

**Chairman:** Vacant  
**Treasurer:** John Gibbons (JG)  
**Secretary:** Maggie Mahoney (MM)  
**Committee:** Judy Dumbrell (JD)  
Chris House (CH),  
Viv Murray (VM),  
Dave Newland (DN),  
Joan Price (JP),

**Aviva  
Fellowship**



**Croydon Area**

[www.aviva-fellowshipcroydon.org.uk](http://www.aviva-fellowshipcroydon.org.uk)

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## NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2022

### EDITORIAL

Now that life has more-or-less returned to normal, here is my first Newsletter in over two years.

Your Committee is nearly 3 years older (!) and many are now octogenarians, so some changes have taken place. First, through ill-health, our Chairman, Brian, has had to relinquish the post, leaving a vacancy, which we **must fill** as soon as possible. Also, John Whitley, who has been our source of pension information for several years, has also stood down, now that his term as a Trustee of the RAC pension scheme has come to an end, and Patricia Pegg has quietly left after many years service. Our thanks to all three for their valued service. BUT, we do need 'new blood' as well. You don't have to be on the Committee to help. If you could possibly offer to

organise or assist with an event, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Chris Hall has taken over the reins of maintaining our web site, giving it a major overhaul, making it much more user-friendly. Thank you Chris, and also to Ian Rae for looking after it for so many years. .

After many years as Editor, I have decided to stand down in 15 month's time at the **2024 AGM**, so we will need a replacement

#### Is it you?

Hoping to see as many of you as possible will come to our events. See you there.

Best wishes for Christmas and for 2023 Dave NEWLAND

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### SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Hopefully we are through the worst of the Covid 19 pandemic and Members are feeling more confident about going out and about now as many of us as possible are vaccinated up to the eyeballs.

The numbers coming to the events we have managed to hold during 2022 have been encouraging even though we have sadly lost a few of our active Members.

Several years ago we had to stop sending printed copies of the Newsletter to all our Members as our funding from the Company was drastically reduced and we could no longer afford the printing and postage costs. One was only posted to Members who had specifically requested a printed copy. However, as we have been unable to hold many events during the last 2 years our funds have built up and we are taking the opportunity to re-connect with all our Members by sending a printed copy of this Newsletter to all our Members we do not have a valid email address for. To receive a printed copy in future, if you don't already, just let me know and I will add you to the postal distribution list.

Speaking of email addresses we currently have 334 Members, out of approx. 700, who receive regular emails from us about our forthcoming events and other Fellowship business. Unfortunately there are numerous email addresses that have ceased to work or have never worked. If you used to receive emails from us but no longer do or you have changed your email address just send me an email and I will add you to the email distribution list. Likewise if you would like to start

receiving updates by email send an email to [mahoney@avivafellowship.f9.co.uk](mailto:mahoney@avivafellowship.f9.co.uk)

Our Diary of Events for 2023 is made up of regular events that Committee Members and other Fellowship Members have committed to organising.

Some Members comment "all you do is eat" as a reason for not joining in but there is no getting away from the fact that the lunches are our best attended events. It is very disappointing and demoralising for Organisers when hardly anyone comes on the walks or visits and they begin to wonder why they are wasting their time for such a poor response.

In addition to a new Chairman we are in need of new Organisers to arrange events or the Croydon Fellowship will decline as Committee Members step down due to age and infirmity. Hopefully, younger new blood organisers would come up with different ideas and attract more Members to join in.

On a more positive note Judy and Viv have arranged a New Year Lunch on Monday 9 January 2023 at the Croham Hurst Golf Club, just a short bus ride from East Croydon station.

If you haven't seen them already full details are on our brilliant new website, created by Chris Hall, or have been posted to those who have requested postal invitations.

Your Committee hopes to greet as many Members as possible at the lunch.

In the meantime have a Merry Christmas.

Maggie

**With the lack of a Chairman, Maggie, our Secretary has written this item. It is very important, so. PLEASE, if you can answer any of her requests, please do so. Or to take over the editorship of the Newsletter.**

## **SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Do bear in mind that most of these dates are provisional and/or possibly subject to alteration.**

For those who complain that all we do is eat (see Maggie's Message) here's your chance to do something else.

