

Chairman: Rob Hall
Vice Chairman: Dave Newland
Treasurer: John Gibbons
Secretary: Maggie Mahoney
Committee: Judy Dumbrell
Viv Murray
Joan Price
Pauline Wynn

**Aviva
Fellowship**
Founded 2002

May 2023



www.avivastaffpensions.co.uk

Croydon Area

www.avivafellowshipcroydon.org.uk

Dave Newland
93 Marlpit Lane
Coulsdon, Surrey
CR5 2HH
01737 551 048
dave.and.ann@classicfm.net

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2023

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. If you look at the top of the page you will notice some name changes.

As from the AGM we now have a new Chairman, Rob Hall (see item below), and a new general Committee member, Pauline Wynn. Welcome to both of you. Yours Truly has temporarily taken on the role of Vice-Chairman (until the next AGM, when I shall be standing down from the Committee and as Newsletter Editor). Chris House has now retired from the Committee after many years. A huge 'Thank You' to Chris for all his hard work.

A late item: Sadly, I have to report that Chris House died on 2nd June. His contribution to AVIVA Fellowship both for Croydon and further afield is immeasurable. He will be greatly missed by us all.

I am pleased that we are now more-or-less back to normal with our programme of events. See below what is coming up in the near future: our range of lunches, our coffee mornings, our walks and our visits. All these events involve an enormous amount of work by our Committee and others. It is never a case of asking people 'Just to turn up' even if that is what a flier might say! A lot will have gone on in the background. So another big 'Thank You' for all our organisers.

Dave NEWLAND



Rob Hall, Our New Chairman

At this year's AGM we were glad to elect Rob Hall as our new Chairman, the post having been vacant for over a year. Rob, together with his wife Chris, have been regular supporters of many of our events over the last couple of decades and is keen to contribute to the ongoing success of the Committee. Rob commenced his 40 year career with Commercial Union in 1962 spending the majority of his time within Head Office Life Department with experience gained mainly in the technical and legal areas of corporate pensions but also had periods of

local branch service.



Prior to taking early retirement in 2002 Rob joined the Personal Pensions Review Team as a technical advisor thereby completing service in most of the major areas of Head Office Pensions.

Annual General Meeting - 4th April 2023

As well as electing new Committee members, here are some points from the AGM: 19 members attended.

In the absence of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Editor took the Chair for the meeting

Our Secretary, Maggie, gave a comprehensive account of 2022 happenings, emphasising that we have had to work without a Chairman or Vice-Chairman and Committee members are getting older, so we need younger blood.

Maggie also expressed her thanks for all who had played their part in enabling the Fellowship to function in 2022

John, our Treasurer, gave a comprehensive résumé of the accounts for the year, advising that AVIVA had contributed £3.00 per member and that expenditure exceeded income by just £333.54. Most events had been subsidised.

Viv, our Membership Secretary sent her apologies and her report was read out by Maggie. We had 670 members at the end of 2022, the oldest being 104! We now have 388 members' e-mail addresses

The Minutes of the AGM can be found on our web-site, which gives a much fuller account, including the Newsletter Editor's Report and details of the election of Officers and Committee.

Photos may be taken at our events and published in our Newsletters or on our web-site.
If you do not wish to be in any photos please let the photographer know.

Some Forthcoming Events

Day out in Hastings - Friday 16th June

Dig out your bucket and spade – we're off on a train to the seaside for the day! Roger Smith is leading a walk, this time to 1066 country. Just turn up at East Croydon Station at 10:00 a.m. and enjoy your day out.



We are going for a day out in Hastings including a walk along the promenade passing the refurbished pier to the Old Fishing Village area where there are plenty of interesting things to see. After a fish and chip lunch in one of the many restaurants, we will take the lift to the top of the cliffs. All walking is on flat firm ground totalling about 2 miles.



Full details are on the web-site.

Wildlife Photography Exhibition. Natural History Museum - Wednesday 21st June.

Did you see the programme on Channel 5 recently featuring this exhibition?



Judy Dumbrill has organised a visit for us to see it. The cost is £12 per person. Discover the natural world in all its wonders and diversity. See 100 powerful photographs that tell the story of a planet under pressure. Spend as long as you like in this exhibition hall. There is no guide or time limit.

There is the chance to enjoy a lunch there if you wish, and to look around the rest of the museum (including the dinosaurs)

Again, full details can be found on the web-site. N.B. The closing date for payment to Judy is 2nd June, which may have passed by the time this Newsletter is published.

Museum of Brands, Ladbroke Grove. - Tuesday 18th July



An extra visit, not in the original Diary, is being organised by John Gibbons. We are all consumers, and this museum traces the way consumerism has evolved (and is evolving) over the last 150 years. To quote the museum's web-site: 'Explore the remarkable story of how our consumer society has evolved since



Victorian times! In this journey of discovery that puts our favourite brands into their historical context, you'll see royal coronations, two world wars, man landing on the moon and right up to the digital age!

Full details of this visit will be available in the near future.

There are more forthcoming events on the following page. Meantime reminisce!

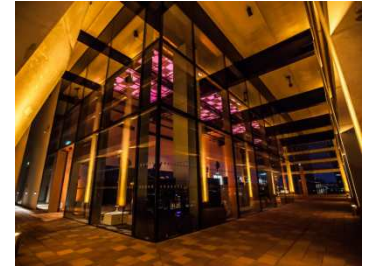
Steam Radio

The trip to Hastings above brings back memories of going there for the day by **steam** train, and of memories of **steam** radio before most people had TV. So can you remember in which programmes these pieces were used? Amazingly, some of these programmes still exist today! Answers on Page 5. Don't Cheat!

