

FURZEDOWN COMMUNITY NETWORK MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

Dear FCN Members,

Welcome to our 5th members newsletter. We hope you find it interesting.

This Spring we have supported or run some lovely events and you can see the details of them in this newsletter; the Launch of the WW2 war walk, Run Walk Scoot and the First Furzedown (and Wandsworth) Pride street party and Pridextravaganza.

All these activities have brought together a wide range of Furzedown residents to celebrate our community and make connections. This is a key aim of FCN and we welcome ideas from local groups as to how we can support your initiatives and ideas.

There are two exciting events planned for the summer - our Family Fun Day on July 22nd and Jazz on the Lawn on August 6th, but the FCN is not just about running events.

We were pleased to get a grant from Wandsworth 'Great Big Green Week' to help refurbish and replant the planters at Faylands Children Centre. The Furzedown Project also received a similar grant. There is a lot of interest in environmental improvement and we hope to develop this interest in the Autumn.

There is also a small group within FCN , led by Anthony Langan, working to ensure the area has sufficient and accessible defibrillators, an important issue that could have serious and life changing outcomes for people.

We are also delighted to make stronger links with our Safer Neighbourhood group and details of this are also in this newsletter.

None of this could happen without a wide range of people who volunteer their time and expertise to the network. Huge thanks to them all and if you want join us please get in touch.

Sarah Forester
Nimrod Road Resident and FCN Chair

KEY DATES AND EVENTS

EVENTS

FURZEDOWN FUN DAY
SATURDAY 22ND JULY
MIDDAY-6PM
ON THE REC

...

JAZZ ON THE LAWN
6TH AUGUST
1-6PM
STREATHAM PARK
BOWLING CLUB

FCN COMMITTEE MEETING

6TH SEPTEMBER 2023
7.30PM
THE FURZEDOWN PROJECT,
MOYSER ROAD

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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COMMITTEE NEWS

We had a very good and well-attended AGM on 29 March at the Project, reviewing developments over the last year and discussing plans for the future.

Among other things:

- we elected the officers and committee for 2023
- the increase in FCN subscriptions was agreed
- we had a very useful discussion about possible developments to enhance the environment in Furzedown, in part drawing on suggestions at the open meeting we held in October 2022. A number of initiatives were discussed, and we will be holding a meeting in the autumn to take forward specific proposals.
- we had an update from Anthony Langan on the very important work he is leading aimed at ensuring that there are sufficient defibrillators in the Furzedown area. Anthony has updated us further on this work at subsequent committee meetings.

We have continued to meet monthly as a committee, and have welcomed Camilla Duncan on joining us.

A good deal of our discussions has been of our events. We discussed the arrangements for the War Walk leaflet, for Run, Walk, Scoot and our input to the Pride event (see pages 7 and 11). We have also continued to discuss plans for the Furzedown Fun Day on the Rec on 22 July (see page 3), for Jazz on the Lawn (page 4), for the meeting on environmental issues in the autumn, for a quiz in November, and (though some way off!) the Christmas lights switch-on in December.

We have continued to note the importance of good communications, and with this in mind have continued to take forward the development of the new website, which we hope will be ready soon, and we have also introduced a new automated membership system for FCN ("Mojo") which we think will be easier for members to use. Among other things it includes automated reminders on subscription renewal.

We had a very useful discussion at the June meeting with Niall Barrett, Chair of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, about ways in which FCN and the SNT can work together more closely. Please see Niall's article about the SNT (page 6).

We have also noted in our discussions the Council's and Enable's plans for development at the Rec, on which they are carrying out a consultation.

Current FCN committee:

Chair – Sarah Forester, Vice Chair – Steffi Backhouse, Treasurer – Hannah Wallden,
Secretary – Peter Ramell, Membership Secretary - Angie Stephenson
Members: Dawn Thomas, Jo Town, Léonie Cooper, Judi Gasser, Anthony Langan,
Lynn Selwyn-Reeves, Adam Seymour-Davies, Anna Godsiff, Monika Ivanova,
Sofie Henell, Gemma Dunning and Camilla Duncan.



This Weekend...

FURZEDOWN FUN DAY JULY 2023



A Furzedown Community Network event in partnership with Enable

FURZEDOWN FUN DAY

on the Rec

Saturday

Cake Competition
Bring your best cake!

