

## Broad Green Heritage Trail — part of Croydon Heritage Festival, 21st June - 4th July 2014

Whether you're a visitor, a newcomer or an old hand in Broad Green, we hope you enjoy exploring this trail around the area. You can follow the whole trail, or visit particular sections, or start and stop at any point. Look out for Trail posters at some of the points.

### Summary of sections

#### Along London Road (inner pages)

- A. London Road: West Croydon station to Sumner Road
- B. London Road north of Sumner Road

#### Branching off along nearby streets (outer pages)

- C. To the West (from points 6/7) — Sumner Road etc
- D. To the East (from points 6/7) — St James's Road
- E. To the West (from point 15) — Canterbury Road

RHS, LHS: points on the right-hand and left-hand sides of the street respectively, facing north or in the direction indicated.

### A. London Road: West Croydon station to Sumner Road

**1. Late Victorian high street** From the station, turn right and walk north along this typical late Victorian high street. No. 60 on the corner of Oakfield Road was burnt out in the 2011 riots; it has been restored and is now a nail and beauty shop.

*London Road to the north and south of Broad Green was once known as Millionaires' Row, because of the many large villas and mansions which were built there in the 18th and early 19th centuries. By the early 20th century, most had been demolished and the land developed into today's streets.*

#### 2. RHS: CVA Resource Centre and the Croydon General Hospital site

This is the site of Oakfield Lodge, a large house and grounds which became Croydon General Hospital in 1873. No. 82, the CVA Resource Centre, was built on a small section of the site and opened in 2008. The rest of the site has been unused since the Hospital was closed in 1996. There are plans to build a school there.



**3. LHS: Lidl, easyGym and the Employment Tribunals — formerly the Co-operative** This site, nos. 99-101 London Road, was the South Suburban Co-operative Society, housing

its head office and a large department store. The entrance to the store was at street level from London Road.

**4. Old residences and 60s/70s blocks** On the RHS examples of 19th century gentlemen's houses can be seen behind the shop fronts (eg. nos. 158-162). On the LHS are examples of 1960s/70s development (Praise House etc), which replaced similar and larger houses. Zodiac Court was built on the site of Broad Green House, which was used as a school/college in the 1930s-50s.

**5. RHS: Royal Parade and Royal Mansions** These elegant blocks (and the terraced streets behind them) were built in 1902 on the land from Broad Green Place. Nos. 256-272 were destroyed in the riots in August 2011.



**6. LHS: Gary Court — formerly the cinema** The cinema opened in 1936 as the Savoy, then from 1958 it was called the ABC. From 1986 until 1996 it was part of the Cannon Group. It was then bought by an independent owner who ran it as the Safari until it closed in 2004. The site was redeveloped between 2006-8 to build Gary Court.

### B. London Road north of Sumner Road/St James's Road

**7. The junction with St James's Road** This junction is very old, which can be seen from the angle of St. James's Road in relation to London Road. On the RHS, the group of small cottages is shown on the Roberts map of 1847. There used to be a horse trough in the middle of the road (pictured).



**8. LHS: old houses on the enclosed Broad Green (from junction Sumner Rd to junction Handcroft Rd)** Half-hidden behind shop-fronts and later infills, the buildings of this section are the original houses built on the old green after it was enclosed around the 1830s. No. 235 was the vicarage for Christ Church from 1852-1913.

**9. RHS: 19th century buildings and modern replacements (junction St James's Rd to junction Elmwood Rd)** Some of the Victorian buildings remain, including the Broad Green Tavern, which was originally called The Star (see the engraved sign on the south side of the building). Others have been redeveloped (eg. nos. 300-304). No. 334 (Domino's, on the corner of Elmwood Road) was rebuilt recently in the style of the block after being destroyed by a bomb during the war.

#### 10. Junction with Handcroft Road/Bensham Lane

This is another old junction — see the offset angles of the roads. The building which narrows to a point stands on the former green. Handcroft Road is to the west of the green and London Road to its east.



#### 11. LHS: The Half Moon pub

The Half Moon was very old, mentioned in a legal document from 1492. Recently, the derelict 19th century building (right) was demolished to make way for a block of flats.



**12. RHS: Bedford House and new blocks beyond** Bedford House (no. 380) was a car showroom and currently being redeveloped into a large residential complex. Two smaller blocks were recently built nearby (no. 386 and no. 390).

**13. LHS: mansion blocks and terraced streets** More of the legacy of the grand houses and the Victorian era can be seen in the names: eg. Fairholme Road (from the house called Fairholme), Century Buildings.

