

**Chair:** Brian Welch  
**Vice Chair:** Carol Courtney  
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## NEWSLETTER – July 2011

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### EDITORIAL

In case you are thinking that this Newsletter is a bit late this year, it isn't. We have decided that in future Newsletters will still appear every six months, but in January and July, rather than December and June. Consequently this will be the only 2011 edition.

The change is because it has always been a mad rush in the past to issue the December edition before Christmas *and* include a Christmas lunch report.

Well, of course, the winter snow put paid to having the lunch in December 2010 and we had a New Year lunch in January instead. There is a report on Page 3.

At the said lunch, Brian put it to the vote as to whether we should continue with a New Year (as opposed to a Christmas) lunch. There was overwhelming support, so that is what will happen in future. Put the date (Friday, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>) in your diary now – Yes, I know we haven't received our 2012 AVIVA diaries yet, but the 2011 version has a 2012 forward planner at the back!

A report on next year's lunch will appear in January!

Also note Brian's message below about next year's AGM. Attendance this year was very disappointing. Hopefully combining the AGM with a 'proper' lunch will entice more of you to attend.

Your Committee has been as busy as ever this year, with meetings roughly every quarter, and organising the usual large range of events. Do read the reports on the events which have already taken place, note the dates of those to come and send in your application form(s) for imminent ones if you haven't already.

I have suggested that we give this Newsletter a name (Watford Branch's is called 'Watford Waffle') A couple of names were suggested at the AGM: 'Croydon Caller' and 'Croydon Chronicle', but other ideas would be welcome, and maybe your suggestion will appear at the top of the page of the next edition!  
DN

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### NOTICE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN: 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Only 25 people attended our last Annual General Meeting in February at Fairfield Halls. This was very disappointing as we have more than 700 members in the Croydon Area.

It is important that we hear the views of as many members as possible about the events which your Committee arrange and that suggestions are made for new events.

In order to attract more members to our next AGM in 2012 we plan to combine this with a lunch and possibly include a speaker. The date is **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** at the '**Good Companions**'. Final details are still to be fixed but information will be put on our website and certainly included in the next Newsletter.

If any members have suggestions or comments about the AGM please contact a member of the Committee. We certainly look forward to seeing you in larger numbers at the next AGM.

Brian Welch (Chairman)

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS OF SPECIAL NOTE

(The full list of events is on page 6)

**ITALIAN LUNCH:** Tue 2nd Aug. arranged by: Brian Welch. Bookings are already being taken for this. Details and booking forms are available on the website or from Maggie. Do put your booking in ASAP, if you have not already done so. Last year's meal was excellent, so demand for this year's is bound to be high.

**ANNIVERSARY BOAT TRIP:** Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. Bookings for this event are now being taken. Booking forms have been enclosed with this Newsletter if sent by post and full details and application forms are also on our web site. Bookings are on a first-come-first-served basis, and must be returned to Tony Phillips of Watford Branch by the closing date, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July, so hurry.

**LONDON GUIDED WALK: The Inns of Court: Legal & Illegal:** Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Holborn tube, meeting the guide for 11 am start. Judy has arranged this. Full details in near future.

**OLD PALACE SCHOOL:** Thu 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. It's back to school for this visit. From an Archbishop's Palace to a Whitgift Foundation school, a rare opportunity to visit this building in the centre of Croydon. Joan is organising this and details will be available in the near future.

**FISH & CHIP LUNCH:** Thu 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. At McDermott's. Again full details available soon.

**NEW YEAR LUNCH:** Provisionally Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Jan At the Aerodrome Hotel once more. Note the date in your diary. Details nearer the time.

**TRINITY HOUSE:** Mon 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Full details in due course.

**PLEASE NOTE: Visits to Eagle Heights and Hampton Court Palace have been cancelled.**

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## THEATRE

**CROYDON STAGERS' Music Hall** at West Wickham - for which Ian Rae is MD

30th August to 3rd September 19:30 Wickham Hall, Sussex Road, West Wickham, BR4 0JY

Tickets £14.50 including a fish and chip supper. Box Office: 020 8776 1064

Details from their website <http://www.croydonstagers.co.uk/musichall/index.htm>

**WWOS** are producing 'Jesus Christ Superstar' at the Churchill - Matinée will be on Thursday 17 Nov. 2.30 pm. Philip has sent an email to ask about booking.

For further information and details of other theatre production, including 'O What a Lovely War' by St. John's Dramatic Society, Selsdon and 'Pinafore' by WWOS, please contact:

Philip Talmage 33 Wickham Avenue, Croydon CR0 8TZ tel 020 8656 1886; [philipt@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:philipt@blueyonder.co.uk)

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## EATING and DRINKING

As well as the Italian and Fish & Chip meals featured above, don't forget the coffee mornings at Allders every month and others at Knight's of Woldingham, Polhill Garden Centre and Chartwell.

We have had a number of eating sessions already this year – the New Year lunch, featured above, pub lunches at 'The Good Companions' and at 'The Horseshoe' and a fish and chip supper at McDermott's.

