

Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

*Stimulating minds
yesterday, today and tomorrow*

Founded 1870



**Programme 455
April—October 2024**

Meetings cover Local and Industrial History, Geology,
Archaeology, Entomology, Ecology and Ornithology

www.cnhss.co.uk

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED

Founded in 1870 as the Croydon Microscopical Club

Headquarters and Registered Office: 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

Website: www.cnhss.co.uk

SOCIETY OBJECTIVES

For the public benefit, to encourage the study of the sciences, especially the natural and local history and archaeology of the Croydon area, by organising lectures, members' talks, discussions, exhibitions, field meetings, surveys, issuing publications, and by maintaining a library and museum.

The Society is concerned with original investigation, conservation, recording, curation, education, and incidental recreation.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Society's own Museum and Library may be visited by arrangement with the Curator and Librarian respectively (see DIRECTORY).

ECOLOGY SECTION

Jane McLauchlin is the Section Secretary and can be contacted on ecology matters (see DIRECTORY).

ENTOMOLOGY SECTION

Graham Collins is the Section Secretary and can be contacted on entomology matters (see DIRECTORY).

ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

The group is an informal part of the society which meets at least twice a month at various birding sites near and far such as South Norwood Country Park, Beddington Park, the Oare Marshes in Kent and Pagham Harbour in Sussex. For details contact Ornithology (see Directory). It is necessary to inform the leader of each excursion in advance that you are going. The place of meeting is always the venue. There are no indoor meetings apart from when the programme of outings is planned.

WALKS

Members attend outdoor meetings at their own risk. Please come with appropriate clothes and footwear for possible hot or bad weather, mud underfoot, and occasional steep slopes and steps.

EMBLEM



The Society's emblem is based on a bronze openwork disc from the fifth or sixth century AD, found in 1893 in a Saxon cemetery in Edridge Road, Croydon. It is a rare example; its function is not certain but it may have been a strap distributor or a sort of brooch. It can be seen at the Museum of Croydon.

The Society is a company limited by guarantee without share capital, and registered in London No. 922278, and is registered charity No. 260739.

EVENTS

In person talks take place at EAST CROYDON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, 86 ADDISCOMBE GROVE, CROYDON CR0 5LP (ECURC). This is close to East Croydon Railway Station, bus station and tram stop. There is limited parking.

Zoom meetings open at 19:35 for a 19:45 start. Members please use the link sent to register – early booking is recommended. Visitors will receive the link on or before the morning of the talk date subject to availability.

APRIL

- 1 Easter Monday 14:00 – ECOLOGY WALK** – “Spring flowers and scenery at The Lawns, part of the Great North Wood in Upper Norwood”. Meet at 14:00 at the junction of Beulah Hill and Spa Hill, TQ328700. Led by Jane McLauchlin and Malcolm Jennings.
- 10 Wednesday 19:45 – TALK** – “Mapping Urban Geology: building stones in London and beyond on London Pavement Geology”. This talk by Dr Ruth Siddall will present the London Pavement Geology app and website, created by Dave Wallis, Ruth Siddall and website developers Livetech. It will show how this platform is increasingly becoming an archive of the UK’s building stones and other out-of-situ geological objects. Its users include Historic England and groups recording local building stone information. We hope that crowdsourcing will enable this site to continue to grow and that it will be a resource for anyone with an interest in geology or building stones. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**

<p>25 Thursday 19:45 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Followed after refreshments by the Presidential Address “Croydon’s pleasure fairs to 1868” given by Carole Roberts. Place: THE DAVID SWEET HALL, ECURC.</p>
--

MAY

- 6 Bank Holiday Monday 14:00 – ECOLOGY WALK** – “Bluebells and other spring flowers in the grounds of Bethlem Royal Hospital”. Meet at 14:00 at the main gate in Monks Orchard Road. Led by Jane McLauchlin. Please note: no photography in the grounds.
- 8 Wednesday 19:45 – TALK** – “Christopher Wren, England’s Leonardo”. Naturally today Wren is remembered for his incomparable architectural achievements, particularly the rebuilding of St Paul’s and other City churches following the Great Fire of London in 1666. But what of Wren before this time? Despite the serenity of his architecture, Wren grew up in a time of revolution, but his extraordinary breadth of interests and inventions have led to him being called “England’s Leonardo”. Our talk by member and retired lecturer Bernard Winchester concentrates on the earlier part of his life, when he devoted himself to the applied sciences and astronomy. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**
- 20 Monday 19:45 – TALK** – “Badgers - Their Lives, Ecology, Rescue and Rehabilitation”, by Ian Tilbury. In this illustrated talk, as well as an introduction to the natural history of badgers, their field signs, persecution, and protection, we will hear about the work of the East Surrey Badger Protection Society in the rescue and rehabilitation of badgers, including their many years of experience of successfully releasing rescued orphaned cubs back into the wild. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**