Riverside Radio Stage will be broadcasting throughout the day

- Live Music
- Local Stalls
- Dance Performances
- Drumming
- Skateboarding
- Family Activities
- Inflatable
- Magic, Games & Bubbles
- Baby Chill Zone
- Facepainting & Henna

Contact events@furzedown.net for more information
 @FurzedownCommunityNetwork Furzedown Recreation Ground
www.furzedown.net Ramsdale Road SW17 9BP

Sponsored by **Aspire** Supported by **enable**



The team have been planning our not quite so mini Big Day Out for months and we are so excited to welcome you to it! We hope you can join us on 22nd July. Do bring a picnic and blanket and enjoy the afternoon with family and friends.

We have free fun activities for children including the bubbles, drumming and a scavenger hunt! We have an inflatable tunnel at our lowest possible price - just £2 for as many goes as time allows! Free Arts and Crafts and more!

We have some of your favourite local independent businesses taking stalls, so there will be a host of gorgeous things on offer, church and charity fundraising stalls and the Queen of Crepes will be popping up with afternoon treats.

Riverside Radio will be broadcasting all afternoon and the stage line-up is being finalised as we speak but you will not be disappointed! Live music from SW15 Music, The Thrillers, Fuzion Four and more! Flamenco and Forde Dance performances and ballet performed by Miss Alison's ABC ballet troupe.

The event is in partnership with Enable and kindly sponsored by Aspire Estate Agents on Moyser Road. (Please note the Rec does not permit pooches!)





UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS

JAZZ ON THE LAWN

Jazz on the Lawn is back again this year!

Sunday 6th August from 1-6pm (the band will play from 2.30pm).

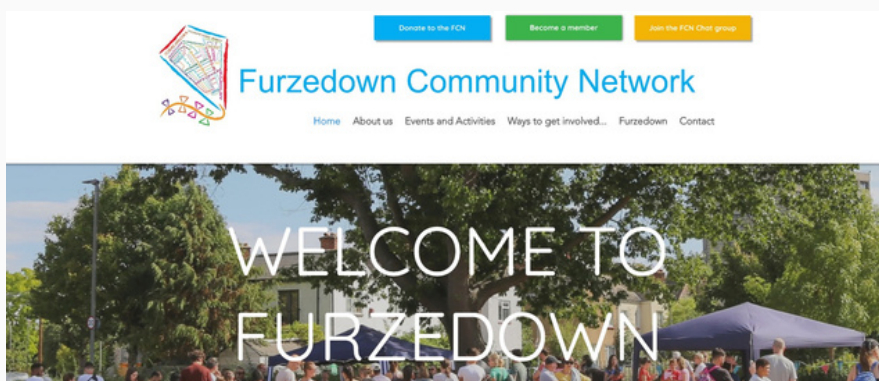
South London Jazz Orchestra will be playing in the beautiful grounds of Streatham Park Bowling Club, with the Club running the bar and the FCN providing the BBQ and tea, coffee and cakes.

Tickets can be bought on the door: £6 each or £5 for FCN members. Age 16 and under Free. Sorry No Dogs and no drinks to be brought in please.



OUR NEW WEBSITE - LAUNCH

We will soon be launching our new website. Watch this space and follow us on social media for regular updates on what we're doing, planning or inviting you to be part of!



As always, we would welcome comments on our ideas as well as looking for more ideas so if you think of something you'd like to share to make Furzedown even more fabulous, email us with the details - info@furzedown.net.

NEWSLETTER TEAM:

CREATOR: DAWN THOMAS
PROOFREADING: PETER RAMELL

DESIGNER: LYNN SELWYN-REEVES
DISTRIBUTION: JO TOWN & ANGIE STEPHENSON



Miss Alison... the end of an era (well for Furzedown ballet mums at least)!

When Alison moved to Furzedown 30 years ago she realised what a wonderful community it was. With the encouragement of a friend and her vicar at St James' Church, Philip Mounstephen, she started with one ballet class in the church hall and 25 years on she now has 22 classes!

Miss Alison, as she soon became known, wanted to focus her classes on skills that provide benefits across many other areas of life including musicality, coordination, confidence and fitness, but above all she wanted to focus on learning these skills through the enjoyment and celebration of dance.