**14. RHS: Philips Building/City House** This 1970s block used to be the offices of Philips Lighting. Following its redevelopment (with an ambitious set of large wind turbines on the roof), it has been residential since 2009.

**15. Oshwal Mahajanwadi — formerly the West Croydon Congregational Church/United Reformed Church** Built in 1886, the church was sold to the Oshwal Association in 1982 for use as a Jain temple and community centre.

*Thank you for visiting London Road, Broad Green. To continue your visit following the sections overleaf, look for the appropriate connecting points. Or to move on from the area, take one of the many buses serving London Road.*

**C. To the West (from points 6/7) - Sumner Road, Handcroft Road, Dennett Road**

**16. Christ Church** Walk down Sumner Road with Gary Court on your left. At the traffic lights, Christ Church is diagonally opposite. It was built in 1851 and consecrated in 1852. The building was closed as unsafe in the late 1970s and was damaged by fire in 1987. It was rebuilt in its present form and reopened in the early 1990s.



**17. Handcroft Road — places of worship** Walk north east up Handcroft Road, passing three more places of worship: the chapel at no. 160 (RHS), built in 1841 in the garden of no. 245 London Road and originally a Catholic chapel; the Shahjalal mosque at no. 170 (RHS), which was opened in 2008; and the Byers Memorial Hall (LHS, no. 183), built in 1911 as Christ Church hall and now the New Testament Church of God.

**18. Church Alley (LHS)** This is an old public right of way from Handcroft Road to Mitcham Road. It is first shown (as a path between fields) on the Roberts map of 1847. It is first named on the 1868 Ordnance Survey map.

**19. Dennett Road (LHS)** Walk down the road to the empty land at nos. 23-31 (LHS). This is the site of a former printing works, which burnt down in January 2011.

*The junction of Dennett Road with London Road is at points 10/11 above.*

**D. To the East (from points 6/7) - St James's Road**

**20. Baitus Subhan mosque — formerly St Michael and All Angels School** Walk along St James's Road to the junction with Windmill Road, where you can see this building diagonally opposite. It was built in the mid-19th century. In the 1980s it was used as temporary accommodation by Elmwood School, following a fire at their school.

**21. Former St Mary's Maternity Hospital** Many a Broad Green resident was born in (or gave birth in) St. Mary's Maternity Hospital! The building, pictured overleaf, still stands on the corner of St James's Road and Lodge Road. It closed as a hospital in the 1980s and is now an NHS clinic.

*Walk back down St James's Road to points 6/7 above.*

**E. To the West (from point 15) - Canterbury Road**

**22. The Duke of York** The Duke of York is one of many old pubs in Broad Green which have now closed. Notice the elegant ironwork still visible behind the hoardings.

**23. Broad Green Library** This library was opened in 1998 and replaced Mitcham Road Library, now demolished. During the Festival, the workshop *Maps, Memories and Stories* is being held in Broad Green Library on Friday 4th July (drop in).

*Walk back up Canterbury Road to point 15 above. Alternatively, walk through Canterbury Road Recreation Ground to Mitcham Road, across land which was once part of Waddon Marsh Farm (the farm-house was near where the Mitcham Road entrance gate is now).*

**Transport links**

*Tram:* to West Croydon

*Overground:* Highbury & Islington to West Croydon line

*Rail:* Southern to West Croydon; Southern or First Capital Connect to East Croydon, then 64 or 198 bus.

*Buses:* the 60, 64, 109, 198, 250 and 289 all run along London Road between West Croydon and Thornton Heath Pond.

The 264 runs along Mitcham Road to West Croydon/Tooting.

*Note/disclaimer:* this is a selection and not a complete guide to Broad Green. Like our exhibition, it is also an on-going work in progress. Feel free to send us your comments, corrections and suggestions using the contact information below.

*This trail was prepared by Friends of Church Alley with Broad Green Residents Association as part of the project Documenting Broad Green & Church Alley.*

*For photo and archive credits, please see our website.*

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**Broad Green Heritage Trail**

*part of the  
Croydon Heritage Festival  
21st June – 4th July 2014*

Follow the Broad Green Heritage Trail at your own pace using this leaflet as guide.

Or join us for one of the Guided Walks taking place during the Festival:

~ Wed 2nd July, 6.30pm

~ Thur 3rd July, 3pm

For each, meet at West Croydon Station, main entrance on London Road.

No need to book – but if you want to register or find out more, you can email [cathy.aitchison@btinternet.com](mailto:cathy.aitchison@btinternet.com)

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