

**2022 -2023**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**





## Introduction from the Chair, Andrea Perry

The end of my stewardship as chair of THCAT has finished on high with Desmond Dekker Day in Trumble Gardens. It is a fitting end to my nine year involvement with THCAT as this will not only be my last year as chair but I am also standing down from the committee. I was there at the inaugural meeting in 2014 and over the years have dedicated a huge amount of time and energy to, I hope improving Thornton Heath.

My expectations were high and so of course I have faced many, many disappointments along the way but I have learned a lot, met some great people and achieved some key milestones in the history of Thornton Heath.

I have immersed myself in all things Thornton Heath. I was the vice chair of THCAT for six years representing the committee on the council's regeneration steering group.

I was involved in several campaigns for improvements to the High Street notably removing the benches which has seen a drastic improvement in anti social behaviour.

I set up a local newspaper The Thornton Heath Chronicle to give the area a voice which I ran with fellow THCAT committee member Vân Dang for more than five years. I helped run Thornton Heath's first street market, which included involvement in planning the magical light festival in Trumble Gardens.

We organised an event to support Black Lives Matter on Ambassador House forecourt featuring local speakers.

I judged Thornton Heath's first three In Bloom competitions.

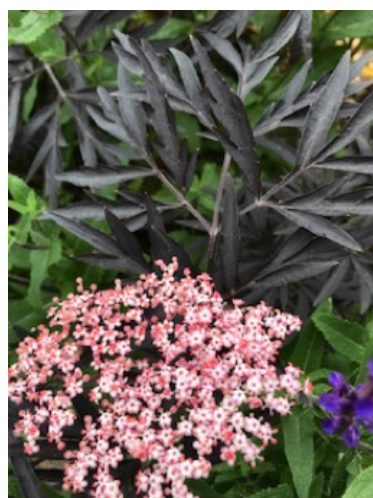
Joined countless action days picking up litter, planting flowers, painting murals and mosaics. We have done it all over the years!

I even stood as an independent candidate in the local elections for the Thornton Heath ward.

One of the most memorable night's was when Timberland took over the Ambassador House forecourt as part of a collaboration with the council and community to launch its global Nature Needs Heroes campaign. The forecourt was transformed in to a stylish music venue featuring Brit award nominee and local boy made good Loyle Carner and other artists.

It really was a brilliant night and is just one of many good memories I will take away from my association with THCAT.

But now is the time to hand over the mantle to new blood and find a new challenge. I wish the new committee all the best in continuing to deliver projects to improve the area.



## Community Gardening at Ambassador House Forecourt

On the first Saturday of every month THCAT volunteers have continued to weed the planters and water the plants whilst carrying out a gentle litter-pick to keep this valuable green space tidy.

It is remarkable how many passers-by comment on how much they appreciate the area and take time out to sit amidst the flowers with lunch or a coffee.

There have been extra watering sessions during the drier weather and thanks go to the Copperstones' project manager and to the security team inside Ambassador House who let us fix a hose pipe to a tap several flights up.

Despite the difficulties of water pipe bans and an empty water butt, we are delighted that we managed to ensure most of the plants survived to keep this valuable nature space looking attractive. The bees certainly enjoy the flowers!

Can you join us to help with planting (especially planting spring bulbs in September), weeding, watering and some litter picking? Also, we hope to re varnish the benches this autumn.



## Emergency First Aid

In November 2022 at Whitehorse Manor School on Brigstock Site James Haskell of London Ambulance Service (LAS) Public Education Coordinator, delivered a powerful presentation on the devastating effect of bladed weapon injuries (it's not just knives) and how important it is in saving a life when basic first aid can be administered before the emergency services arrive.

Around 40 people attended the session and hopefully all left with greater knowledge on how to help in these harrowing situations including knowing what information is needed over the phone by the emergency services.

James commented that this session, teaching specific first aid to the diverse local community, was groundbreaking and with enough further interest from community members, THCAT would like to organise another session.

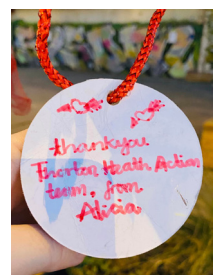
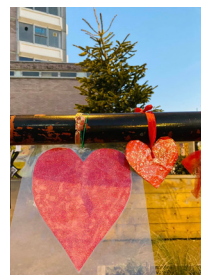
If you visit THCAT's website, [www.thorntonheath.net](http://www.thorntonheath.net) you will find follow up notes of the session.



