



# Welcome to THORNTON HEATH

LAND OF THE WHITE SQUIRREL • INCLUSIVE • ACCEPTING • DIVERSE

Thornton Heath Community Action Team (THCAT) warmly invites you to follow this trail to enjoy the varied art works adorning our streets.

We are a diverse group of volunteers (constituted in 2015), striving to make our area cleaner, greener and better, working with local residents, businesses, organisations and the council. We have undertaken many different projects over the years with some resulting in the community art works featured in this leaflet (produced through collaboration between THCAT, FreeArt and CALAT).



@monica\_mardare\_photography & @londonin360



- 1 Grangewood Park's lock up SE25 6TW
- 2 At the roundabout of Thornton Heath High Street and Whitehorse Road
- 3 Corner of The Retreat and Thornton Heath High Street
- 4 Corner of Gillet Road and Thornton Heath High Street
- 5 Thornton Heath High Street by the Job Centre
- 6 Ambassador House, opposite Thornton Heath station
- 7 Thornton Heath station Platform 4 (view from platform 2)
- 8 Lamppost banners on Melfort Rd
- 9 No 1 Melfort Road
- 10 Brigstock House (front and back) by Melfort Rd roundabout
- 11 Ghanapathy Temple 21 Brigstock Rd, CR7 7JJ
- 12 Brook Road, near the junction with Brigstock Road
- 13 On the bend in Quadrant Road
- 14 Footbridge between Elm Road and Bensham Manor Road
- 15 Frant Road, on the corner of Frant Rd and Bensham Lane
- 16 Thornton Heath Pond



JOIN OUR TEAM AND TAKE ACTION FOR A CLEANER, GREENER, BETTER THORNTON HEATH!  
[WWW.THORNTONHEATH.NET](http://WWW.THORNTONHEATH.NET)







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## GRANGEWOOD PARK

In 2016, the Friends of Grangewood Park organised a weekend of action to create a mural on the side of the park hut and Friends lock up next to the playground. The project was funded by the Mayor for London's Capital Clean Up and Croydon Council's Community Ward budget and brought all ages from far and wide to help paint the mural. The design was created after consultation with park users and saw a design which reflects the beauty of the park featuring trees and wildlife including the park's famous white squirrel Walter.

A cultural mosaic in Grangewood Park was restored in late Autumn 2018. Artist Grace Holliday was appointed to reinvigorate the original design circa 1996 created by Beulah School as it had eroded over 20 years leaving the images barely visible.



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## ABOVE NO. 9 HIGH STREET

Local artist, Mat Pringle, was inspired by the community's comments and knowledge of hidden nature and green space - such as the albino squirrels at Grangewood Park and the Jerusa rowing in TH Rec garden. At workshops, local people made linocut prints and Mat used these to inspire his artwork and bring nature to the High Street. Curated by YOU&ME Architecture, commissioned by Croydon Council 2017



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## AT NO 48 HIGH STREET

The work of illustrator, Philip Dennis, involves symbols and patterns inspired by imagery from the built environment and community in his home town of Thornton Heath. Following workshops, residents and Philip looked closely and drew shapes that interested them, translating these into his artwork. Curated by YOU&ME Architecture, commissioned by Croydon Council 2017



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## AT THE JUNCTION OF GILLETT ROAD AND THE HIGH STREET

YOU&ME Architecture created this mural, inspired by collected histories from local people and research from the archives. The mural is an illustration of a historic photo of the former A.F. Bundle furniture shop which was on this site (and also on Whitehorse Road.) Commissioned by Croydon Council 2017



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## SIDE WALL OF NO 80 HIGH STREET

Ben Connor was keen to work with young men and women locally and his mural, "Potential Together" was heavily influenced by conversations with them and their pride in CR7, capturing the current diversity and energy of the area through shapes, patterns and recognisable symbols. His piece intends to welcome people into Thornton Heath. Curated by YOU&ME architecture, commissioned by Croydon Council 2017



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## AMBASSADOR HOUSE FORECOURT

Artist Bareface's Dare to Dream mural will be the focal point of the forecourt in July 2020: "Dare to dream is a saying that is very close to my heart. It's stuck with me throughout my childhood and adult life here in Thornton Heath. This piece serves as a visual reminder that no matter your age, ethnicity or religion, you should never stop dreaming of things you want to achieve and accomplish in life. Dreams + actions = a dream come true." Local designer Ván Dang also worked with teenagers from Young Croydon after being selected to design the mural as part of the council's regeneration of the forecourt. Each letter on the artworks reflects a name, an activity, a contribution many local residents did in Thornton Heath. All those who took part in the painting got to sign the wall. Commissioned by Croydon Council 2019



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## PLATFORM 4, THORNTON HEATH STATION

Having seen stunning railway murals on social media, THCAT approached Network Rail to seek funding and permission for a mural at Thornton Heath Station. A long four panel red brick expanse on Platform 4 was identified and in May 2019, the mural designed by local artist and THCAT member, Ván Dang, came to fruition. Lionel Stanhope, street artist, transformed Platform 4 with the mural featuring vintage typography, Walter the local wildlife white squirrel (from Grangewood Park) and Kayla, the Crystal Palace FC Eagle mascot.



