

Canning & Clyde Monthly Update – May 2023

www.canningandclyde.org

Hi

Spring is definitely here at last. The first or second week of May usually sees the arrival of our local swifts, a sign of early Summer. Up till now they have flown back from central Africa every year to the same nest. Each year fewer and fewer have returned. Swifts are listed as an endangered species, on the red list. Last year we only had five or six flying around our area (most visibly around the centre of Clyde and Canning Roads). Let's hope we see some again this year. Look out for their [rapid flying with long scythe shaped wings](#); listen for a gentle high screeching sound.

Annual Residents Meeting / Get together

COME FOR ALL OR DROP IN FOR A FEW MINUTES TO SAY HELLO!

This is an event for residents of Canning and Clyde Roads only.

Feel free just to drop in for a drink and chat. There will be a formal style meeting but people are not obliged to attend that. Here's what we're going to do.

Thursday 18 May 2023

7.00 – 7.30 pm: Drinks, nibbles, chance to socialise

7.30 – 8.15 pm: Formal meeting with timed Agenda

8.15 – 9.00 pm: Drinks, nibbles, chance to socialise

At Edward Jobson Court, Canning Road

Many thanks to our neighbours at Edward Jobson Court for allowing us to use their large room. To find it – go down the driveway to the right of the building. You will see the room ahead of you.

There are only two main items on the Agenda. No one has put forward items for the Agenda so we have included the two issues people talk about most:

- (1) Rubbish collections
- (2) Traffic (i) Clyde Road (ii) Update, if available, on Croydon Council's proposed Healthy Streets area CR011

Coronation Picnic

Sunday 7 May 2023 2 – 5 pm

Addiscombe Railway Park – orchard end (by entrance from East India Way)

Friends of Addiscombe Railway Park in conjunction with CHASE Residents Association are holding a Coronation picnic.

Everybody is welcome to go along.

Click here for [more information](#)

Streatham Common Kite Day

Free

Sunday 14 May 2023

11 am – 5 pm

Streatham Common SW16 3BU

Family friendly event. Mix of kite displays. Food and drink stalls or take along a picnic.

Bring your own kite, if you wish. Instructions on the [Kite Day website](#) on how to make your own kite.

Love Cronx Makers Market

Saturday 27 May 2023

11 am – 5 pm

Our Space, 50 High Street, Croydon CR0 1YB

See attached flier

Quiz 2023

Saturday 7 October 2023

Clyde Hall

Canning and Clyde are holding our annual Quiz again this year. More details and the opportunity to book a place will be given nearer the time.

Each year our Quiz raises funds for a voluntary organisation. If you would like to suggest a local voluntary organisation that could use funds, please let us know.

Sparkie the fox cub

Foxes tend to arouse a mixture of reactions locally. Some people love them, some strongly dislike them, some tolerate them. I thought on balance a fair number of people might like to hear the story of Sparkie the fox cub.

Like a lot of people in our two roads, I live in a flat. Mine is in a Victorian conversion with a basement. Just after 7.00 am a couple of Mondays ago my door bell went. It was my very nice neighbour in the basement flat. A fox cub had fallen into the well between the garden and the wall of her bedroom. It couldn't get out and we couldn't see how to get it out without terrifying it.

As I was working from home that day, I phoned [The Fox Project](#). The Fox Project provides information on fox deterrence, for those who do not want foxes in their gardens, and an ambulance service to rescue injured foxes or abandoned fox cubs. They cover parts of Southern England including our area. They have a fox sanctuary / hospital. For those who want to discourage foxes coming in their front or back garden, see their [humane fox deterrence advice](#).

Two lovely people came round and expertly caught the fox cub, no easy feat as it was surprisingly feisty for such a very small animal. They used a towel to try and avoid putting human scent on the cub. Mother foxes may abandon a cub if it smells of humans. As it had been energetic in trying to avoid capture, they initially thought the cub might survive on its own until evening when its mother might come back, so they let it go. Watching it crawl through shrubs, however, they thought it looked frail and vulnerable. They recaptured the cub and took it to their fox sanctuary / hospital.

There they named the cub Sparkie. Here's an update they gave on how he's doing.

'Sparkie is doing well and has been grouped with other cubs. As we do not know if there is a vixen or fox family in your area there will not be any chance of returning him to his home territory, therefore his (false) litter will spend the summer together in our foster care system.'

We look for new release sites throughout the year as we normally have around 30 groups of 5 cubs to transfer to individual rehabilitation sites, where we build enclosures for the litter stay in for a few weeks prior to release in August, which is the natural dispersal time for fox cubs. Sparkie will be 6 months old then and ready to lead an independent life in the wild.'

Outside this month

Things to see / hear in the month of May

Cow's Parsley

Cow's Parsley flowers from April to June. There are a number of wild flowers that look very much like it. At this time of year, if you see a Cow's Parsley type plant with fern-like leaves, there's a good chance it is Cow's Parsley.

It grows along grass verges and in hedgerows. It is currently in flower in South Norwood Country Park and Lloyds Park.

It is a good source of early nectar for pollinators.

The Woodland Trust site tells us, *'Another vernacular name, 'Mother die' or 'Mummy die', was used to frighten children into thinking that if they picked cow parsley, their mother would die. This was intended to deter children from potentially picking deadly hemlock.'*

For more information see <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/wildflowers/cow-parsley>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/plants/wild-flowers/cow-parsley/>