

SECRETARY'S REPORT **for the** **Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 4 April 2023**

2022 was not the best of years. The ending of Covid 19 restrictions allowed us to re-instate the majority of our usual activities last year such as lunches, walks and coffee mornings but our visits to places of interest were unfortunately down on previous years due to a lack of organisers to arrange them.

2022 has been a difficult year for the Committee. Operating without a Chairman or Vice Chairman has meant a heavier workload for the remaining Committee Members but hopefully you agree we have still managed to provide a variety of events.

Sadly, your Committee is ageing and increasingly some are finding they are no longer have ability to carry on with their activities as they used to and are stepping down. Chris House is stepping down this year and Dave Newland, who is also our Newsletter Editor, is stepping down next year. We desperately need younger Members to come forward to join the Committee and organise events to encourage other younger Members to join. We also need a new editor to write and produce our Newsletter.

2022 will be remembered for the introduction of our new user friendly and colourful website set up by Chris Hall when she took over the responsibilities of Website Manager in May.

2023 began well with our first New Year Lunch since 2020, organised by Viv and Judy, at a new venue which was a great success judging by the reports received but disappointment followed when no-one turned up for the New Year stroll the following week.

Visits to the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition in June, the Museum of Brands in July and the Tate Modern in October are in the 2023 Diary of Events together with our usual lunches and coffee mornings. The Bluebell walk is in May and we have plans for a coastal walk in Hastings for June.

Thanks go to all the Committee Members for their hard work and the time they give to Croydon Fellowship especially to John Gibbons, our Treasurer, and Viv Murray, our Membership Secretary, who look after our finances and Membership list respectively. Thanks also to Roger Smith, Anthony Cross and John Greengrass for organising walks last year. Our thanks also go to Ian Rae, our Website Manager from 2009 to May 2022.

Special thanks go to Chris House, who is stepping down this year, after more than 20 years on the Committee, including 9 years as our Treasurer between 2004 and 2013. Chris' stepping down will be a great loss to Croydon Fellowship as he has been instrumental in arranging many of our events during his time on the Committee.

Maggie Mahoney
Secretary, Croydon Aviva Fellowship
03.04.2023