EVENTS (CONTINUED)

MAY (continued)

- 29 Wednesday 19:00 – VISIT** – “Evening visit to The Wilderness”. Join Lucy James, Gardening Services Manager at The Wilderness for an evening tour of the garden. Wilks’s Rhododendrons and Azaleas will be a highlight as well as seasonal displays in the naturally occurring bog garden. Lucy will talk about the history of the garden, Wilks’s legacy, ongoing development, and relevance today. Light refreshments will be provided afterwards. The garden has a fully accessible circular path and woodland paths laid to woodchip, with plenty of seating, a wheelchair available and a fully accessible W.C. Place: **MHA Hall Grange, 17 Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR9 5AL.**

JUNE

- 1 Saturday 11:00 -16:00** – CNHSS will have a stall at Croydon Council’s ‘Go Exploring!’ event, featuring Croydon’s green spaces, local wildlife, and nature and environmental groups. Place: **Croydon Clocktower Foyer, 9 Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX.**
- 10 Monday 19:45 – ZOOM TALK** – “Mapping the WW2 bombing of Surrey (and the V1s, and the crashed aircraft, and the mines, and...)”, by Martin Stilwell. Surrey History Centre has embarked on a 2-year project to map all the “bombs” that fell on Surrey, including Croydon. The results are being published on an interactive map, accessible to all. The interest has been very much in the personal stories of the people of Surrey – how they coped, and how they endured. And all the research is being carried out by volunteers. **BOOKING REQUIRED:** members please register as early as possible using the link that will be provided. Visitors please email cnhss.info@gmail.com with subject ZOOM BOMBMAPS VISITOR by 15:00 on Monday 10 June.
- 19 Wednesday 14:00 – ECOLOGY WALK** – “Meadows and hedgerows in Lloyd Park”. Meet at 14:00 at Lloyd Park tram stop. Led by Jane McLaughlin and Malcolm Jennings.
- 26 Wednesday 19:45 – TALK** – “The lost story of South London’s technological excellence”. South London was a technological hotspot from the 1850s through to the 1980s, with companies such as Telcon, STC, Siemens and AEI pioneering international telecoms, and with Decca developing hi-fi stereo recording (and also radar and navigation). John Logie Baird had his TV development lab in the old Crystal Palace, and the BBC’s research labs were in south-west London. Almost all of that has gone, except for a single factory in Greenwich. Alan Burkitt-Gray, who has been a telecoms and technology journalist since 1973, tells the story. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED – CHECK OUR WEBSITE WWW.CNHSS.CO.UK

MUSEUM OPEN DAY – Visit the Society’s Museum collection. For directions please contact information@cnhss.co.uk. There are good transport links by bus and train (Woodmansterne Station) or parking is available in nearby roads (not on site).

JULY

- 17 Wednesday 19:45 – TALK** – “Annabel Dott: a tiresome lady architect and vicar’s wife”, by Lynne Dixon. After her marriage Annabel Dott lived in North Yorkshire, Woodside, Barnes and Wiltshire as she dutifully followed her vicar husband. But she had her own interests to pursue and she has left buildings she designed or renovated in a number of places. Although just a small church building represents her work in Woodside, the four

years she spent there between 1919 and 1923 are possibly the busiest of her busy life. But was she tiresome, or just determined to complete her projects in an era when being a woman in a male dominated world was not easy? Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**

- 21 Sunday 14:00 – ECOLOGY WALK** – “Another piece of the Great North Wood, Norwood Grove and Nettlefold Field”. Meet at 14:00 at the junction of Gibson’s Hill and Beulah Hill. Joint meeting with the South London Botanical Institute, led by Jane McLauchlin and Roy Vickery.

