



The 2018 Bike Ride and Picnic

Our annual picnic took place on the day after the closing of the Peace Festival. It was also on the day of the Great Get Together in memory of MP Jo Cox and it was very nice for us to have two of the Croydon MPs, Steve Reed and Sarah Jones, at the picnic who made some very encouraging speeches about the faith communities of Croydon. The new Mayor of Croydon was also very welcome and stayed and chatted to people for a couple of hours.

This year we had three different starting points for the bike rides. The Coulsdon start had most people booked on it but it was a long ride and a very hot day so in the end most people started from South Norwood Arena led by Sharon who is on our committee.

We were sorry to discover two days before the event that we wouldn't be able to borrow bikes from the Arena as we have previously done and sad when some people turned up and were unable to take part in the ride as a result.

Les, Tamkin and I set up the tents in the park and the Muslim Association of Croydon kindly provided two giant pots of Biryani for us which was cooked by the restaurant in Thornton Heath, 'Tandoori Corner'. Lots of people also brought food and shared it so everyone had a lovely picnic. The weather was so lovely and even though England were playing a match that afternoon we had about 100 people there during the course of the afternoon.

It was lovely that the new Peace garden has been opened and we were able to show people our little patch of it. You can read about that in another part of the newsletter.

Thanks everyone who came and thanks to the committee who helped out in many ways to make our annual event such a happy one.