And above all, watch with glittering eyes  
the whole world around you, because the  
greatest secrets are always hidden in  
the most unlikely places.  
Those who don't believe in magic  
will never find it.  
(Roald Dahl, The Witches)

## Valentine's Day 2023 – When Love Comes to Town!

Committee members Linda and Tilly asked local people to show love is in the air and to celebrate this LOVE - for a partner, friend, family member, lost loved one, pet, community, or for life itself!



For some fun and positivity, Linda and Tilly invited everybody to tie a red token such as a ribbon, bow, flower or heart to the railings opposite Thornton Heath Station. Many thanks to those who joined in to show Thornton Heath really has got the power of love.

## **Don't Mess with Thornton Heath How THCAT is making a difference**

**Our dedicated committee members Barbara Benjamin, Gaetane Jones and Paul Voden have continued to pound the streets and hold constructive meetings with Council officials to bring home the effects of the problems caused by flytipping and badly maintained licensed and suspected unlicensed Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Further meetings are planned with the council officers.**

Barbara, Gaetane's and Paul's dedicated monitoring have seen a huge improvement in the cleanliness of a long standing problem alleyway behind some shops near The Pond and working with the site manager at the building on the corner of Brigstock Road and Frant Road is helping reduce the amount of flytipping.

A parade of shops on Brigstock Road is being monitored but, with the help of the Mayor of Croydon the landlord has been required to fence off his eyesore property.

Over the next 6 months the team's walkabouts are going to be concentrated in Thornton Heath Ward. There are longstanding issues around Woodville Road, Parchmore Road and its side streets.

To press home the need for improvements in Thornton Heath Ward Barbara, Gaetane and Paul have been attending the councillors ward surgery at the Salvation Army (3rd Saturday of every month 11am to 12:30pm) to deliver a report on their findings. THCAT recommends that residents take advantage of councillors surgeries across all 3 wards.

During the walkabouts, Barbara, Gaetane and Paul realised that residents aren't aware of the LoveCleanStreets App. The team now provide the short instruction sheet on how to download and use the App (with QR code) to report fly-tips directly to the Council. Residents in Quadrant Road, Melfort Road, Cotford Road and Stuart Road have had leaflets delivered and more roads and streets will follow. The response from residents has been very positive.

Barbara, Gaetane and Paul feel that improvements have been made thanks to the co-operation of council officials and Cabinet Members. However, Barbara Gaetane they must back this up with their own constant and diligent monitoring of the streets and rogue landlords Thornton Heath and we are indebted and thankful for their efforts.



## We are Thornton Heath Community App

**It's been a super year for the app. Engagement has been high with over 1000 users having registered.**

Local organisations still have the opportunity to sign up for a one-year free trial period. This grants access to the 'hub' that hosts all sorts of useful features including event and offer listings, targeted notifications, 'Geo Alerts', and a newly introduced forum. This forum gives Thornton Heath organisations a platform to connect with one another.

Volunteer groups can now use a code to access the hub features for free. For business users, post-trial access is still only £5 per month (£60 per year), with a handy no-strings cancellation option.

Tilly continues to manage 'We are Thornton Heath' with the support of Loqiva (the developers). Our success



# Pocket full of Heath

Your Pocket Guide to Thornton Heath's top offers and more. Download We Are Thornton Heath and start exploring today.



Search "We Are Thornton Heath" in the stores

**WE ARE THORNTON HEATH**

has spurred the development of similar platforms in Wandsworth, Crystal Palace, Nottingham, Birmingham, and beyond.

We're looking forward to the possibilities that lie ahead, as we are already seeing evidence of the app being an invaluable local tool.

Download the app for free:  
[wearethorntonheath.app/download-the-app](http://wearethorntonheath.app/download-the-app)

# WE ARE THORNTON HEATH



## Ambassador House forecourt Christmas Tree Forest

Committee member Andrea Perry came up with the great idea of planting more than one traditional tree for Christmas 2022 and we were lucky to receive four trees from our community minded neighbours.

Additionally, Carolle Downer, local resident and owner of Rambling Rose Gardening Shop donated two spectacular trees which provided a lovely sight to weary travellers leaving the station.

Carolle's trees lasted well into March 2023 and the others are still prospering in the planters and are being tended by the Linda's Community Gardeners.

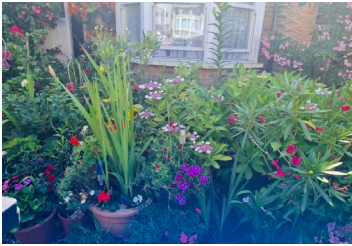
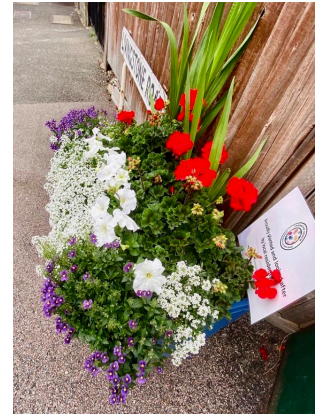
Hopefully Christmas 2023 will see a few more additions to the forest.