Having benefited from the "Cecchetti Method" during her dance career, she decided to become a registered Cecchetti school, entering children into exams with a 100% pass rate! The school offers classes from pre-school up to, and including, adults. Reception to year 6 also benefit from tap which focuses on rhythm and making a noise! She also enjoyed the creativity of doing a biennial show held in the Baptist Church opposite St. James church. Over the years ABC Ballet School pupils have also taken part in local events, as well as Cecchetti Society events such as choreographic competitions which was won 3 times by a pupil from the school.

Alison said "It's been an honour and a joy to be part of Furzedown and to teach so many local children. Thank you for supporting and trusting me over the years. It is with mixed feelings that my husband and I are saying goodbye to Furzedown but I am delighted that my school will carry on under the ownership of Claudia Bagley who intends to build on and extend the work I have been doing for the last 25 years. Claudia's contact email is: claudia@abcballetschool.org"

We wish Alison and her family the very best with their move, and thank her for the happy memories she has created for so many Furzedown families.





SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD WARD PANEL

What it is, Who we are, What we do and How to get involved!

The FSNWP was originally formed many years ago by the Mayor's office in collaboration with the MET Police to give local residents a say in how their local policing teams prioritise their time while on duty. The Panel communicates with our ward officers on a regular basis and meets up at least 4 times a year in a more formal forum.

A ward panel is ideally made up of local residents, neighbourhood watch coordinators, local business owners and representatives of local organisations as well as invited guests such as local councillors and representatives from the council's community safety team, and of course the local neighbourhood police officers. (Councillors are invited guests as the forum is non political and so they do not have a vote on issues for that reason.)

Here in Furzedown we have a reasonably active panel; recently assisted by the creation of a whatsapp group entitled Furzedown Road Watch which has representatives from most of the street whatsapp groups across the ward. (If you don't have a street WhatsApp group we are happy to assist you in creating one!) This is to update residents on crime issues and to broadcast as best as possible important information related to community safety. Recent activity has focused on our resident parcel thief, anti-social behaviour on the Furzedown Rec and even a missing child who had let himself out of the house!

As a whole we aim to improve community safety and cohesion, reduce anti-social behaviour and deter criminals from being active in our area. We are open to anyone with an interest in Furzedown joining us so please do get in contact or watch out for our next meeting which will be promoted on furzedown.net and across other social media channels.

A few important points in finishing; Furzedown as a whole is a relatively low crime area compared with places like Tooting town centre; nevertheless any crime can have a devastating effect on the victim. We have a great dedicated ward officer and team who are keen to hear from you and help! If you see a crime being committed please don't hesitate to dial 999 even if you are unsure. The team are not always on duty but if you so report a crime or are suspicious of some activity ask the call handler to pass on the report to the local ward team! If you don't report it they can't respond. Reporting can also be done on the non-emergency number of 111. (It is not the easiest and as a panel we have taken this up with senior MET management on numerous occasions!) Look after your property and ensure you don't leave valuables on show in your vehicle or near open windows! Keep an eye out for your neighbours, particularly those who may be more vulnerable to things like fraud.

As Chair I'm always happy to chat and pass on your comments or worries to the police if you should wish. We will be providing more regular updates both in the newsletter and on the forum going forward.

Stay safe.

Niall Barrett, Chair, Furzedown Safer Neighbourhood Panel, Mob. 07930 357884

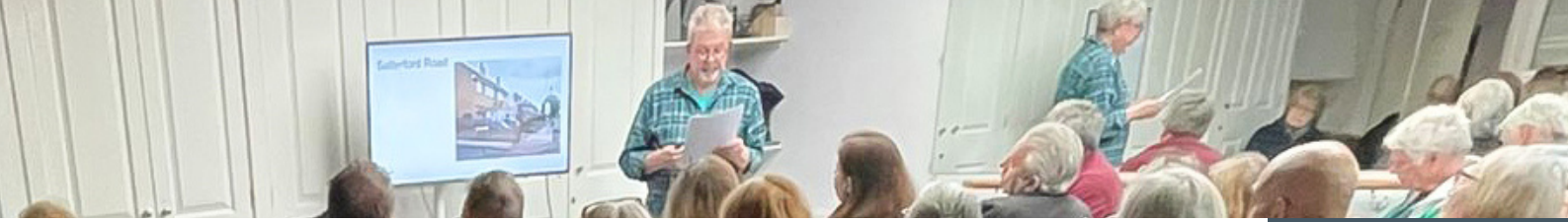


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NEWS & EVENTS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

WAR WALK MEMORIAL TRAIL LEAFLET LAUNCH & TALK APRIL 2023

Held in the Furzedown Project, 56 people attended the fascinating talk Martin Beaver gave to launch the War Walk Trail leaflet the FCN printed in April. We hope to persuade Martin to repeat this event.

