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NEWSLETTER – January 2012

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EDITORIAL

I hope that you all had good Christmas and New Year celebrations, and that your credit card statement was not too much of a shock!

Over the last six months our activities have continued unabated, the highlight being the river trip to mark the 150th anniversary of the Commercial Union. A very special thanks to Chris for the enormous amount of hard work involved in its organisation. Does anyone know when General Accident or Norwich Union were founded? Perhaps there may be cause for further celebration in the near future!

Following the brilliant river display (See the wonderful picture on the front of the latest 'In Touch') it is very sad that the London Fire Brigade Museum is under threat of closure. Chris has arranged a visit there next month (see details on Page 2) and I am pleased to say there has been a good response from Fellowship members wishing to attend, but there are still places available.

I know we seem to go on about this, but I cannot believe that out of about 750 members in Croydon Branch, that over 500 of you do not have an e-mail address! Please, if do you have one, and you aren't

already receiving communications by this method, let us know what your e-mail address is. Folding and enveloping over 500 Newsletters is not the most exciting job in the world, and postage costs don't go down. And remember you can receive this Newsletter in colour from the website.

Looking through the Diary of Events, you may have noticed that there are no theatre / musical visits listed. Philip Talmage, who has organised these, is moving away from the area so we must give him a big 'thank you' for all his past efforts for the Croydon Fellowship..

As usual, my thanks to all the Committee and others who have, in any way, been involved in arranging or helping with our various events. As 'The Good Companions' has changed hands, it would seem that we won't be using it as a lunch venue, so special thanks to the Fellowship ladies who so brilliantly waitressed for us on the last few occasions when we lunched there.

A very happy New Year to you all, and hope to see you at some of our events. DN

NOTICE OF THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2012 **Annual General Meeting** will take place on **Monday 5th March, 2012** commencing **11.30 a.m.** in **Giardino's 4th Floor Restaurant, Allders, Croydon**. A buffet lunch will be provided in a reserved area.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and a positive start to the New Year. It was good to see many of you at the New Year lunch at the Hallmark Aerodrome Hotel. We had almost 100 participants and I hope you enjoyed the food and the atmosphere. After a busy 2011 your Committee has planned another year with many events. Details can be found in this Newsletter. On Monday 6th February there will be a visit to the London Fire Brigade Museum in Southwark. Places are still available so please send in your form as soon as possible.

This year our AGM will be at a new location – Giardino's Restaurant in Allders. It is on Monday 5th March starting at 11.30 and there will also be a buffet. Please do come along and support your Committee and let us have your views, comments and suggestions.

With my best wishes to you all.

Brian Welch January 2012

FORTHCOMING EVENTS OF SPECIAL NOTE

VISIT TO FIRE MUSEUM, SOUTHWARK

Monday 6th February

This is an obvious follow-up to the CU 150th Anniversary river trip last year. The museum is under threat of closure, possibly partly because it is not too well known. Those who went on the boat trip will be pleased to know that the historian on the cruise, David Rogers, will be our guide. Closing date for bookings is 23rd January, so hurry if you haven't already booked, there are still a few places left.



VISITS TO TRINITY HOUSE, TOWER HILL

Monday 26th March and Monday 28th May



As numbers are restricted on these tours, we have arranged **two** visits, one in March and a second in May. We had previously booked the May visit a week earlier, but were told that for 'Royal reasons' (whatever they are!) Trinity House had to cancel that visit! But no worry, no 'Royal' problems on 28th!

Those of you who went on the coach trip last year may well have climbed the old Dungeness lighthouse and seen the current one. All our lighthouses are administered by Trinity House in London, so do come and find out how the whole operation functions.

Carol will be in charge of the March visit; Joan is doing the May visit. Details are now available from the web site or enclosed with this Newsletter.

FISH & CHIP SUPPER - McDERMOTT'S, FORESTDALE CENTRE, SELSDON

Tuesday, 24th April

Maggie has arranged another of these popular meals, so note the date now. This is an evening event, so for members who cannot attend daytime functions, here is your chance to come and join us.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Wednesday, 25th April

Judy has arranged a conducted tour of Westminster Abbey. This is bound to be a much sought-after event, so make a note now.

For future London visits, if any member has been somewhere in London (not necessarily one of the standard 'tourist sites') which would be of interest for a group to have a conducted tour, do let us know.



PUB LUNCH – HORSESHOE, WARLINGHAM

Wednesday 16th May



Whilst the venue for other pub lunches is under review, our old favourite, the 'Horseshoe' at Warlingham, is still available to us, so come and join us. The place has been completely re-vamped, but the food is as good as ever. There is still room in your 2012 AVIVA diary to note this event. Put it in now!

GUILDFORD

Week Commencing 16th June



Following last year's very successful day out to Brighton, Hilary is arranging a visit to Guildford, provisionally to include a conducted tour and somewhere to eat.

Again, more details later.