Numbers have varied from event to event, but generally they have been popular items in our timetable.

Thanks to the committee members who have organised these events. A lot of work goes on in their preparation. And thanks to the ladies who acted as waitresses at the Good Companions lunch. There is no truth in the rumour that the men have volunteered to wash up at the next luncheon.

(See the LIST OF EVENTS on Page 6 for details of future coffee mornings etc.).

\* \* \* \* \*

## REPORTS ON SOME RECENT EVENTS

### NEW YEAR LUNCH - 6th Jan



Diners ready for lunch



Morven & Ian

The snow forced us to postpone the Christmas Lunch at the Aerodrome Hotel until the New Year, but it was certainly worth waiting for! Not only did we enjoy a delicious lunch, but we were also entertained by Ian and Morven Rae. Our thanks to Chris, Maggie and

Patricia for organising the event. Patricia has decided to hand over the raffle, and Carol has agreed to take it over next year.

[I am always in amazement at those people who seem to be able to go to a keyboard and just play a tune. Ed].

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### GENEALOGY TALK – 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Combined with a supper at the Good Companions, Ray Bishop told us how we could trace who our ancestors were – if we wanted to know, or dared find out. Has anyone discovered, as a consequence, that they have 'Royal Blood'?



Ray with our treasurer, Chris

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### VISIT TO LEIGHTON HOUSE, KENSINGTON – 13th April



Leighton House and Sign

From a quiet tree lined road in Kensington, we stepped through the door of the Leighton House Museum & were transported to the Orient,

This is the home & studio of Sir Frederick Leighton, a well respected Victorian artist and President of the Royal Academy.

The centrepiece of the ground floor, is the Salon, the walls clad in magnificent blue & turquoise tiles, many collected from Damascus.. High up above our heads, were tiny windows, gleaming with jewelled colours of stained glass. Across the window, a fretted screen, & in the centre of the floor, was a small square pool, complete with fountain. It was like something out of an Arabian Nights fairy tale.

The Dining Room was quite small for such a grand house, but Sir Frederick ordered in all the food & wine when entertaining. Fortnum & Mason also supplied the silver, china and staff to serve the meal.

Upstairs was his Studio, with enormous north facing windows. Many of his preliminary sketches lined the walls, & his easel & paints were tucked in a corner.

The studio is still used today & an Artist in Residence works from here.

A fascinating visit, well worth finding. Judy Dumbrill

Thank you, Judy, for organising this event. Ed.



## TRIP ON THE ROMNEY, HYTHE & DYMCHURCH RAILWAY – 13<sup>th</sup> June



The Lifeboat



Old Lighthouse



'Dr Syn'

After last year's very popular coach trip to Chatham, Chris arranged another coach outing this time to the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway. Before riding on the train from Dungeness to New Romney, we visited the Dungeness Lifeboat Station and over the lunch period – with lunch available at the Britannia Inn – several of us climbed the spiral

staircase of the old lighthouse for wonderful views of the railway, the new lighthouse and the sea. Despite an almost last-minute change to the schedule, because the timetable had changed, we boarded the train and the 'Dr Syn' chugged us to New Romney to see 'Dr Syn' revolve on the turntable, to get a cup of tea and to visit the wonderful Model Railway Museum.

Many thanks, Chris, for organising this, especially with all the last-minute efforts needed. Ed.

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## COUNTRY WALK – 30<sup>th</sup> June



Admiring the Views



Refreshment Break



Up the Rustic Steps

This walk followed the coffee morning at Polhill Garden Centre. There were a few doubts at first as to whether there would be any takers, especially as a few of our walk stalwarts were unable to come. In the end nine of us went. The weather was ideal – not boiling hot as it has been on some previous occasions.

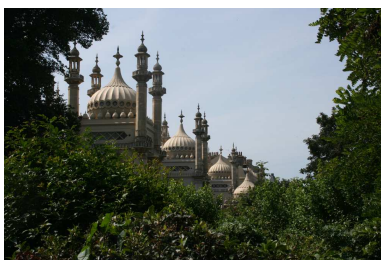
From the Garden Centre we followed a track under the M25, emerging in a wide grass field with most outstanding views across the River Darent valley. We

then descended to the river itself and crossed the golf course to Shoreham village, where we stopped for half an hour for 'liquid refreshment'. We then returned via a steep path, including a flight of steep rustic steps to Meenfield Wood and Andrews Wood, separated by a beautiful flower meadow, which included a number of orchids. It was then over the M25 and back to the Garden Centre. I'll find a less tough walk next year!

Dave Newland.

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## BRIGHTON PAVILION – 5<sup>th</sup> July



The Domes of Brighton Pavilion

'Food, women, wine, women, song, more food ...' appears to be the motto of the Prince Regent (later George IV) who preferred the social and artistic life to

that of being king! So we heard on our visit to the Brighton Pavilion. Our conducted tour could only show a small fraction of what there is to see, in a

building which is permanently undergoing restoration to make it look as authentic as possible to the Regency period.