1940's style refreshments included carrot cookies, eggless fruit buns, spam fritters and potatoe peel pie, all of which were surprisingly tasty with the exception of the potato peel pie which really didn't live up to the expectations the famous book might have had us expect.

The War Walk booklet is available free by emailing info@furzedown.net, and in the Autumn we plan to distribute these to local schools.



RUN, WALK & SCOOT - 1ST MAY 2023

Our ever popular 'Run, Walk & Scoot' returned in May this year. More than 100 medals were handed out and the fastest round the block route took 25 minutes.

Great to see lots of regulars as well as new faces enjoying this event.





FAYLANDS

The FCN received a £250 grant from Wandsworth Great Green Week for improvements to Faylands Children's Centre outdoor area.

The money helped us to refurbish the outdoor planters which had fallen into disrepair after the pandemic, providing paint, more soil and compost. We bought plants to re-establish the herb garden and are growing strawberries, tomatoes, cucumber, courgettes, green beans, potatoes and peppers.

Adding a little bit of body FCN Volunteers also helped clear the mud kitchen area which was swamped with brambles and weeds.

The children joined in with the planting, loved watering the plants and are delighted with their new digging area which provides important opportunities for messy play and learning about nature. Families were also all given a tomato plant to take home and we are already harvesting herbs.





THE WALK AND TALK MOVEMENT

The Walk and Talk Movement are on a mission to bring communities together for a fun, healthy and engaging weekly walk in their local green space. And since March 2023, they've been walking every Saturday morning on and around Tooting Common.

More than 100 people (and six dogs) have come along so far and walked more than 32 miles. They've tried their hand at bowling, admired local artists' work, searched for woodpeckers and bluebells and witnessed a coronation. There's been a lot of cake too!

Everyone is welcome to come along and it's always free.

There's no need to book or register and no commitment – just turn up whenever you fancy it. Walks set off at 10.30am every Saturday morning (come rain or shine!) from outside the café on Tooting Common. On average, each walk is about 3km but you can walk as much or as little as you like. The pace is gentle with lots of stops and walks are somewhere slightly different each week.

And what do walkers talk about? The answer is anything and everything – from football to fungi and cream teas to couch to 5k!

Look out for their green t-shirts and rucksacks and say hello.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wandsworthwalkandtalk>



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FURZEDOWN PROJECT PLANTER PLANT-UP EVENT

Thanks to a small grant from Wandsworth Borough Council as part of the Great Big Green Week, we came together to celebrate our community 'Project Planter plant-up'! Sandra, Debbie and Sarah filled it with beautiful plants donated by our friends and neighbours. This gorgeous planter was made by another great community member, Stuart. Thank you to everyone who helped to create this lovely little green space on the corner of Moyser and Nimrod roads.



FURZEDOWN PROJECT WINNING BID

Thanks to the enormous community support (and votes), the Furzedown Project's Farmers won the ITV People's Project lottery bid for their vegetable gardening initiative.

The Project aims to reach out to Wandsworth residents who feel isolated or lonely, by supporting them with a weekly visit from a volunteer.

With a shared interest in vegetable gardening, they will help people grow their own vegetable patch, enjoy a chat at the same time each week and invite them to join in with other planned activities.



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FURZEDOWN PRIDE JUNE 2023

The Pride flag was flying high as Nimrod Road neighbours and friends hosted Furzedown's First Pride Street Party on June 17th. This was followed by a fabulous evening of comedy, drag acts and disco at the Furzedown pub.

The FCN supported this event with 'seed' money which was recouped by fundraising and ticket sales on the day.

Nimrod road residents wanted to celebrate their diverse neighbourhood and were joined by families from across Furzedown. Local people, aged 1 month to 86, enjoyed an afternoon of activities and fun. Celebrated baker and Furzedown resident Dan Leopard judged a very impressive cake competition.

More than 150 people then laughed and danced the night away at 'Pridextravangaza' in the evening at the Furzedown Pub.

With so much great feedback, the Pride Team are planning for 2024...



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In memory of James Atkins



Many of you will know that the Furzedown Project Director, James Atkins, suddenly and tragically died in May.