REPORTS ON SOME RECENT EVENTS

ANNIVERSARY CRUISE

28th September 2011

No need to give a standard account of this event – just read the very good article in the latest 'In Touch'. Instead, Barry Summerfield, our Regional Chairman, whom you may have met at the New Year lunch, has kindly given us some of the background to the event.

The commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the formation of Commercial Union has received excellent coverage with stunning photographs in the winter edition of In Touch but what may not be known is just how long ago the event was first conceived. It was Chris House who passionately believed the anniversary date should not pass without recognition.

Chris outlined his thoughts at our committee meeting in June 2009 and the commitment to go ahead was made at a subsequent meeting in January 2010. This decision set in motion months of meticulous planning, negotiating, organising, checking arrangements and cajoling people within AVIVA and elsewhere to ensure everything would be in place for a successful day at an affordable price to Fellowship members.

We were also extremely fortunate that the Chairman of the Watford area, Tony Phillips, volunteered to take on the huge administrative task of dealing with bookings.

The services of our magazine Editor, Brian Henham, were secured at an early stage. Brian wrote and designed the souvenir booklet as well as speaking during the voyage. Our guest presenters, Peter Finch and David Rogers generously provided their contributions free of charge with the added bonus of a fireboat pumping display. Not only did Chris track down Sir Richard Grenville Peak, the great, great grandson of the first CU Chairman, but he successfully persuaded him to travel from North Devon to join us on board and deliver the toast.

On the day itself 184 people enjoyed a spectacular voyage in perfect weather. The undoubted success of this Regional event proved we have the enthusiasm and capability amongst our membership to take on an organisational challenge. Congratulations to Chris, Tony and everyone else involved for making it happen. It will be difficult to surpass!

Barry Summerfield Chairman Region 8



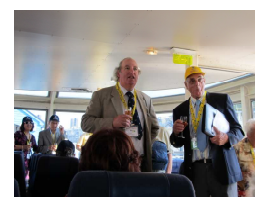
Fire Boat



NOT the Company's Yacht!!



Where did you get those hats?



Barry making a Presentation To Sir Richard Grenville Peak

Incidentally, Barry also chairs the Maidstone Fellowship, who have partially constructed their own web site www.invictamaid.org. Do have a look – they won't mind!.

CONDUCTED TOUR OF THE INNS OF COURT

17th October 2011



Lincoln's Inn



Ede & Ravenscroft (Suppliers of wigs & gowns)



Finish of Tour at Temple

On a blustery autumn day, we gathered to explore yet another corner of London. This time we were off to see the Law Courts, Inns and Chambers of London

Everyone is familiar with the Royal Courts of Justice; It appears regularly on our television screens and is the main court for civil cases and appeals, but we were going into the squares and lanes that lay behind this.

The whole area is steeped in history, Lincoln's Inn is the best preserved and dates back to the 15th century. The coat of arms over the archway is Henry VIII.

Lincoln's Inn Fields was once a public execution site, but now is a peaceful green.

The whole area was badly damaged by bombing in the War, but it has all been restored to its mainly Georgian architecture, with little hidden gardens bright with geraniums, and late roses.

We finished our tour near The Temple, a round church, built by the Knights Templar, and perhaps famous these days from The Dan Brown novel The Da Vinci Code. JD

CONDUCTED TOUR OF OLD PALACE SCHOOL 27th October 2011



We were both informed and entertained as the history of The Old Palace of John Whitgift School moved on from being the home of several Archbishops of Canterbury to its modern status as a leading local school in Croydon. Royal visitors over the centuries have been welcomed there. JP



NEW YEAR LUNCH - HALLMARK AERODROME HOTEL 6th January 2012

Another very successful seasonal lunch. 94 people attended and enjoyed a really tasty meal. We were pleased to see our Regional Chairman, Barry Summerfield, with us again this year, and a few new faces. We'll forgive you, Brian, just this once, for telling us **two** jokes this year!



Brian the Joker



Some Lucky Raffle Prize Winners



Our immense thanks to those involved in the meal's organisation – Chris, Maggie and Patricia – and to the staff at the Aerodrome Hotel. Well done Carol for organising the raffle this year, but I **still** haven't drawn a lucky number, after I don't know how many years!

OTHER EATING and DRINKING

As well as the Fish & Chip supper and Horseshoe lunch featured above, we continue our coffee mornings at **Giardino's Restaurant in Alders**, second Tuesday each month and others at **Knight's of Woldingham** (Last Wednesday February, May, August and November), **Polhill Garden Centre** (28th June & 27th September) and **Chartwell** (26th July). Thanks to the committee members who organise these events

As indicated, 'The Good Companions' is unlikely to be available in future, so we are investigating other possible 'Pub Lunch' venues. One possibility is the 'Ladybird' in Caterham. If any member has a suggestion for somewhere else with an open area large enough to accommodate 50+ people, please let us know.

FUTURE EVENTS - DO YOU WANT TO COME?

