

Chair: Brian Welch
Vice Chair: Vacant
Treasurer: Chris House
Secretary: Maggie Mahoney



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NEWSLETTER - December 2009

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First, my thanks to the Fellowship members who thanked me for my first effort at producing the *Newsletter* back in the summer and my thanks to the Committee for their continued hard work.

During 2009 we have had a wide range of Fellowship events. I hope the various reports of those that have taken place since the last *Newsletter*, which you can now read about below, may whet the appetite of others to take part in similar events in 2010.

We hope to see as many of you as can make it at the planned events next year.

Could I emphasise the **AGM on 25th February**. Unfortunately, Peter Monk feels he cannot continue as Vice-Chairman, (see below), so we need a replacement, and we would also welcome others to help organise events. Don't all rush at once! For those who are on-line, we now have our own Croydon Fellowship web site (See address above). Do look at it to check for new events, any changes etc.

Fellowship members do have a wide range of talents / adventures!

Well done, Carol, for your session on the Trafalgar Square plinth – my only disappointment was that you recited 'Annie's Song' and didn't sing it!

Also, well done Philip on having your photograph (not of you, personally!) chosen for next year's Fellowship birthday cards. I have deliberately **not** included a copy in this publication; let it come as a surprise when it's your birthday. And our thanks to Joan (with Patricia occasionally deputising) for organising the sending of our birthday cards, even if we don't want to be reminded that we are getting older.

Even 'yours truly' still runs marathons (my number in London next year is 29468!) and you can see me in the latest *In Touch* after running a shorter, but much hotter race in Singapore! Are there other members out there who partake in unusual / interesting activities that could be featured in a future edition? DN

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

The end of December is fast approaching and I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2010.

This time of year is when we hope to hear lots of good news but I am sorry to have to advise that Peter Monk will be standing down as Deputy Chairman at the next AGM. You will see from his explanatory note that in view of all his other commitments he is unable to devote sufficient time to the Fellowship work. Reluctantly I have agreed to Peter's request and would like to express the thanks of the Committee for the time he was able to give since the last AGM.

We shall therefore be looking for a new Deputy at the AGM in February so please let me know if you are prepared to help us. The AGM will be on Thursday 25 February 2010 at the Fairfield Halls so please put the date in your new diaries now. Brian Welch

Note from Peter Monk

I am sorry that I need to advise you in mid-term but it is becoming clear that I am overburdened with activities and I must take action. I therefore give notice that I will not be available to continue my role at the next AGM. I support several organisations and I am finding that I've not enough time to deal with my various commitments properly. At the outset we knew it would be tricky and we are now commencing major building work at home, which really has to take a high priority and adds to the load.

I would like to mention that I've been very pleased to have been involved so far, because I have enjoyed working with people and it has been noticeable that the committee really is providing a proactive approach to widening the scope of our Fellowship. I hope it proves a successful style and helps enlarge the participating membership.

NEWSFLASH: Due to closure of the A25 at Sundridge in January/February 2010 the Coffee Morning venue on TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY is changed – see page 4 for details.

SALVETE et VALETE - 2009

Welcome to the following:

Valerie	BAKER
Vanessa	BARNATO
Jane	BOURNE
Nigel	BURNELL
Michael	CLARKE
Kevin	DELANEY
Simon	DICKINS
John	ELMS
Patricia	FITZELLE
David	FRANCIS
Mrs. M.	GAYWOOD
Sybil	HAMBY
David	HARVEY
Pauline	HEMMING
Valerie	HILTON
Olive	HOPKINS
Anne	IRONS
Lily	JONES
Edward	McMAHON
Lynn	MOODY
Noel	PAYNE
Gloria	PORTER
Eileen	SMITH
Sue	SWALLOW
Sandra	TIBBLE
David	TOMS
Richard	WINTER

And we have said ‘Farewell’ to:

Stan	BAKER
Frederick	BOOTY
Marie	CHAPPORY
Maisie	CLARKE
Grahame	DAVIS
Roger	DOUGLAS
Michael	FARROW
Elly	FAULDER
Dorothy	FOOKES
Shirley	GUTSOLE
Des	HANDLEY
Pamela	LEEVES
Michael	LOWE
Mary	MACGREGOR
Doreen	MERRIMAN
Alf	MULLINS
Peter	NICHOLLS
R. G.	NIGHTINGALE
Les	PARROTT
Gwendoline	PATTON
Norman	PAUL
Eileen	PURSEY
Felicity	REED
Richard	SIGEE
David	SLADE
Joseph	TIBBLE
Doris	WEEDS
Peter	WINGETT

If you have not already done so, please let the Membership Secretary know the types of activity that interest you, so we can send you details. If you have an e-mail address, let us know that so we can contact you this way and reduce postage costs.

To avoid any possible misunderstanding, please note that the above list includes both people who have transferred to other fellowships and those who have, sadly, died.

THEATRE etc. VISITS

Fellowship visits to see 'Oklahoma' and 'The Wizard of Oz' were arranged in October and November.

We shall be taking bookings soon for two musicals. If you are already on our list for theatre trips, we'll send you booking forms in the new year. (Our list includes anyone who has recently booked, plus anyone else who asks to be on it. If you're unsure, contact **Philip Talmage** to add your name.) Subsidised tickets for the Thursday matinee performances will cost just **£13** each.

‘Footloose’ at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley (15 April): Ravensbourne Light Operatic Society will present this Broadway and West End smash hit: *Footloose the Musical* is packed full of electrifying dancing and classic eighties hits including: *Holding Out For A Hero*, *Almost Paradise*, *Let’s Hear It For The Boy* and the title track *Footloose*.

'My Fair Lady' at the New Wimbledon Theatre (10 June): Wimbledon Light Opera Society will produce *My Fair Lady* which includes some of the world's most famous songs: *I Could Have Danced All Night*; *On the Street Where You Live* and *I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face*, and some of the best-known characters ever to appear on stage. The theatre is 5 minutes' walk from Wimbledon rail, tube and tram station, which many of our regulars will be able to reach using their Freedom Passes. We also hope to see Guildford members there. PT

OUR GIRL ON THE PLINTH

Carol Courtney was selected as one of the 2,400 people out of more than 30,000 applicants, to occupy the plinth at Trafalgar Square. On Thursday 20th August she spent an hour reading poetry selected by her family and friends. She has written a full account of the experience for "In Touch".

Early on 14th October Carol returned to Trafalgar Square to support the final plinther and celebrate the

end of "One and Other". Over 50 plinthers in their white and red T-shirts cheered and sang "Auld Lang Syne". Anthony Gormley was there giving interviews to press and television. He also signed Carol's T-shirt. The question "Is this Art?" was debated among the plinthers as well as the press. The conclusion was it didn't matter - it had been a lot of fun and a life enhancing experience. Carol



Carol (left) No. 1079 takes over from Fiona (1078)



The Last Change-over



Editor's Notes:

1. See a full report in the latest *In Touch*.
2. Carol trained for this for over 12 months. Here she is practising whilst on our Country Walk in July last year!



Christmas Lunch

EATING & DRINKING

Another pub lunch was held at the Good Companions on 10th September. 43 people attended – it would have been nice to see a few more. Our thanks to Patricia for organising it. Maggie organised a Fish & Chip lunch in October and both a Fish & Chip lunch and a Fish & Chip supper are on the menu for 2010.

Also our thanks to Patricia, Maggie and Chris for organising the Christmas lunch. Numbers at 96 were a bit down on last year. This should have increased the editor's chances of winning a raffle prize, but no such luck again! As usual, the food and service at the 'Aerodrome Hotel' were excellent. An innovation was being entertained whilst we ate, by Dean Ager (right) singing songs associated with the 'Rat Pack'.



The fellowship holds regular informal coffee mornings, no need to book, just turn up and be assured of a warm welcome. Spouses, partners or a friend are just as welcome. **Monthly coffee mornings** are held on the second Tuesday of each month at The White Hart, High Street, Brasted, Kent. TN16 1JE at 10:30 am. The coffee at Brasted is paid for by the Fellowship whilst funds permit! **Quarterly coffee mornings** are held on the last Wednesday of February, May, August and November at The Dene Restaurant in Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham Road, Woldingham, Surrey. CR3 7LA at 10:30am. **Once a year**, usually a Thursday at the end of July, we have a coffee morning at Chartwell, where in addition to meeting up with old friends there is also the opportunity to visit Sir Winston Churchill's home and to roam the gardens. Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent. TN16 1PS at 10:30 am. An additional coffee morning may be arranged in Croydon.