### **2023 WALKS**

A walk in the Addington area, finishing at Addington Village on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January. This is your chance to shake off the winter blues and get some exercise. The Bluebell Walk is going back to the original one in Old Coulsdon on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May. Come the sunny summer, we are off to Hastings on 16<sup>th</sup> June for the day for one of Roger Smith's Coastal Walks. Full details of all of these later.

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### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**United Reform Church East Croydon**

Attendance at these meetings has been rather low in recent times, so do make an effort to come along. As well as hearing reports from various officers, it is your opportunity to let us know what you want – and a chance to meet up with other members over a light lunch afterwards. The formal notice with exact details will appear later.

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### **VISITS**

These are still to be arranged, but the following are being investigated and again full details will follow:

Judy is arranging visits to The Natural History Museum 'Wildlife Photo of the Year' Exhibition in June and to Tate Modern in October

Other possibilities (but nothing definite) are

Museum of Brands and the Sipsmith Gin Distillery.

Revisiting Old Palace of John Whitgift School in Croydon – we last visited several years ago

Visit to St. Albans which had to be cancelled in 2020 due to Covid

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### **ANYONE FOR TENNIS? 26<sup>th</sup> January – THURSDAY TENNIS CLUB**

**'Now for something totally different' (as someone said many years ago!)**

Have you played in the past? Would you like a game or two? Thursdays at 12.00 noon

Contact: Viv Murray – 07754977214 [aviva.viv.murray@gmail.com](mailto:aviva.viv.murray@gmail.com)

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## **A SUMMARY OF EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN 2022**

### **COFFEE MORNINGS**

Our regular coffee mornings have now resumed in the Clocktower Café (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month) and at various Garden Centres towards the end of each month (except January, April, October and December.) Our thanks to Maggie for organising these. These will continue during 2023. A good chance to have a coffee and chat.

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### **NEW YEAR WALK-Addington and WHYTELEAFE WALK**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Roger Smith led a repeat walk from the tram stop in Coombe Lane to Addington Village. 11 people came out for a day of fresh winter air. We look forward to your one early next year, Roger.

Anthony Cross (a recent new-comer to the Fellowship) organised a walk in the Whyteleafe area. 6 people attended. Thanks, Anthony. See John Gibbons' picture at the end.

## **PUB LUNCH - 'The Horseshoe' Warlingham**

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022-**



As popular as ever, with 41 attending. Pleased to see a few new faces there

**Photos by Chris Hall**

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022- East Croydon URC**

In the absence of Brian, Chris House, our Regional Chairman, took the chair and 27 people attended. Amongst reports given were:

**John Gibbons, our treasurer**, whose printed statement was notable by the number of zero entries!

**Viv Murray, our membership secretary**, who informed us that we have 700 members, the oldest of whom is 103.

**Thanks to all involved in the organisation.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **COASTAL WALK – Cuckmere Haven**

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May**



Trains and a bus ride took eight of us to the River Cuckmere about one mile inland. From there we followed the footpath adjacent to the river to the coast, past the remnants of an old railway line which used to convey trucks of stones to the main road, and also past an ox-bow lake (Memories of Geography lessons!). After a short break on the beach we returned (some by the same path, a couple of us by a different one) and on to the 'Cuckmere' pub for lunch. Then the bus back to Seaford and trains to Croydon.

**Our thanks to Roger Smith for this walk**

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## **ITALIAN LUNCH – TRE FRATELLI S. Croydon**

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May**



Having only been there once before, immediately prior to lockdown, we thought this was now our last lunch at this venue, as it was closing down. The meal was enjoyed by the 38 who attended. (It has now reopened!)



## **FISH'n'CHIP LUNCHES McDermott's**

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

Our regular Fish'n'Chip meals are as popular as ever with 36 attending in April and 39 in November. Both lunches had to be changed at the last minute from Wednesday to Thursday as the restaurant still doesn't open Wednesday lunch time. The April lunch had to be cancelled the day before due to a major kitchen malfunction and re-arranged a week later. Our next Fish'n'Chip meals are Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**Again, our thanks to Maggie for these three events.**



## AVIVA FELLOWSHIP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch and Thames Cruise

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Yes, the concept of a fellowship of pensioners of former employees of AVIVA is 20 years old, although pensioners have been getting together longer ago than that. *[I have been attending events since 2001, just after my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ed]* This was a Region event and, in all, 50 people came on board and enjoyed the lunch, including 26 from Croydon.

