Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

ISSUE 460

Programme: October 2026-April 2027

We explore Croydon's history, geology, archaeology, flora and fauna, by hosting talks, walks, and more.

Stimulating minds yesterday, today and tomorrow.
Founded in 1870.

Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society Ltd

Founded in 1870 as the Croydon Microscopical Club
Headquarters & 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. For information on their events please contact information@cnhss.co.uk.

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.

For all events - if the weather is warm please bring water.

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.

Image notes – see our website https://cnhss.co.uk/about/

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 are on a first-come-first-served basis.

Weekday evening events 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. The entrance to the Small Hall and the David Sweet Hall is on the right-hand side of the building. There is limited parking, accessed from the left-hand side of the church – drive behind the building to the car park on its right-hand side, and afterwards exit from there.

2027 Saturday events take place at MEETING ROOM 1, FIRST FLOOR, CROYDON CENTRAL LIBRARY, KATHARINE STREET, CROYDON CR9 1ET **(Croydon Library)**. (NB no photography allowed at this venue.)

We do not charge for talks but we welcome donations of say £3.

Zoom talks - members please use the link sent to register. Visitors will receive the link on or before the morning of the talk date subject to availability.

October 2026

3 **Saturday 10:00-16:00 – GEOLOGY VISIT –** "Geoconservation Day at Riddlesdown Quarry". CNHSS is invited to take part in this event organised by the London Geodiversity Partnership in conjunction with the Geologists' Association and City of London Corporation. BOOKING REQUIRED: full details will be given upon registration to geotrail@londongeopartnership.org.uk.

17 **Saturday 14:00 – TALK** – "Going Underground in Surrey's Mines and Caves". This talk by Peter Burgess will cover four areas of underground Surrey - stone mines at Merstham, a lost sand cave in Reigate, the sinking of a well in Reigate that discovered a forgotten stone mine in 1898, and the sand mines in Godstone which were the cause of the collapse of the High Street in 2025. PLACE: The Small Hall, ECURC.

17 **Saturday – GEOLOGY VISIT** – "Geology and ecology on Keston Common for Earth Science Week". CNHSS is invited to attend this event led by London Geodiversity Partnership jointly with London Natural History Society. BOOKING REQUIRED: full details will be given upon registration to geotrail@londongeopartnership.org.uk.

November

9 **Monday 19:45 – TALK –** "The Green Side of Croydon". Join Croydon Council's Community and Conservation Team Leader, Alice Owusu-Evans, to learn more about Croydon's green spaces, wildlife and biodiversity, and how the Council, local communities and stakeholders are working together to protect them. PLACE: The Small Hall, ECURC.

Events (continued)

November (continued)

28 Saturday 14:00 – FOCUS TALKS – Our annual Focus meeting which will this year look at the development of the water supply in Croydon. Speakers will be Nick Higham, author of *The Mercenary River,* David Perrett and David Clayton. The speakers will cover the supplies currently under Thames Water and SES and the last days of steam at Croydon pumping stations. With refreshments (cake donations welcome please). PLACE: The David Sweet Hall, ECURC.

December

16 Wednesday 19:45 – CHRISTMAS TALK – "Watery wandering" by Glenda Law. A look at wetland scenery and wildlife around the UK including the canal systems. PLACE: The Small Hall, ECURC.

January 2027 * Subscriptions are now due *

2 Saturday 14:00 – TALK – "The Surrey Iron Railway and the Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Railway". At the end of the 18th century a group of visionary businessmen conceived a plan to create a horse-drawn railway to move raw materials and finished goods up and down the River Wandle valley between their mills and the River Thames. The railway was built and subsequently extended from Croydon to the Merstham quarries. This illustrated talk by Wandle Industrial Museum volunteer John Sheridan will describe the origins, construction, operation, decline and closure of the SIR and the CMGR. PLACE: CROYDON LIBRARY.

13 Wednesday 19:45 – ZOOM TALK – "The English Chalk Streams". The North and South Downs, Chilterns and Yorkshire Wolds are globally rare landscapes from whose chalk rise the majority of the world's chalk streams. In their natural condition, these can be very lovely with trout and grayling swimming in long skeins of water crowfoot over a shingle bed. This illustrated talk explores the extent and nature of the English chalk streams, their conservation and the threats to their existence. A talk by Doug Kennedy, a photographer who initiated the Chalk Rivers Action Group. BOOKING REQUIRED: members please register as early as possible using the link that will be provided. Visitors please email cnhss.info@gmail.com with your name and with the subject as ZOOM STREAMS VISITOR by 12th January 2027. The meeting will open at 19:35 for a 19:45 start.

