethink the central area of Thornton Heath.

The competition brief which has been sent to architectural colleges and journals states: 'THCAT is calling for fresh, creative and new ideas on how best to transform the area around Thornton Heath train station, taking in the concrete carbuncle, Ambassador House, an empty office block, along with existing infrastructure including a large Tesco supermarket and Iceland store.

'The biggest drive is to improve the lives of the inhabitants of Thornton Heath, softening the existing hard landscape with more green space and an emphasis on designs promoting health and wellbeing. The aim is that the concept will generate interest in improving this space and encourage engagement with property owners and potential investors.'

The aim of the competition is to generate new ideas which may spark interest for potential developers and the Council. The overall winner, to be announced in April, will receive £2,500 and be invited to attend an awards ceremony in May.



# CROYDON CIVIC AWARDS



2018 saw many personal achievements within our committee. THCAT itself was nominated in the Community Groups' category and two committee members took winners' spots: Graham Mitchell for Don't Mess with Croydon and Marley King took the Neighbour of the Year award.

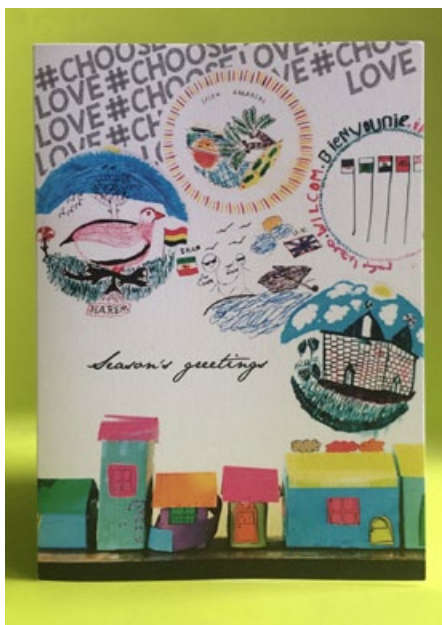
Graham said, "2018 was a busy and exciting year for me. It was my first year as a committee member and I was honoured to win the Mayor of Croydon's "Don't Mess with Croydon – Take Pride" civic award. It was pleasing for me that I was able to support so many THCAT environmentally themed initiatives that seek to improve the local area, including The Pond makeover and making planters for our streets in the hope they will deter fly-tippers. Even delivering The Chronicle gave me the opportunity to rummage in builder's skips looking for timber to upcycle!"

## LOCAL CLEAR-UPS



Graham states: "THCAT'S support of clear-ups of Norbury Brook and Thornton Heath Rec is also hugely satisfying as many THCAT members have become committed participants. The litter heroes worked tirelessly during the 3 clear-ups in 2018 and shifted around 100 bags of vegetation, litter and other detritus. That effort benefits all the community and the local environment and I am looking forward to arranging similar events in 2019 and meeting new, and familiar THCAT volunteers."

## BRIGSTOCK HOUSE



From September 2017, THCAT members Barbara Benjamin, Christine Milton and Vân Dang have been running weekly Reading and Art & Craft sessions from 10am -11am on Mondays and Thursdays for children at the refugee hostel on Brigstock Road. We also organised parties for Refugee Week and Christmas in 2017 and 2018. An appeal collected more than 150 gift packs and 150 packs of toiletries for each event for the children and adults at Brigstock House and 2 other refugee hotels in Croydon and Dulwich. The events received fantastic support from many members of Thornton Heath Community Action Team, CR7 Culture and Migrant Help's staff. Thank you all for your time, your kindness and your generous donations to put smiles on the children's faces.

# CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT



For 5 years now THCAT has organised a tall Christmas tree for the centre of Thornton Heath, aiming to help improve the look and feel of the area and adding some Christmas sparkle. This year, despite the miserable wet weather, THCAT members and passers-by helped decorate the tree with tinsel, baubles and battery operated lights. We also decorated the nearby railings with lights, small baubles and winter greenery above a Christmas banner - an enjoyable task, despite being quite fiddly and time-consuming. We also put up hanging baskets filled with fairy lights at the station! Delicious mince pies and cakes were provided by members while music enhanced the Christmas atmosphere. Many people have said how much they enjoy THCAT's Christmas tree event and are looking forward to next year! Events like this show what great community spirit we have here in Thornton Heath.

## THCAT ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

The tables below show a summary of accounts running from 1st January 2018 to 31st January 2019. In most cases funds are ringfenced as per the terms of the bid. The dates relate to when money was paid into or out of the THCAT bank account.

<b>Total income</b> (1st Jan 18 – 31st Jan 19)	£20,387
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<b>Total expenditure</b> (1st Jan 18 – 31st Jan 19)	£20,916
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### INCOME:

Source	Project	Amount
Pat Clouder 2018	Planters	£400
Paypal donations	Market	£2,134
Stall Income	Market	£1,215
People's Health Trust	Terms of bid	£14,311
Stuart King 2018	Planters	£1,500
Donations	General	£77
Alison Butler 2018	Brigstock house planters	£750

### EXPENDITURE:

Source	Project	Amount
Jamie Audsley 2016	Highstreet, sidestreets and parks	£365
Jamie Audsley 2017	Hotspots to beautyspots	£379
Jamie Audsley 2018	Highstreet, sidestreets and parks	£689
Karen Jewitt 2017	Planters	£194
Market	Market	£4,113
Matthew Kyeremeh 2017	Chronicle	£2,123
People's Health Trust	Terms of bid	£11,848
Stuart King 2017	Pond planting	£353
Stuart King 2018	Pond planting	£853
<b>Balance at 31st Jan 2019</b>		<b>£21,711</b>