AUGUST

- 11 Sunday 08:00 – WALK** – “Early Sunday morning in North End, Croydon”. By the twentieth century North End was a major shopping and entertainment centre, and we will look at how this happened and its key buildings past and present. This walk is suitable for slower or less mobile walkers. Meet at 08:00 at Barclays Bank, 1 North End Croydon CR9 1SX. Led by Carole Roberts and Andrew Kennedy.
- 24 Saturday 10:00 – ECOLOGY WALK** – “Summer saunter for heather on Shirley Heath”. Meet at 10:00 at the east end of Palace View, TQ370649. Led by Jane McLauchlin and Malcolm Jennings.

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Monday 19:45 – TALK** – “Continental Drift”, by Martin Eales. This talk will explore the early ideas and evidence for the concepts of continental drift leading to the paradigm of plate tectonics. Early cartographers recognised that the continents across the Atlantic appeared to fit like a jigsaw puzzle. However, there was no explanation for this and generally the idea that continents could move around the earth was dismissed as bizarre by scientists until the middle of the 20th century. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**
- 25 Wednesday 19:45 – TALK** – “Overhill in Warlingham: the land, the house and its residents”, by Carole Roberts and Phil Swallow. This story of the former house in Warlingham called Overhill covers the land on which it stood, from its time as part of West Hall to the house’s demolition in the 1980s, and those who lived there, including Sir Joseph Wilson Swan and the Gardner family of the Yardley cosmetics company who maintained an airfield at Hamsey Green. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**

OCTOBER

- 9 Wednesday 19:45 – ZOOM TALK** – “Nightjar ecology and movements”, by Dr Greg Conway. This talk will look at the general ecology of Nightjars as well as population change, habitat requirements, diet and movements. **BOOKING REQUIRED:** members please register as early as possible using the link that will be provided. Visitors please email cnhss.info@gmail.com with subject ZOOM NIGHTJARS VISITOR by 15:00 on Wednesday 9 October.
- 27 Sunday 10:00 – ECOLOGY WALK** – “Autumn fruits and fungi in Heathfield”. Meet at 10:00 in the car park in Riesco Drive TQ352638. Led by Jane McLauchlin and Malcolm Jennings.
- 28 Monday 19:45 – TALK** – “Engineering through history”, by Laurence Scales. Engineering is a pillar supporting our comfortable lives. So what is its history? And in Britain why does it, perhaps, have a social stigma attached? Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**

PUBLICATIONS

ILLUSTRATED LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS:

CROYDON: THE STORY OF A HUNDRED YEARS	Please enquire
VICTORIAN CROYDON ILLUSTRATED	Please enquire
EDWARDIAN CROYDON ILLUSTRATED	Please enquire
CROYDON BETWEEN THE WARS (2nd ed. 1993)	4.75
CROYDON IN THE 1940s AND 1950s (2nd ed. 2000)	6.75
CROYDON OLD AND NEW, enlarged (1995)	6.75
CROYDON FROM ABOVE (1999)	6.75
CROYDON'S TRANSPORT – through the ages (2001)	8.75
A VIEW OF CROYDON: Postcards from the past (2011)	10.95

RECENT PROCEEDINGS:

19(9) CONSUMED BY FIRE: THE DESTRUCTION OF CROYDON PARISH CHURCH IN 1867 AND ITS REBUILD. (Brian Lancaster, 2016)	4.50
20(1) STRANGE BEDFELLOWS: CROYDON'S SLAVE OWNERS AND HISTORIANS. (Ron Cox's final talk to the Society, Sean Creighton on Croydon's connections with slavery and Brian Lancaster on John Corbet Anderson, 2017)	5.00
20(2) SURREY KILLING FIELDS: THE WARTIME JOURNAL OF A CHIPSTEAD SCHOOLBOY FRIEND OF A GAMEKEEPER. (The 1942-3 journal of Bruce Larcombe, edited by Brian Lancaster, 2018)	5.99
21(1) EVACUSTES PHIPSON: HIS LIFE AND UTOPIAN VIEWS, AND AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CROYDON PAINTINGS. (John Hickman, Carole Roberts, John W. Brown and Stephen Williams, 2020)	12.00
21(2) AHEAD OF THEIR TIME: THE MALLESONS AND TAYLORS' RADICAL CIRCLE IN CROYDON AND BEYOND. (Brian Lancaster, 2021).	6.95
21(3) REMEMBERING PAUL SOWAN THROUGH HIS WRITING. (Carole Roberts and Mark Tyson (Eds), 2022)	6.95

The above books, and others at <https://cnhss.co.uk/booksproceedings>, can be obtained from the Society. Email sales@cnhss.co.uk. Please add **£2** for postage and packing.

