



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

2019 has been another busy year for THCAT and in this report we have explained some of our recent projects; however, we have also been involved in many other actions such as regular reporting of street issues, clean-ups and planting, representing THCAT on the council regeneration steering committee, supporting other local events and organisations plus maintaining our Facebook group and website. Following requests we have supported new community groups by sharing information about THCAT's procedures. 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!

www.thorntonheath.net

✉ action@thorntonheath.net

🐦 @THCAT1

📘 Group: Thornton Heath Community Action Team



PEOPLE'S HEALTH TRUST STREET ACTION PROJECT



This 2-year project was awarded £26,028 by the People's Health Trust in 2017 and is now complete. It has been a tremendous success with nearly 20 streets in Thornton Heath within the designated fundable area having benefitted from the investment in a transformative way.

The aim of the project was to break down barriers by uniting people from many different backgrounds to help residents feel safer and more connected, whilst improving their streets.

Over 200 residents have been involved in various ways to make their street cleaner, and greener. They organised street actions that gave them the opportunity to meet their neighbours as well as a social gathering once a month which was part of the project funding.

Streets where improvements are highly visible are: Alma Place, Brook Road, Buxton Road, Cassland Road, Crowland Road, Ecclesbourne Road, Frant Road, Gillett Road, Gilsland Road, Grange Park Road, Melfort Avenue, Melfort Road, Quadrant Road and Thirsk Road.

A multitude of hanging baskets, window boxes, community gardens and street planters now adorn these streets. Locally designed art banners on lamp posts, two extraordinary murals and two mosaics have pride of place in 5 different streets. Pretty stencils around several lamp posts and repainted street name plates complete the brighter street scene.

The project has been so successful that we hope to start our very own Year 3 very soon. We will continue the good work done, reach out to more streets and continue to bring back our sense of community.

Here are a few comments from young and not so young participants:

"Now our street doesn't look all rubbishy and horrible" (Samuel – 5 yrs old)

"I like the flowers the most. They brighten up the space" (Kayleigh – 8 yrs old)

"It is rewarding to connect with neighbours" (Shirley – retired teacher)

"We have begun to take pride" (Averil – retired)

We are proud to be finalists this year in Croydon's Civic Awards in the Strengthening Community category for this innovative project.



PETITION AGAINST AN ADULT GAMING CENTRE IN THE HIGH STREET



In just seven days, 825 signatures were gathered objecting to this gambling establishment - some signed the paper version at a stall outside Tesco and others signed the online version, both organised and submitted by THCAT in January 2019. Committee members attended the relevant Planning Committee hearing in which permission was refused and, following the company's appeal, also attended the hearing in December 2019 which was chaired by a government planning inspector. Sadly, she overturned the council's decision.

THORNTON HEATH IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2019



THCAT started the In Bloom competition 4 years ago to help make Thornton Heath cleaner and greener. In recent years, we have also stressed that planting is making a small contribution to pollination, anti-flooding measures and improving air quality, hopefully encouraging more and more people to take part. In 2019, 117 locals entered the competition in one of the 5 categories: front garden, concrete front space, business/organisation frontage (including schools, pubs, churches, businesses), wooden street planters and children's planting. For the first time, different judges (starting from age 10 years old, and including teenagers) volunteered for each category. St Andrew's Church kindly offered to host the prize-giving ceremony for all the entrants and THCAT provided refreshments and flowers to decorate the hall. It was a very enjoyable evening with a real feel-good factor! Local people and businesses were very supportive once again in their donations of prizes and all winners took away a framed certificate, designed by our own Văn Dang.

STATION PARTNERSHIP



As part of our partnership working with Thornton Heath station in 2019/2020, THCAT has continued to maintain our popular book exchange in the waiting room on platform 2. Members regularly donate books and tidy up the shelves, helping to create a welcoming feel and sometimes causing delight to passengers! We also expressed members' views about the piano on the bridge being water damaged again and happily, the station sourced a replacement. Recently, passengers arriving at Thornton Heath were treated to amazing playing by a young school girl; it was so impressive that a large group of passengers stopped and gathered round to listen.

Having seen stunning railway murals on social media, THCAT approached Eddie Burton of Network Rail in August 2018 to seek funding for a mural. Together with our station manager, Adeniyi Akinniyi (Ade), we identified a long four panel red brick expanse on Platform 4. In May 2019, the mural designed by Van, came to fruition. Lionel Stanhope, the street artist transformed Platform 4 with a mural featuring vintage typography, Walter the local wildlife white squirrel and Kayla, the Crystal Palace FC Eagle mascot. THCAT also planted wildflower seeds in a bare patch nearby.

In 2019 we promoted the Passenger Benefit Fund consultation and passed on THCAT members views on how £30,000 should be spent at our station; the project managers are currently surveying stations to confirm feasibility.



REIMAGINE THORNTON HEATH COMPETITION



In May last year we announced the winners of the Reimagine Thornton Heath competition.

The contest was organised by THCAT with the aim of generating fresh, creative and new ideas to ignite interest in redeveloping the area. Architecture students Maria Tsvetkova, Becky Barnett and Samuel Beattie won the competition with a contemporary concept which had a green theme at its heart.

The brief for the competition followed consultation, where residents expressed a desire for more green space, affordable work and living spaces, a cultural heart with amenities for young and old.