## Festive Door Wreath & Garland Competition

December 2022 saw the inaugural Door Wreath and Garland Competition and it proved to be hugely popular.

It was rewarding to see how many talented wreath and garland makers we have in Thornton Heath and following the voting by our Facebook Group members the winner was Cassandra Harrison closely followed by Heidi Tompson and Cheryl Johnson but, thank you to everyone who took part; you are all winners.



## Thornton Heath in Bloom

There wasn't an In Bloom 2023 competition but, the period of this review lets us look back and appreciate the quality of the entries in the 2022 competition.

Whilst the quantity of the entrants was reduced compared to previous years the standard of competition was fierce.

The awards ceremony was held on 12 July 2022 and we heard from the judges Anpu Sivokumaran, Cynthia Maxwell and Graham Mitchell about how they had come about their decisions inspired by not just aesthetics but also water conservation and planting for bees and butterflies.

The judges had very a difficult time identifying the winners (all the entrants were winners!) but to summarise, the results were:

### Street Planters /Tree Pits - judged by Graham Mitchell

1st Sue Ahmed and Catherine Rubaine of Livingstone Road who won a Pizza Time voucher plus £15 voucher (Cass, THCAT).

2nd Marzena Harrison, of Frant Road who received a Pizza Time voucher.

3rd Mersham Road Medical Centre were award a bottle of Champagne (courtesy of ASKI)

### Groups/Business/Organisations - judged by Anpu Sivokumaran

1st Beulah Infant School who received a £50 voucher (donated by Lawrence, THCAT)

2nd Thornton Heath Nursery School were awarded a £15 voucher (from Cass, THCAT) and ASKI tea voucher

3rd Thornton Heath Rec Community Garden collected a kettle from ASKI plus a tea voucher

### Concrete spaces - judged by Cynthia Maxwell

1st Mary Curniffe, Melfort Road won a £45 voucher (from Cass, THCAT) and Cava (from Tropical Fayre shop)

2nd Dahlia Kariuki, Buxton Road received a blender (from ASKI) plus a £15 voucher

3rd Sue Ahmad, Livingstone Rd - YBR Cake voucher

### Front Gardens - judged by Graham Mitchell

1st Cindy Scott, Penshurst Road - £50 voucher (from Lawrence, THCAT)

2nd Neil Tanner, Buller Road - Pizza Time voucher

3rd Helena Charles, Woodville Road - £15 voucher

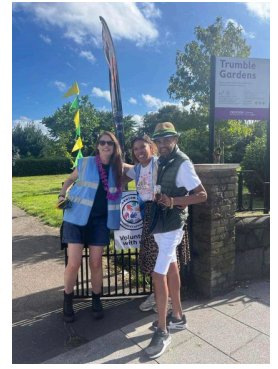
Sadly, organiser Linda Watson was unwell and unable to attend the ceremony as was Tilly Pollard, who did such an amazing job promoting the competition. Thanks goes to them both, along with our three judges. Thanks also go to THCAT committee members Barbara Benjamin and Gaetane Jones who organised the refreshments and catering and finally Averil Coutinho for doing the admin for this year's event!

There were certificates for all the winners and engraved salvers for first prize along with an array of prizes kindly donated by Pizza Time on Beulah Road, ASKI on Brigstock Road, YBR Cake and Tropical Fayre shop.

We would especially like to thank two members of THCAT Laurence William Philip Gough and Cassandra Harrison who generously donated over £200 towards B&Q vouchers for our winners.

All our generous donors deserve a big round of applause.





## Desmond Dekker Day – a great collaboration with the Friends of Trumble Gardens

The Friends of Trumble Gardens (FOTG) (including THCAT committee members Andrea Perry and Graham Mitchell) are a relatively new group having been formed in September 2022 but since then they have held nine action days involving cutting back foliage, litter picking, refurbishing and re-painting the Ranger Hut on the Brigstock Road site.

Many THCAT members joined in the action days and the association was cemented when THCAT kindly granted the Friends of Trumble Gardens some funds to fit a new kitchen in the Ranger Hut along with the associated electrical and plumbing works.

The culmination of the remarkable year's work by the FOTG was Desmond Dekker Day on 19 August 2023. Some 250 people came to Trumble Gardens to listen to some great upbeat music by DJ Beatnik, Reggae Reminiscence Band and Desmond's Daughter Desrene. And to commemorate Desmonds's time in Thornton Heath a mural design was commissioned and provided by renowned artist, Bareface.