DIRECTORY

All general correspondence should be addressed to the Society at its Registered Office, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD, or to information@cnhss.co.uk.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Carole Roberts, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

Vice Presidents: John Hickman, Ian Payne, Brenda Hawkins

Curator (Museum): Esther Mann, information@cnhss.co.uk

Editor (Proceedings): Carole Roberts, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

General Secretary: Tony Skrzypczyk, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD. information@cnhss.co.uk

Librarian: Tony Skrzypczyk, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD. information@cnhss.co.uk

Treasurer: Brenda Hawkins, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Pam Buttrey, Jorn Cooper, Patrick Dennison, Edward Hart, Nicola Hunt, Liz Malarkey, Ken Woodhams.

SECTION SECRETARIES AND OTHER APPOINTED POSITIONS

Archaeology consultant: Chris Taylor (020 8668 9570)

The Elected Officers are Members of Council and they, with the Ordinary Members of Council, are all Directors of the Limited Company.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Data Privacy Statement

The Society holds the following data on its Members: Name, Address, Telephone Number(s), Email Address, Membership type, Subscription record. Only Council Members, Trustees and Post Holders who require access to this personal data needed to carry out their role within the Society are provided with access to the data. This includes mailings of CNHSS publications, maintaining membership and subscription records and contact details for finding volunteers for specific purposes. Information will not be shared with third parties without express permission from the member concerned.

Company Secretary: Ian Payne, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD (01737 554449), co-secretary@cnhss.co.uk

Conservation Officer: Jane McLauchlin, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

Curators of the John Gent Collection: John Hickman and Carole Roberts, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

Ecology: Jane McLauchlin. See Conservation Officer

Editor (Bulletin): Ian Payne, bulletin@cnhss.co.uk

Entomology: Graham Collins (020 8688 4539)

Information: information@cnhss.co.uk or telephone 020 8406 4676

Membership & Subscriptions: Jim Bush, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD, membership@cnhss.co.uk

Ornithology: information@cnhss.co.uk

Programme Team: programme@cnhss.co.uk, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

Sales Officer: Brian Lancaster, 68 Woodcote Grove Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2AD (020 3561 4549), sales@cnhss.co.uk

Web Managers: Mark Tyson and Carole Roberts, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD, webmaster@cnhss.co.uk

RENEWAL / MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

TITLE AND NAME (print)

ADDRESS (print)

.....

PHONE EMAIL

May we send you email CNHSS news and updates? YES / NO (please circle)

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024

ORDINARY AND GROUP MEMBERS **£18 pa**

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS **£10 pa** (FOR THOSE AT AN ADDRESS

WITH AN ORDINARY, LIFE OR HONORARY MEMBER)

LIFE MEMBERS **£250**

I enclose my subscription of for Renewal / Ordinary / Associate / Life Membership (delete as appropriate). Cheques payable to **CNHSS**, or request a standing order form from **membership@cnhss.co.uk** or the **Membership Secretary, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD**.

I agree to support the objectives and regulations of the CNHSS and accept the conditions laid down in its Memorandum and Articles of Association (which can be inspected by writing to the Company Secretary at the above address).

Data Privacy Statement: only Council Members, Trustees and Post Holders who require access to personal data needed to carry out their role within the Society are provided with access to the data. Please go to www.cnhss.co.uk then follow 'About the Society' and 'CNHSS and the General Data Protection Regulation' for the full Statement.

Signed Date

If you are under 18, please ask a parent or other responsible adult to countersign your application:

Signature of adult:

Relation to applicant:

If you pay UK Income Tax of at least the amount of tax that CNHSS would reclaim on your gifts in a tax year, please complete the following: please treat all gifts of money that I make today and in the future as Gift Aid donations.

Signed Date

Please notify CNHSS if you wish to cancel this declaration.