Those who met James met will appreciate his friendliness and professionalism and those who know the Furzedown Project will appreciate the work he has done, since his appointment in November 2021, to transform the Project.

James's working life was dedicated to working within the voluntary sector, including with Age Concern, Lewisham Volunteer Centre and Ataxia UK.

As well as overseeing an expansion in the range of activities and events at the Furzedown Project, James has been pivotal in bringing about changes to how the Project operates. Under his guidance, the Project has increased its membership, begun the work of modernising day-to-day operations and use of IT and, most importantly, broadened its remit as a social hub.

James is survived by his mother and father, Sue and Julian, and his older brother, Daniel.

Graham Loveland, Chair of Trustees, The Furzedown Project



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MEMBERSHIP

FCN membership costs £10 per year.
Or become a life member for just £75.

We have now made taking out membership even easier! Just scan the QR code to be taken through to our 'MOJO' site. Scroll down to 'join or renew your membership quickly and easily. It just takes a few seconds to buy your membership this way by following the instructions. If you would prefer to take out membership via paper form, you still can. Just email info@furzedown.net asking for a membership form.

You can become a member and enjoy all the benefits of our amazing community.

Receive our colourful quarterly newsletter with information about Furzedown, discounts for FCN events and a range of member benefits that we have negotiated with local traders and shops (see page 13)



FURZEDOWN COMMUNITY NETWORK

The Furzedown Community Network (FCN) is a group of local people who promote a sense of community through organising events and working on issues of interest to the neighbourhood

Join us Membership

Membership costs £10 per person per year or £75 for lifetime membership

£10 per year £75 Lifetime

To pay by Card or Paypal, click on the QR code to go to www.membermojo.co.uk/fcn
Or email membership@furzedown.net to find out how to pay by cash or bank transfer or drop this completed form with cash payment into The Furzedown Project 93 Moyser Road SW16 6SJ

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

I agree/ disagree for my details to be held securely on the FCN Mojo membership database

The Furzedown Chat Group is a free moderated on line discussion of local issues and exchange of local information and items. Join by sending a blank email to Furzedown+subscribe@groups.io

@furzedowncommunitynetwork @furzedownnetwork

www.furzedown.net

FCN MERCHANDISE

Check out our lovely FCN branded products to help our fundraising. Just email us if you'd like to buy one of our products.

Key Ring £3.50



Mug £8



Tea Towel £10



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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS - DISCOUNTS OFFERED BY SOME OF OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

The following local businesses are proud to support the Furzedown Community Network membership scheme by offering a discount to FCN members.

Contact them directly or see our website for information on discounts offered - www.furzedown.net

Chemists:

Bradbury Chemist, Moyser Road
Fairoak, Mitcham Lane
Pearl Chemist, Tooting

Art, Photography & Stationery:

Furzedown Art Studio -
info@furzedownartstudio.co.uk
K&K Stationers, Mitcham Road, Tooting

Estate Agents:

Aspire Estate Agents - www.aspire.co.uk

Florist:

Clarkes Florist, Moyser Road

Food:

Cafe de Niro, Moyser Road
Mitcham's Plaice, Mitcham Lane
Naked Loaf Pizza, Moyser Road
Traditional Fish Bar, Mitcham Lane

Hair & Beauty:

Emrah Hairdressing, Moyser Road

Music & Dance:







Dom Brown Guitar - www.DomBrown.com
Metamorphosis Dance Company
metamorphosis.dnc@gmail.com

Web Design & Social Media

Indigo Web - www.indigoweb.co.uk

Miscellaneous:

Ronpet, Mitcham Lane

<p>If you are a local business interested in offering a discount to FCN members, please get in touch</p> <p><small>FURZEDOWN COMMUNITY NETWORK</small></p>	
	<p>Dom Brown Guitar Lessons</p>
 <p>Naked Loaf</p>	<p>INDIGO</p>  <p>WEB</p>
<p>EMRAH HAIRDRESSING EST 1980</p>	 <p>K&K Stationers & Printers Ltd.</p>
	<p>Mitcham's Plaice 266 Mitcham Lane</p>
<p>RONPET 112 Mitcham Lane</p>	<p>Bradbury Fairoak PCG Pearl Chemists</p>
<p>TRADITIONAL FISH BAR 107 Mitcham Lane</p>	<p><i>Clarkes Florist</i></p>