Many brilliant local artists turned out to help paint the mural on the front of the Ranger Hut and it was amazing to see the talent amongst the younger children.

Members of the THCAT Committee manned the barriers and the gates on the day of the event and THCAT volunteers helped with the stewarding and ensured that the event was run smoothly and safely. And' special mention to THCAT Design and Social Media Coordinator, Tilly Pollard who did a brilliant job of publicising the event across our social media platforms.

So many people have commented that this was an amazing event and ask, "will there be one next year?" Who knows but, this was a great collaboration and shows what local community groups can do!

	Opening balance on 28th Aug 22	£ 15,549			
	Income over the last 12 months	£ 1,091			
	Funds spent over last 12 months	£ 4,844			
	Closing balance on 28th Aug 23	£ 11,796			
Date	Funder	Cash in	Spent	Remains	Project
2015	Capital Cleanup	<del>£ 1,490</del>	<del>£ 1,490</del>		Clocktower planting
2015	Paddy Power	£ 500	£ 244	£ 256	Christmas tree and decorations
2015	Whetherspoons	£ 250	£ 192	£ 58	Planting
2015-2016	Govia Thameslink Grant	<del>£ 800</del>	<del>£ 800</del>		Station
2015-2019	Donation	£ 82		£ 82	Unspecified
2016	Brewers donation	£ 150		£ 150	Clocktower area
2016	Humayun 2016	£ 2,275	£ 2,034	£ 241	Chronicle + Dog Fouling campaign
2016	Jamie Audsley 2016	<del>£ 3,750</del>	<del>£ 3,750</del>		Highstreet, side streets and parks
2016	Thornton Heath Arts Week	<del>£ 721</del>	<del>£ 721</del>		Arts week
2017	EVA	<del>£ 390</del>	<del>£ 390</del>		Unspecified
2017	Jamie Audsley 2017	£ 2,000	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	Hotspots to beauty spots
2017	Job Centre Cash	<del>£ 38</del>	<del>£ 38</del>		Job Centre garden
2017	Karen Jewit 2017	<del>£ 350</del>	<del>£ 350</del>		Planters
2017	Matthew's Ward Budget	<del>£ 5,000</del>	<del>£ 5,000</del>		Chronicle
2017	Pat Clouder 2017	<del>£ 100</del>	<del>£ 100</del>		Job Centre garden
2017	Simon Carter	<del>£ 100</del>	<del>£ 100</del>		Chronicle
2017	Stuart King 2017	<del>£ 500</del>	<del>£ 500</del>		Pond planting
2018	Alison Butler 2018	£ 750		£ 750	Brigstock House Planters
2018	Jamie Audsley 2018	<del>£ 7,500</del>	<del>£ 7,500</del>	<del>£ -</del>	Highstreet, side streets and parks
2018	Pat Clouder 2018	<del>£ 400</del>	<del>£ 400</del>		Planters
2018	Stuart King 2018	<del>£ 1,500</del>	<del>£ 1,500</del>		Pond planting
2018	Unknown	£ 77		£ 77	Unspecified
2019	Jamie Audsley 2019	<del>£ 7,500</del>	<del>£ 7,500</del>		Improving Thornton Heath
2019	Janet Campbell 2019	£ 700	£ 560	£ 140	The Pond
2019	Stuart King 2019	£ 500	£ 476	£ 24	The Pond Mosaic
2019	Alison Butler 2019	£ 2,500		£ 2,500	Ambassador House Forecourt
2019	Jewett & Clouder 2019	£ 400		£ 400	Planters
2020	Jamie Audsley 2020	<del>£ 6,500</del>	<del>£ 6,500</del>	£ -	Ongoing actions
2020	Stuart King 2020	£ 20		£ 20	Pond donation
2020	Pat Clouder 2020	£ 200	£ 190	£ 10	Free Art
2020	Karen Jewit 2020	<del>£ 200</del>	<del>£ 200</del>		Free Art
2020	Janet Campbell 2020	£ 100	£ 88	£ 12	Free Art
2020	Alison Butler 2020	£ 250	£ 132	£ 118	Planters
2021	Cedric's Legacy	£ 8,537	£ 4,319	£ 4,218	Brook Road Trees
2021	In Bloom 2021 donations	£ 280	£ 275	£ 5	In Bloom
2022	Govia Thameslink Grant 2022	£ 199			Station
2022	Melfort Rd Banners Crowdfund				Banners
2022	General Donations	£ 15			Unspecified
2017-2018	Market	£ 10,126	£ 10,093	£ 33	Thornton Heath Market
2017-2020	People's Health Trust	<del>£26,028.0</del>	<del>£26,027.95</del>		Terms of bid