Thanks to Chris House our Regional Chairman and to Tony Phillips, Watford Chairman

Also see a picture at the end of Chris at the wreath laying in memory of staff fallen in World Wars on Remembrance Day

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## GLOBE THEATRE CONDUCTED TOUR

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July



Our much delayed visit to the Globe Theatre on Bankside, finally occurred on 6<sup>th</sup> July, just 2 years later than planned. However, it was well worth the wait. Our guide, an actor of course, brought the whole visit to life with his knowledge & anecdotes.

This is the third theatre built here. The first one burnt down on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1613, when a cannon fired during a performance of Henry VIII landed on the thick thatched roof. No one was hurt, but one man's breeches caught fire and was quickly doused with beer. Another theatre was built within a year, but over the centuries was lost.

Sam Wannamaker, an American actor and director was horrified to find only a small plaque marking the spot of the theatre. The original foundations had been found close to the river, and Sam decided to rebuild as close to the original site as possible. From excavations of the original site, it was worked out that the building (a wooden O as Shakespeare called it) had 20 sides. (A 20 sided shape is called an icosagon!) Sam began to make his dream become a reality.

Again, oak from Windsor great park was used in the construction. Lime plaster coated the walls and a thick thatched roof completed the building. This is the only thatched building in London. Thatch was banned after the great fire of London, and special permission had to be obtained.

The main auditorium is open to the elements, but part of the stage is shielded by a canopy, painted with the signs of the zodiac. The gallery seats are also roofed, but the area around the stage is open to the weather. This is where the poorer people stood for the plays. It was smelly and crowded, as no lavatories existed then. The higher up the galleries you sat, the more they cost. Even today, you can see a performance standing by the stage for £5!

Sadly, Sam died before the theatre was completed, but his daughter, Zoë, continued the dream. The theatre was opened in 1993 by Her Majesty the Queen. On one occasion, Dame Judi Dench, in her role as Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> rode on to the stage and bowed to Queen Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> sitting in the Royal Box.! That would have been amazing!

Judy Dumbrell

[Although I have kept the reports as summaries, I have reproduced, (with minor editing) Judy's full report - it makes such interesting reading. We all knew that a 20-sided figure is an icosagon, didn't we!!! Ed]

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## PUB LUNCH 'THE HORSESHOE' WARLINGHAM

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022



As popular as ever, with 34 attending, but a little down on the March lunch. In recognition of their contributions to the Committee over the years, Brian, John W and Patricia were 'treated' on this occasion.

Photos by Chris Hall



## PETTS WOOD WALK

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022



No, this wasn't in the 2022 Diary of events! It was late inclusion at the invitation of John and Sylvia Greengrass (who live in Orpington). Nine of us climbed over several railway footbridges to enjoy both part of Jubilee Country Park (Roger informed us that it was where he joined the Cubs in February 1952 – the day that the Queen came to the throne.) and Petts Wood itself. William Willett, who came up with the idea of daylight saving time (BST), is commemorated there, so we had to finish at the 'Daylight Inn'. One Rob Hall also has his name in stone- see pic.!

Thanks, John and Sylvia, for a chance to return to where I was brought up.

Ed

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## ITALIAN LUNCH – PONTE NUOVO. Croydon

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022



Having had to find a new venue for our Italian lunches (our third) we moved a short distance up the road to under the Flyover to Ponte Nuovo. Thirty seven people enjoyed the fare, which was up to the usual Italian high standard, and we even had a drink to go with the meal. We are planning to return next May.



Thanks once again are due to Maggie for this event.

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## BROCKWELL PARK AUTUMN STROLL

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022



After a train cancellation at East Croydon, eight of us managed to depart from Herne Hill Station more-or-less on time. We passed the lido where we saw one brave/fool-hardy soul swimming (I saw seven on the Tuesday before!) and basically followed the perimeter path via a giant wood carvings of a conker and of a toad with adjoining seats on which Maggie and Judy just had



to be seated (See right). This was followed by three lakes and the walled garden before arriving at the café for lunch.