February

1 Monday 19:45 – ZOOM TALK – "Marianne North: A Victorian Lady Traveller and her gallery at Kew Gardens", by Dr Judith Hill. Marianne North was an intrepid traveller who traversed the globe recording the world's flora and writing her experiences in her journals. In thirteen years of travel she completed 832 paintings, and since many of the plants she painted were barely known in Europe her work formed an

Events (continued)

February (continued)

1 invaluable contribution to botanical science. In 1879 she offered her painting collection to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and provided a gallery to house them. BOOKING REQUIRED: members please register as early as possible using the link that will be provided. Visitors please email cnhss.info@gmail.com with your name and with the subject as ZOOM MARIANNE VISITOR by 31 January 2027. The meeting will open at 19:35 for a 19:45 start.

17 **Wednesday 19:45 – ZOOM TALK –** "National Trust archaeology in London", by Nathalie Cohen, National Trust Regional Archaeologist for London and the South East, whose talk will cover some of the National Trust's properties in Greater London, located across 15 of the 32 boroughs. Nathalie will discuss the wide variety of archaeological sites under their care, from grand mansions such as Osterley and Ham House to landscapes and parklands, plus some of the Trust's smaller properties and curiosities like the Strand Lane 'Roman' Bath. BOOKING REQUIRED: members please register as early as possible using the link that will be provided. Visitors please email cnhss.info@gmail.com with your name and with the subject as ZOOM NT VISITOR by 16 February 2027. The meeting will open at 19:35 for a 19:45 start.

March

6 **Saturday 14:00 – TALK** – "The 'ice cream' Pacittis", by Richard Pacitti. How a family from Italy came to Croydon as organ grinders and founded the Premier Ice Cream Company in West Croydon, one of the first ice cream companies in the area. The family's history illustrates the lives of immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as they became valued members of their local community. PLACE: CROYDON LIBRARY.

22 **Monday 19:45 – TALK** – "The Development of Medical Instruments and Devices". This talk by Andy Relf looks at the discovery and development of instruments such as scalpels, saws, microscopes, and X-rays etc. It is a look at the history of how these types of devices and instruments have evolved into what is used today. PLACE: The Small Hall, ECURC.

April

14 **Wednesday 19:45 – TALK** – "Insect Preferences for Garden Plants" by Michael Seabrook, author of *The Insect Garden*. A personal journey of observing bumblebees, bees, hoverflies, butterflies and other insects for over 25 years, mostly in Surrey, and recording the preferences they have for over 530 different plants. Including information on 'season stretchers' and green gardening. PLACE: The Small Hall, ECURC.

Hold the date

Our AGM will take place on **Tuesday 4th May 2027** starting from 19:45, at East Croydon United Reformed Church (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, Brenda Hawkins

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

Editor (Proceedings): Carole Roberts, information@cnhss.co.uk

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

Librarian: information@cnhss.co.uk

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

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Pam Buttrey, Jorn Cooper, Patrick Dennison, Dawn Gibbons, Edward Hart, Liz Malarkey, Philip Swallow, Vaughan Pomeroy.

SECTION SECRETARIES AND OTHER APPOINTED POSITIONS

Archaeology consultant: Chris Taylor, information@cnhss.co.uk

Company Secretary: Brenda Hawkins, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD, 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, information@cnhss.co.uk

Ecology: Jane McLauchlin. See Conservation Officer

Editor (Bulletin): bulletin@cnhss.co.uk

Entomology: Graham Collins, information@cnhss.co.uk

Information: information@cnhss.co.uk

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

Ornithology: information@cnhss.co.uk

Programme: programme@cnhss.co.uk

Sales: 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD, sales@cnhss.co.uk

Web Manager: Carole Roberts, information@cnhss.co.uk

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.

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Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

Renewal/Membership Application Form

Title / full name (print): .....

Address (print): .....

Postcode: .....

Phone: Email: .....

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

Subscriptions for 2027: 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 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 see www.cnhss.co.uk then follow 'About' and 'CNHSS and GDPR' 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: I want to Gift Aid any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Limited (CNHSS). I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: Date: .....