


THE CANONS - PEOPLE, HORTICULTURE & SPORT


THE PEOPLE OF MITCHAM

16TH CENTURY



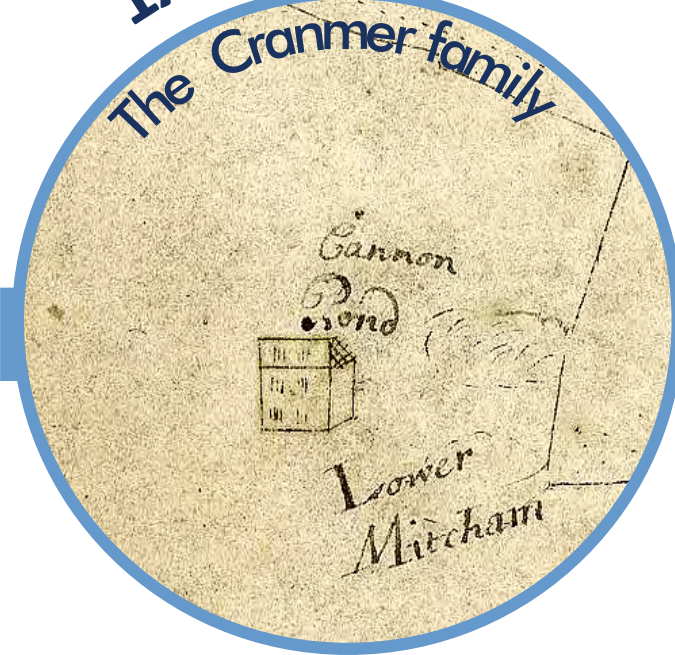
Queen Elizabeth 1st visited occasionally and was entertained by Master of the Rolls, Sir Julius Ceasar in 1598.
Image © tiki-toki.com

17TH CENTURY




Although Sir Walter Raleigh didn't live in Mitcham permanently he also had a house there.
Image © express.co.uk

17TH CENTURY




In 1680 John Cranmer gave permission for a house to be built on 'a parcel of land at the Cannons'. This included 'the orchard, gardens, fishpond, dovehouse and appurtenances containing together 12 acres'.
Image © opendomesday.org

18TH -19TH CENTURY



This painting is by the famous botanist Rev William Herbert (1778-1847) Crocus tomasianus.
Image © King's Collections.org

20TH CENTURY



Dorothy Tyler who was a local resident. She won a silver medal for the High Jump at the 1936 Berlin Olympics and competed at the 1948 London Olympics.
Image © mirror.co.uk

PHYSIC PLANTS / HORTICULTURAL HERITAGE



- The common fields supported the local industry of producing 'physic plants' for the concoction of remedies.
- The Mitcham soil was of excellent quality and there are many references to nurserymen of the area such as the Potters in the eighteenth century. In 1792 it was recorded that 250 acres of ground were cultivated for lavender, wormwood, camomile, aniseed, rhubarb, peppermint and liquorice.
- Mitcham was the main lavender producing area in England in the 1800s. Potter & Moore set up a distillery in 1749. Harvesting took place in August and travellers were employed as pickers.



COMMONLY USED PLANTS IN THE INDUSTRY



'NEWS OF THE WORLD' SPORTS GROUND



Mitcham athletics track 1929

- The 'News of the World' sports ground became a training venue for Mitcham Athletics Club during the 1920s and 1930s.

- Notable sporting figures associated with the site included Dorothy Tyler who was a local resident. She won a silver medal for the High Jump at the 1936 Berlin Olympics and competed at the 1948 London Olympics.



- The original 300 yard cinder running track remains today but is neglected. The ground is reputedly where the first women's road race in the world took place in 1934. It is also believed to be the first venue in the UK for korfbal which was played there in 1946. Do you know the location of this pitch? We have highlighted a location on the plan to the north east of the site which looks like an athletic pitch.