Having finished lunch, the rain started, but kindly held off sufficiently for us to get back to the station. We were advised to return to Croydon via Blackfriars, so we had an unscheduled view of Tower Bridge. Dave Newland

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All photos by NL Editor unless otherwise indicated

A few more photos.



Chris at Wreath laying  
Photo: AVIVA



Group on Whyteleafe Walk  
Photo: John Gibbons



Jim and Maggie examine conker  
Brockwell Park



Model Village



**CROYDON DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2023**[www.avivafellowshipcroydon.org.uk](http://www.avivafellowshipcroydon.org.uk)**Important Message: We're now looking for Volunteers to replace the Event Organisers we've lost.**

Date	Organiser	Event	Venue	Time
<b>JANUARY</b>				
Mon 9	JD	*New Year Lunch	Croham Hurst Golf Club, Croham Rd. Croydon	12:00for13:00
Tue 10	MM/CH	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Mon 16	RS	*New Year Walk	Addington, Coombe Lane to Addington Village	10:45 for 11:00
Thu 26	VM	*Play Tennis	Selsdon Tennis Club, 21a Queenhill Road.	TBA
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
Tue 14	MM/CH	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Wed 22	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Limpsfield Road, Chelsham, CR6 9DZ	10:30
<b>MARCH</b>				
Tue 14	MM/CH	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Wed 15	CH/MM	*Pub Lunch	'The Horseshoe', Warlingham	12:00 for 12:45
Thu 30	MM	Coffee Morning †	Polhill Garden Centre, Badgers Mount, Sevenoaks. TN14 7AD	10:30
<b>APRIL</b>				
Tue 4		*AGM & Buffet	United Reform Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove	10:45 for 11:00
Tue 11	MM/	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Thu 13	MM	*Fish 'n' Chips	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Croydon	11:50 for 12:00
<b>MAY</b>				
Thu 4	DN	*Bluebell Walk	Old Coulsdon	TBA
Tue 9	MM/	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Tue 16	MM	*Italian Lunch	Ponte Nuovo, High Street, Croydon	12:00 for 12:30
Wed 31	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Limpsfield Road, Chelsham, CR6 9DZ	10:30
<b>JUNE</b>				
Tue 13	MM/	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Fri 16	RS	*Coastal Walk	Hastings	TBA
	JD	*Museum Visit	Wildlife Photo of the Year Exhibition, Nat. Hist. Mus.	TBA
Thu 29	MM	Coffee Morning †	Polhill Garden Centre, Badgers Mount, Sevenoaks. TN14 7AD	10:30
<b>JULY</b>				
Tue 11	MM/	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Thu 27	MM	Coffee Morning †	Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham. TN16 1PS	10:30
<b>AUGUST</b>				
Tue 8	MM/	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Wed 30	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Limpsfield Road, Chelsham, CR6 9DZ	10:30
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
Tue 12	MM/	Coffee/Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Thu 14		*Pub Lunch	'The Horseshoe', Warlingham	12:00 for 12:45
Thu 28	MM	Coffee Morning †	Polhill Garden Centre, Badgers Mount, Sevenoaks. TN14 7AD	10:30
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
Tue 10	MM/CH	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Thu 19	MM	*Italian Lunch	Ponte Nuovo, High Street, Croydon	12:00 for 12:30
	JD	*Art Gallery	Tate Modern, London	TBA
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
Tue 14	MM/	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Thu 16	MM	*Fish 'n' Chips	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Croydon	11:50 for 12:00
	DN	*Autumn Stroll †		TBA
Wed 29	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Limpsfield Road, Chelsham, CR6 9DZ.	10:30
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
Tue 12	MM/	Coffee/Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30

**JANUARY 2024 - \* New Year Lunch****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, although in some cases you may be requested to intimate your intention of coming in case of last-minute changes.

\* 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.

Hope to see you at one or more of these Events

Maggie Mahoney -Secretary Croydon Aviva Fellowship Email [mahoney@avivafellowship.force9.co.uk](mailto:mahoney@avivafellowship.force9.co.uk) 29/11/2022