Architecture students were asked to devise a vision of high-density mixed-use sustainable developments taking in Ambassador House, the Tesco complex incorporating Kettering and Laxton Court, the station and Iceland site. They had to create a masterplan with a detailed concept for one of the sites.

The students proposed the demolition of the Tesco complex and redeveloped in to a co-living space with educational, commercial and entertainment facilities including a cinema and theatre, with a variety of retail spaces and a large public square, adjacent to a new station entrance between the railway and Parchmore Road.

The design advocated: creating pockets of smaller public spaces adjacent to new station entrances, with affordable homes and a pedestrian link bridge on the north. The business hub in the redesigned Ambassador House would incorporate incubators and start up office space.

The proposal also suggests hierarchy of outdoor open spaces: public, semi public and private gardens and balconies to enable all to have access to green space.

The aim of the competition was to create interest and discussion of how the district centre could become more attractive, modern and inviting by better utilising the space around the station, Tesco and Ambassador House.

The students also presented their design to the council's regeneration team and were invited to meet with MP Steve Reed. The council is now going forward with a development strategy for the High Street and we hope it will incorporate some of the objectives set out in the winning design.



THE POND PROJECT



Bulb planting and gardening as well as mosaic-making have transformed the pond area during 2019. Artist, Grace Holliday, led THCAT volunteers once again, this time to create a water-themed mosaic. Once the weather improves the finishing touches will be added.

PLANTER MOVEMENT



In 2019 the THCAT Planter Movement really moved up a gear! We now have more than 70 planters dotted around Thornton Heath in addition to those at The Pond and those donated to London Road (West Croydon) and the Clifton Road Community Garden near Selhurst Park. With the People's Health Trust ("PHT") planters bolstering the numbers there are 82 planters being tended by volunteers from the community. If the weather is kind this summer, we may see 100 planters before the end of 2020.

Funded by grants from local councillor's ward budgets and PHT funds, the planters have become a focal point for many roads and streets where friends and neighbours meet to tend, water and stock the planters to act as a deterrent to fly-tipping. And, a new category of Best THCAT Planter was added to the 2019 In Bloom competition.

And, with sustainability in mind, the planters are made from pallets and timber salvaged from builders skips and wood donated by the community: decking, a pine bunk bed, a trestle table and a sandpit frame have all been donated to be re-purposed and upcycled.

All credit goes to the local community who have embraced this very worthwhile and enjoyable project.



FREE ART AND STORY TIME



Since September 2017, THCAT members Barbara Benjamin, Christine Milton and Vân Dang have been running a weekly reading workshop on Monday and an art & craft workshop on Thursday for refugee children at Brigstock House. The project has received a lot of support from local residents, local mums' groups and Thornton Heath councillors.

Some of the children have no English but we use puppet story books to engage them and their creative artwork speaks for itself. We aim to help the children but welcome everyone to join in our workshops, assisting their own children, making their own art or repeating their alphabet along with the children.

Recently we submitted an application for Croydon Council's ReimagineSubway design competition and got shortlisted. The design was display at Fairfield Hall during February 2020.

A NICE WALK TO SCHOOL



The footbridge connects the 2 local wards of Thornton Heath and Bensham Manor has been a hot spot full of fly tipping, dog waste, occasionally human waste, broken glass, needles and rude graffiti. Many children use this bridge to go to Ecclesbourne and Whitehorse Manor primary school and it was a disgrace. In June 2019, Marley King and Vân Dang with the help from committee members, Croydon anti-graffiti team and 36 local residents have transformed the footbridge to create a bright and colourful underwater walk for the local children.

CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT 2019



For the last six years THCAT has organised a Christmas tree for the centre of Thornton Heath. In 2019, members of St Andrew's Church choir, accompanied by a local piano teacher, led THCAT members and passers-by in singing Christmas songs and carols by the station as adults and children decorated the tree and handed out mince pies.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR REFUGEE IN THORNTON HEATH



On Saturday 14th December 2019, we organised the Christmas party for the residents of Brigstock and Stonebridge House. We had more than 105 residents coming, 43 volunteers and guests + more than 10 amazing fire fighters!!! Over 160 packs of presents were donated for the adults, 40 packs of presents for the children and 100 teddy bears.



We received amazing support from the Salvation Army, Crystal Palace Football Club, local councillors, MP Steve Reed, the fire fighters, local businesses, pianist Alison Doubleday and violinist Sui-Leung Chai . Even Father Christmas came along! It is lovely to see the community come together and create a warm and welcoming event for all.

THCAT ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

The tables below show a summary of accounts running from 1st January 2019 to 31st December 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.

Balance on 1st January 2019	£23,987
Balance on 31st December 2019	£16,545

INCOME:

Source	Amount
Donations	£11
Jamie Audsley 2019	£7,500
Janet Campbell 2019	£700
People's Health Trust	£2,603
Stuart King 2019	£500
Alison Butler 2019	£2,500
Karen Jewett & Pat Clouder 2019	£400
Free Art 2019	£288
Grand Total	£14,502

EXPENDITURE:

Source	Amount
CVA	£390
Jamie Audsley 2018	£2,445
Jamie Audsley 2019	£3,698
Karen Jewett 2017	£67
Market	£100
Matthew Kyeremeh 2017	£1,282
Pat Clouder 2018	£530
People's Health Trust	£11,518
Stuart King 2017	£36
Stuart King 2018	£647
Whetherspoons	£192
Janet Campbell 2019	£560
Free Art 2019	£478
Grand Total	£21,944