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## MELFORT ROAD (FROM BRIGSTOCK ROAD TO BROOK ROAD)

The winners of a competition for lamppost banner artworks: 8 & 9 year old sisters, Kayleigh & Anastasia; positive messages about CR7's anti-litter campaign; 2 year old Wilbur Hancock's colourful handprints, vibrant & fun, just like CR7; local artist PINS, using his pop-art style to celebrate the area's unique spirit; local designer, Samantha Warren: a photographic montage of her favourite locations in this diverse area, with its English roses & exotic plants; Make Work, a colourful typographic design celebrating the joyful, vibrant area; artist Bareface: understanding others' perspectives enables change in more people & helps the community grow, with strength in its differences; Mark Ward, celebrating CR7, a place for transformation, where community & creativity continue to grow. Ván Dang, with refugee children from her free art sessions, portrays the area as a welcoming home, & highlights the 20mph speed limit. THCAT's Street Action Project, funded by the People's Health Trust 2018-19



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## SIDE WALL OF NO.1 MELFORT ROAD

Side wall of no.1 Melfort Road: This portrait by London-based artist, Ben Slow ( who specialises in portraiture), is of a child called Mika who lives on the street just down the road. He was 5 years old when Ben painted the portrait and sees this mural every day on the way home from school.



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Front, ground floor is by the London-based duo, Welikestastic - Craig Evans & Tom Jackson. Their visual language is all about urban tribes & experiences. They have worked with many murals around London & world-wide. Side flank wall: Mark McClure (a London based artist) builds on the idea of a graphic landscape - drawing on the structural shapes of the built environment, combining them with graphic motifs such as signage, letter forms & chevrons. Front and back: Curtis Hylton is a highly experienced British artist, son of a Jamaican father & white British mother. His painting of botanicals & birdlife, a mix of native & tropical species from the places of his parents' birth, creates powerful, awe-inspiring results. All commissioned by Croydon Council



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## GHANAPATHY TEMPLE

In eight days local designer Ván Dang, with the help of over 30 people painted the mural, transformed a dreary white wall into a colourful Thornton Heath feature with this beautifully designed peacock symbolising benevolence, patience, kindness, compassion and knowledge. Over one hundred people turned up to a workshop organised by Ván at the Hindu Temple and 220 people voted online for their choice of three designs for the mural with the peacock winning. Commissioned by Croydon Council 2018



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## BROOK ROAD

As part of THCAT's Street Action project, the large mosaic on Brook Road was one of the first to be designed locally by the street residents ( in June 2018) with the support of local community members assisted by artist Grace Holliday. The aim was to improve the feel and look of their street, helping to connect with neighbours and local businesses. Strong connections were created with business owners who supported the residents' aspirations by donating wall space on which the Mosaic has been placed, a venue for smashing crockery and tiles and providing refreshments. Local people of all ages contributed to developing this community project by donating tiles, crockery and, more importantly, giving of their time. This project created real community cohesion among the residents of Brook Road and other local people who continue to work together to address issues in their neighbourhood. Funded by a grant to THCAT from the People's Health Trust, 2018



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## QUADRANT ROAD

In another THCAT Street Action project, a local fashion designer volunteered a design for this mural to deter fly tipping at a "hot spot" as well as to bring neighbours together. His design was inspired "by the values of our diverse community. The brook, that runs through the middle of Thornton Heath, seemed a good symbol to show the life and vibrancy of our neighbourhood". Residents and locals worked with another local artist to paint the mural and enjoyed getting together in the street for a chat and refreshments. Funded by a grant to THCAT from The People's Health Trust, 2018.



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## BENSHAM MANOR PASSAGE

A vandalised railway bridge has been immersed in fun underwater designs painted on by volunteers: The bridge between Bensham Manor Road and Elm Road had been targeted with graffiti featuring racist, swear words and sexual images. It has been transformed by Thornton Heath Community Action Team led by Ván Dang who came up with the design idea. Working throughout the Bank Holiday volunteers put the finishing touches to the design during the week. Funded by THCAT, 2019



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## FRANT ROAD

This large mosaic of a summer cottage garden was also a THCAT Street Action project. A local business kindly gave permission for its wall to be used and artist, Grace Holliday, produced a draft design; residents were asked which plants and creatures (such as a well-known local cat) they wanted to include. The aim was to add colourful flowers to the street, deterring fly tipping, giving a more cared-for look, and encouraging more planting. Many locals donated their crockery and tiles (as did local businesses) and got to know each other whilst working together to create the mosaic. Passers-by stopped constantly to thank the volunteers and praised the mosaic. Funded by a grant to THCAT from The People's Health Trust, 2019



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## THORNTON HEATH POND

The Pond Mosaic is part of the 'Our Green Mile' project, linking The Pond to West Croydon Station energy garden and creating a green corridor. The mosaic brings back to life an environment, based on an artistic impression, of what life in a pond may look and feel like. Artist Grace Holliday, together with local people, created the design. Covid 19 lockdowns caused a halt to this project but THCAT volunteers were able to come forward in 2021 to complete the mosaic by grouting, polishing the tiles and painting the borders in different shades of blue. Funded by grants from local councillor ward budgets.