And there is the AGM **preceded by a buffet lunch**.

See the calendar of events for next year's dates **and note the coffee morning venue change for 9th February**.

MM

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Brian WELCH 020 8657 1354	66 Crossways, S. CROYDON. CR2 8JN brian.welch3@btinternet.com (BW)
Vice Chairman	Vacant	
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Event Organiser	David BROOM 01883 345 231	12 Loxford Way, CATERHAM. CR3 6BX david_broom@hotmail.com (DB)

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APARTMENT TO RENT IN VILAMOURA, ALGARVE

New luxury 3 twin bedroomed apartment situated in Algarve's Golden Triangle' on quiet, green belt complex with pools, gym, bar/restaurant, supermarket, near to beaches, tennis, golf courses (Vila Sol 200 metres), marina, nightlife and numerous international restaurants. Faro 15kms.

See www.holidaylettings.co.uk/8556.

Please contact Tony O'Connell : 01268 724391 or mobile 0779 3017887.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2010

Date	Organiser	Event	Venue	Time
JANUARY				
Tue 12	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30
FEBRUARY				
Thu 4	PP	Lunch	Good Companions, Hamsey Green	12.15 for 12.45
Tue 9	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Allders, Croydon	10.30
Wed 24	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10.30
Thu 25	MM	Buffet Lunch & AGM	Fairfield Room, Fairfield Halls, Croydon	12.30 13.30
MARCH				
Tue 9	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30
Sat 20	JP	Visit to Croydon Aerodrome	Purley Way, Croydon	10.45 for 11.00
APRIL				
Tue 13	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30
TBA	JD	* Walk – Blue Badge	London – TBA	TBA
Thu 15	PT	* <i>'Footloose'</i>	Churchill Theatre, Bromley	Matinée
Tue 20	MM	* Fish 'n' Chips Supper	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Selsdon	19.00 for 19.30
MAY				
Wed 5	JW	* Visit to Steam Railway	Bluebell Railway	TBA
Tue 11	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30
Wed 19	PP	* Lunch	The Horseshoe, Warlingham	12:00 for 12:30
Wed 26	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10.30
JUNE				
Tue 8	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30
Thu 10	PT	<i>'My Fair Lady'</i>	New Wimbledon Theatre	Matinée
Mon 14	CH	* Excursion to Museum	Coach Trip to Chatham Dockyard	TBA
Thu 24	DB	Guided Walk †	Old Limpsfield	TBA
JULY				
Tue 13	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30
TBA	DN	Country Walk †	? Along Beverley Brook – Roehampton Vale	TBA
Thu 29	MM	Coffee Morning †	Chartwell	10.30
AUGUST				
Tue 3	BW	* Italian Lunch	GI Restaurant, West Wickham	TBA
Tue 10	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30
Wed 18	JP	Garden Visit	Wisley	TBA
Wed 25	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10.30
SEPTEMBER				
Tue 14	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30
TBA	JD	* Walk – Blue Badge	London – TBA	TBA
OCTOBER				
Mon 4	PP	* Lunch	New Venue TBA	TBA
Tue 12	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30
Tue 26	MM	* Fish 'n' Chips Lunch	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Selsdon	11:30 for 12:00
NOVEMBER				
Tue 9	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30
TBA	PT		Churchill Theatre, Bromley	
Wed 24	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10.30
TBA	PT		Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon	
DECEMBER				
TBA	PP	* Christmas Luncheon	Aerodrome Hotel, Purley Way	12:00 for 12:30
Tue 14	MM	Coffee Morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10.30

Notes: For organisers' contact details, see list of committee members and other event organisers.

† No booking is required for events with the † symbol. Just turn up.

* Dates and / or times of starred events are liable to alteration / cancellation.