Sending out postal details of forthcoming events is a big item of expense. We have discovered that a very significant number of members (over half), who have intimated interest in various types of event, have, in fact, attended none of them in the **last two years**.

After two years of non-attendance, we shall discontinue sending these details. This will only apply to **postal** communications. E-mails will still be sent, and details of future events can always be found on our web site. All members will continue to receive the twice yearly Newsletter, which contains a calendar for up to twelve months ahead, and you will still receive your birthday card (unless you have indicated that you do not want it!)

If you haven't been to any of our events in the last two years, but would like to continue to receive postal details, please tell a committee member, or better still, if you have an e-mail address, please advise us of it.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Brian WELCH (BW)	020 8657 1354	brian.welch3@btinternet.com
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Event Organiser	Hilary KEARNEY (HK)	01342 321 834	mhkearney@hotmail.co.uk

* Please note that Carol has changed her e-mail address since the last Newsletter.

* * * * *

THE LOCATION OF THE VARIOUS COFFEE VENUES:

Allders Store, Croydon – Giardino's Restaurant, 4th Floor. The coffee at Allders is paid for by the Fellowship whilst funds permit! Plenty of buses, a tram stop outside and both East and West Croydon Stations are about five minutes' walk away.

The Dene Restaurant in Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham Road, Woldingham, Surrey. CR3 7LA, a short walk from Woldingham Station or 2nd left at the Wapses Lodge Roundabout just past the Ann Summers building, if approaching from Croydon on A22.

Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent. TN16 1PS where there is also the opportunity to visit Sir Winston Churchill's home and to roam the gardens. Follow sign posts from Westerham village.

Polhill Garden Centre. At the top of Polhill on the **A224** between Bromley and Sevenoaks or off the M25 Junction 4. Look for the windmill.

Access by public transport is not easy for the last two venues, although an hourly bus service runs from Bromley (route 402) to Badgers Mount for Polhill, so please ask if you would like a lift, to see what we can arrange.

Advertisement

APARTMENT TO RENT IN VILAMOURA, ALGARVE

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.

10% discount from web prices applies to Fellowship members and their friends/family, outside the High Season (June to Sept).

See www.holidaylettings.co.uk/rentals/vilamoura/8556.

Please contact Tony O'Connell : 01268 724391 or mobile 0779 3017887 or oconnell224@btinternet.com

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2012

Date	Organiser	Event	Venue	Time
JANUARY				
Fri 6	CH/PP	New Year Lunch	Hallmark Hotel, Purley Way, Croydon	12.15 for 12.45
Tue 10	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
FEBRUARY				
Mon 6	CH	Museum visit	Fire Museum, Southwark	10.45 for 11.00
Tue 14	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
Wed 29	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
MARCH				
Mon 5	MM	Buffet & AGM	Giardino's 4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	11.30
Tue 13	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
Mon 26	CC	Visit	Trinity House, Tower Hill, London	14:15 for 14:30
APRIL				
Tue 10	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
Tue 24	MM	Fish 'n' Chips Supper	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Selsdon	19:00 for 19:30
Wed 25	JD	London Walk	Westminster Abbey	11:00
MAY				
Tue 8	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
Wed 16	CH/PP	Lunch	The Horseshoe, Warlingham	12:15 for 12:45
Mon 28	JP	Visit	Trinity House, Tower Hill, London	14:45 for 15:00
Wed 30	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
JUNE				
Tue 12	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
w/c 18	HK	*Visit	Guildford	TBA
Thu 28	MM	Coffee Morning †	Polhill Garden Centre	10:30
JULY				
w/c 8	DN	Issue of Summer Newsletter		
Tue 10	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
Wed 18	DN	*Country Walk†	Betchworth / Buckland, Surrey	TBA
Thu 26	MM	Coffee Morning †	Chartwell	10:30
AUGUST				
Wed 1	BW	Italian Lunch	GI Trattoria, West Wickham	12:00 for 12:30
Tue 14	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
Wed 15	CC	House Visit	Strawberry Hill, Twickenham	10:50 for 11:15
Wed 29	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
SEPTEMBER				
Tue 11	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
Mon 17	CH/PP	*Lunch	Venue to be advised	TBA
Thu 27	MM	Coffee Morning †	Polhill Garden Centre	10:30
OCTOBER				
Tue 9	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
w/c 15	JD	*London Walk	London	TBA
NOVEMBER				
Wed 7	MM	*Fish 'n' Chips Lunch	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Selsdon	11:30 for 12:00
Tue 13	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30
Wed 28	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
DECEMBER				
Tue 11	MM	Coffee Morning †	4th Floor Restaurant, Alders, Croydon	10:30

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

For Coffee Morning locations, see previous page

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

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

Please note: When members have booked an event and cancel or do not turn up on the day, we will still bank their cheques as we need to cover our costs. Failure to appear could also stop other members on the waiting list from attending the event.