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. By the Sleepy Lagoon | 5. The Knightsbridge March | 8. In Party Mood |
| 2. With a Song in my Heart | 6. Devil's Galop | 9. Sailing By |
| 3. Barwick Green | 7. The Angus Prune Tune | 10. Puffin' Billy |
| 4. Fauré's Dolly Suite | | |

Later Events in 2023

We hope to see you at one or more of these



Later on in the year Judy is organising a visit to Tate Modern in October. We have twice been to Tate Britain, so we will now visit Tate's other London site. Next year - their site in St. Ives!!!?



We have our Autumn Stroll, this time in west London in the latter part of November. The actual location is under consideration, but will probably be around Bushey Park.

Actual dates and details for both the above events will be made available in due course.

For those who are hungry or thirsty, don't miss our lunches:



The Horseshoe Pub Lunch
September 14th



Ponte Nuovo Italian Lunch
October 19th



McDermott's Fish'n'Chip Lunch
16th November

AND **not forgetting** our coffee mornings at The Clocktower Café monthly every second Tuesday.



With additional coffee mornings:

31st May, 30th August and 29th November at Knight's Garden Centre, Chelsham

29th June and 28th September at Polhill Garden Centre

27th July at Chartwell.

Reports on Events that have taken place so far this year (In addition to the AGM report on page 1.)

New Year Lunch - Monday 9th January



As normal, this meal was the ‘biggy’ of the year with eighty seven people attending. Where do these people disappear to for the rest of the year? It was held at the new venue of Croham Hurst Golf Club. A very good meal in lovely surroundings, with really friendly staff.

We held our usual raffle (and for once your editor actually won something!). Over £200 was raised, which was donated to the British Red Cross for their work in Ukraine.

Our thanks to Viv Murray and Judy Dumbrill who organised this event.

New Year Walk - Monday 16th January

Unlike the New Year Lunch, this walk was attended by zero (!), but thank you Roger for arranging it. We hope that your Hastings trip fairs a lot better.

Tennis - Thursday 26th January

Viv Murray invited ‘anyone for tennis’ at her club. Three other Members turned up but, unfortunately, one subsequently had to drop out. A club member stepped in to allow them to play mixed doubles. Thanks, Viv, for doing something different. It shows that we do still have fit Fellowship members.

As a footnote to this:

If anyone has an idea for a different activity, please let the Committee know. One suggestion: Our former treasurer, Carol Courtney, who now lives in Bristol, recently took part in crazy golf with the Fellowship there. Now there’s a thought for us. There is a ‘course’ near Croydon Arena.

Pub Lunch - Wednesday 16th March Fish’n’Chip Lunch - Thursday 13th April



Our first visit this year to ‘The Horseshoe’ in Warlingham. Always a popular event. After drinks at the bar, 37 people sat down to a three-course lunch in the conservatory. Viv Murray took over the organising of this meal.

Many thanks, Viv.

And our members were still hungry just under a month later as 32 people enjoyed their fish and chips at McDermott’s in Selsdon. As usual, Maggie Mahoney organised this, so our thanks to her. Some pictures of this lunch appear on page 6

Bluebell Walk - Thursday 4th May



It was good to be able to do our spring Bluebell Walk once more – first time since 2019. In a period of frequent rainstorms, we were fortunate to have the walk in a very short spell of dry and sunny weather! Ten of us set out from ‘The Fox’ pub on Coulsdon Common to Happy Valley to retrace the route we did some years earlier, but with minor alterations. I called it Bluebell (and Cowslip) Walk, but it turned out that the cowslips outnumbered the bluebells, although there were plenty of the latter. The fields in Happy Valley were a mass of cowslips, whilst the wooded areas provided the bluebells.

We only had one mis-hap, when yours truly, feeling hot, took off his jumper. A quarter mile later, I realised that I didn’t have my glasses, which I took off when removing said jumper, so I went back hopefully to retrieve them. No such luck. Oh dear! Anyway, we continued walking and returned to ‘The Fox’ for liquid refreshment.

I returned that evening to my disrobing spot and I am pleased to say that I found the glasses straight away!

Dave Newland

* * * * *

Italian Lunch - Monday 16th May



Can you guess what this is?

After a very successful lunch last year, we returned to Ponto Nuovo under the Croydon Fly-over for our first Italian lunch of 2023. 37 people sat down to choose from an extensive menu (5 main courses and 5 Dolci on offer – can you name the dessert in the picture above?), together with a glass of wine, beer or soft drink plus tea or coffee.

Unusually, orders were taken on arrival. We didn’t have to decide when we placed our bookings. The staff found this method easier for them to know to which table to deliver.

Members of the Committee are asked to organise at least one event each year, and this one was our Chairman, Rob Hall’s first such organising, ably assisted by wife, Chris. Thank you to both of you.

* * * * *

Answers to Steam Radio

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Desert Island Discs | 7. I’m Sorry, I’ll Read That Again |
| 2. Family Favourites | (The forerunner of ‘I’m Sorry, I Haven’t a Clue’) |
| 3. The Archers | 8. Housewives’ Choice |
| 4. Listen With Mother | 9. The late night Shipping Forecast |
| 5. In Town Tonight | 10. Children’s Favourites, later called ‘Junior Choice’ |
| 6. Dick Barton | |

* * * * *

Some further pictures



The New Year Lunch



The 'Horse Shoe' Pub Lunch



The Fish'n'Chip Lunch



The Bluebell walk



The Italian Lunch

Photographs for future events have mainly been taken from relevant web-sites or as clip-art. The pictures of Rob Hall were provided by himself. Those of the Fish'n'Chip Lunch are by Chris Hall. The group photo outside 'The Fox' was taken on John Gibbons' phone. All other photographs are by the Editor. If anyone would like a copy of any of these, please e-mail or phone me (details are at the top of page one), and I will e-mail or print a copy for you.