Our visit was followed by a very enjoyable lunch at the Royal Albion Hotel across the road from the sea front. Our thanks to Hilary Kearney for organising this event.



Seated ready for lunch at the Royal Albion

\* \* \* \* \*

## YOUR COMMITTEE

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Brian WELCH (BW)</b>	020 8657 1354	brian.welch3@btinternet.com
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Carol COURTNEY (CC)</b>	01737 642558	CCourt2209@aol.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Chris HOUSE (CH)</b>	020 8763 0890	housec@avivafellowship.force9.co.uk
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<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Alan EMMINS (AE)</b>	020 8651 4079	aemmins@f2s.com
	<b>Judy DUMBRILL (JD)</b>	01883 344 659	dj.dumbrill@ntlworld.com
	<b>Patricia PEGG (PP)</b>	01737 552 234	
	<b>Joan PRICE (JP)</b>	020 8651 0517	joan_price@btinternet.com

## OTHER CONTACTS:

<b>Website Manager</b>	<b>Ian RAE (IR)</b>	020 8660 6910	ian@irmamusic.com
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Dave NEWLAND (DN)</b>	01737 551 048	dave.and.ann@classicfm.net
<b>Event Organiser</b>	<b>Philip TALMAGE (PT)</b>	020 8656 1886	philipt@blueyonder.co.uk

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## THE LOCATION OF THE VARIOUS COFFEE VENUES:

**Alders Store, Croydon** – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Restaurant. The coffee at Alders 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. [‡ Note slight amendment from December 2010 issue]. 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.

## DIARY OF EVENTS FOR MID-JULY 2011 TO EARLY 2012

### JULY

Wed	20	JD	Visit	Eagle Heights, Wild Life Park, <b>Eynsford, Kent</b>	<b>CANCELLED</b>
Thu	28	MM	Coffee Morning †	<b>Chartwell</b> National Trust, Kent	10:30

### AUGUST

Tue	2	BW	Italian Lunch	GI Trattoria Italiana, <b>West Wickham</b>	12:00 for 12:30
Tue	9	MM	Coffee Morning †	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Restaurant, <b>Allders, Croydon</b>	10:30
Wed	31	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, <b>Woldingham</b>	10:30

### SEPTEMBER

Wed	7	CC	*Visit	<b>Hampton Court Palace</b>	<b>CANCELLED</b>
Tue	13	MM	Coffee Morning †	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Restaurant, <b>Allders, Croydon</b>	10:30
<b>Wed</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>Anniversary Cruise</b>	<b>Regional River Thames (&amp; Greenwich Visit)</b>	<b>10:30</b>
Thu	29	MM	Coffee Morning†	<b>Polhill</b> Garden Centre	10:30

### OCTOBER

Tue	4	CH/PP	Lunch	<b>Good Companions</b> , Hamsey Green	12.00 for 12.30
Tue	11	MM	Coffee Morning †	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Restaurant, <b>Allders, Croydon</b>	10:30
Mon	17	JD	Guided Walk	<b>Inns of Court</b> , London	11:00
Thu	27	JP	Visit	<b>Old Palace School</b> , Croydon	13:15 for 13:45

### NOVEMBER

Tue	8	MM	Coffee Morning †	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Restaurant, <b>Allders</b> , Croydon	10:30
Thu	10	MM	Fish 'n' Chips <b>Lunch</b>	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, <b>Selsdon</b>	11:30 for 12:00
Wed	30	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, <b>Woldingham</b>	10:30

### DECEMBER

Tue	13	MM	Coffee Morning †	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Restaurant, <b>Allders</b> , Croydon	10:30
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### JANUARY 2012

<b>Fri</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>CH/PP</b>	<b>*New Year Luncheon</b>	<b>Aerodrome Hotel, Purley Way</b>	<b>12:15 for 12:45</b>
Tue	10	MM	Coffee Morning †	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Restaurant, <b>Allders, Croydon</b>	10:30

### FEBRUARY

Tue	7	MM	Coffee Morning †	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Restaurant, <b>Allders</b> , Croydon	10:30
<b>Thu</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Cttee</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; AGM</b>	<b>Good Companions, Hamsey Green</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Wed	29	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, <b>Woldingham</b>	10:30

For theatre dates, please contact Philip Talmage. See page 2

**Notes:** For 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.

For Coffee Morning locations, see previous page

### Members please note:

1. On our **Membership Database** we have information about the types of events for which each member wishes to receive invitations. In order that we can reduce our ever-increasing postage costs, if you have NOT attended an event in the last **2 YEARS** we will delete your name from our invitation lists. Should you wish to continue to receive invitations please contact a member of the Croydon Committee.
2. 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.

### 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](http://www.holidaylettings.co.uk/rentals/vilamoura/8556).

Please contact Tony O'Connell : 01268 724391 or mobile 0779 3017887 or [oconnell224@btinternet.com](mailto:oconnell224@btinternet.com)