

**Chairman:** Brian Welch  
**Treasurer:** John Gibbons  
**Secretary:** Maggie Mahoney  
**Committee:** Judy Dumbrell Chris House, Viv Murray, Dave Newland, Patricia Pegg, Joan Price, John Whitley

**Aviva  
Fellowship**



**Croydon Area**

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## NEWSLETTER - Spring 2020

### EDITORIAL

A bit late I'm afraid, but after a certain amount of 'Will I? Won't I?', I decided that I would produce a Spring Newsletter, despite your Fellowship having been in 'lock-down' for the last three months. Well, not quite! Some of us have been receiving 'just-for-fun' quizzes from our Secretary, Maggie, about once a week. Many thanks for organising this, Maggie.

It has shown that my knowledge of pop music is not completely zero as I thought – I scored 3 out of 20 the first time and 2 out of 20 on the next! I have fared much better on 'Rivers' and 'History'.

I have interspersed some quiz questions in this Newsletter to keep the brain cells active, again just for fun.

A few events did take place just before everything came to a halt, and reports appear below, unfortunately some without pictures. And activity *has* taken place since, so do read on and, hopefully, in the next Newsletter, I will have more to report. John Whitley and Carol Courtney tell us about their lock-down activity. If anyone else would like to tell us how they spent lock-down, please let me have a short item and a couple of photos if you have them. I'll try to include them in the next Newsletter. Meantime, do keep safely indoors as much as possible, and I look forward to seeing you all again whenever.

Dave NEWLAND

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

At this point I normally advise you of what is up-and-coming, but all events are cancelled until further notice! When things are back to normal (whatever that means!) we'll advise you. Provisionally, we will try to re-schedule, where possible, some of the events cancelled this year to go into the 2021 Diary.

So, meanwhile here is:

### QUIZ NUMBER 1

(A fairly easy one to start with!)

#### Six of One and Half-a-Dozen of the Other.

These questions revolve around the number six.

- 1 At the beginning of 'normal' years we have the 'Six Nations' Rugby. It used to be just 'Five Nations'. Which country joined in to make it 6?
- 2 What is the sixth of the 10 Commandments? 'Thou shalt not ...'
- 3 Before the UK joined Europe, there were just six countries in the Common Market: Benelux countries, France, Italy and ....? Exact answer required!
- 4 When the UK did join the Six, so too did the Irish Republic and which other country?
- 5 In the 'Twelve Days of Christmas', what additional items did 'My true love send to me' on the sixth day?
- 6 In the song 'Green Grow the Rushes O', '6 is for the six ...'?
- 7 Ulster is often referred to as 'The Six Counties', but the ancient province actually comprises 9 counties, three of which are in the Republic: Donegal, Monaghan and which other one?
- 8 Which element has the atomic number of 6?
- 9 What number appears on the opposite face to the 6 on a dice?
- 10  $6^{66}$  is 66 'sixes' multiplied together. If you calculated the result, what would the final (units) digit be?

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## REPORTS ON EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE!

### PANTOMIME – ‘THE THREE MUSKETEERS’

A Pantaloons Production (*founded in 1987*).

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January - Purley URC



Photos provided by Viv

Following the success in 2019 of **Treasure Island**, our second panto evening event was **The Three Musketeers**. Twelve of us attended with nine of us enjoying a pre-theatre meal at Purley Pizza Express. A vague memory of French did help a bit when a question was asked of the Chicken.....

*Q: ‘Why did you lay only one egg?’ A: ‘For a French hen, one egg is un œuf’,*

and so it followed with funny, subtle, innuendoes.

With all seats sold over 4 evenings and one Matinee, the Panto made a record £4,000 actual profit for this year’s charity, The Sutton Carers Centre. Not only record profit, it also won an award! District winner of the **NODA London Award** in the best pantomime category (*National Operatic and Dramatic Association*).

We are looking forward to the next panto in January 2021, so come and have an evening of guaranteed laughter, everyone welcome, particularly children – Oh, yes, they are.....

Viv Murray

**Well done, Viv for organising this. A thoroughly enjoyable evening**

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## LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Covent Garden



Horse-drawn Omnibus



Highgate Tunnel Sign \*

As I knew I would be moving away I volunteered to organise our first visit of the year not realising it would be our last for many months. Twenty of us met in the café and lobby of the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden. We took the lift to the top floor and started 200 years ago with the horse drawn omnibus and the first railways. As we moved down we saw the development of the underground from the cut and cover Metropolitan Railway through the deep tube to Crossrail and the Elizabeth Line. We saw a splendid collection of buses, trams and trolley buses. The Hidden London Gallery explored “forgotten” parts of the tube network where lines and stations had been closed but are still found behind closed doors\* and are sometimes used for filming.

Afterwards some groups lunched together.

Carol Courtney

\* We saw the entrance to this tunnel on one of our Autumn Strolls, several years ago. Ed.

**Thank you, Carol, for your final event organising, and for this report. Ed.**

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March- East Croydon URC

28 people attended - slightly up from last year, but not a huge number. It was on this occasion that Carol Courtney formally stood down as our Treasurer, and John Gibbons was elected to take over the position. A big thank-you to both these people, and pleased to hear that your move to Bristol, Carol is back on course and in the not-too-distant future. Look forward seeing you there.

Among the various reports, our Regional Chairman, Chris, made a strong plea for encouraging younger members to become involved in the Fellowship.

The buffet following the business was adjusted to ensure there was no need to touch the food when Members added it to their plate. A foretaste (no pun intended!) of things to come in the following weeks and months!

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

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## QUIZ NUMBER 2

(A little harder)

**Famous (or not-so-famous) First Words.**

These are the opening words to what? It could be a speech, a book, a play or anything else!

- |   |   |    |   |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | Henricus Dei gratia rex Anglie ...                            | 6  | When shall we three meet again ...          |
| 2 | It was the best of times ...                                  | 7  | We the people of ***** in order to form ... |
| 3 | I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted ... | 8  | It is a truth universally accepted ...      |
| 4 | In this grave hour, perhaps the most fateful ...              | 9  | In the beginning was the word ...           |
| 5 | Ka Mate! Ka Mate! ...   | 10 | I wandered lonely as a cloud ...            |

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## RECENT REPORTS (Cont.)

### ITALIAN LUNCH – TRE FRATELLI

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - S. Croydon

We took a chance! By now it was being suggested that we don't go out, but we hadn't quite reached 'lock-down' by then. Understandably several people, who originally booked, withdrew, and on this occasion we didn't follow our usual practice and we did refund their money. Nineteen of us eventually attended for a very tasty meal. Unlike our previous Italian meals, at Tre Fratelli we placed our orders on the day. They still managed to provide a prompt more-than-adequate two-course meal. A few diners did still manage a dessert as well! The finishing Italian touch was a glass of limoncello. Maggie checked up 10 days later, and no attendee had gone down with 'you-know what'

**Thanks are due to Brian and Maggie for this event.**

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## GDPR LETTERS to MEMBERS - Enveloping

### Thursday, 19 March - Chez Viv

I was pleased to welcome Carol Courtney, John Whitley and Dave Newland into my home for lunch. Refreshments were served together with Chilli con carne and fresh bread, followed by tea and biscuits. A big **THANK YOU** goes out to them for spending time with me putting **c.418** letters into envelopes for **posting**. It would have taken me an age on my own. I personally sent out the letter and privacy notice by **email** to **c.294** members – it took a while.....!

Although the letter was for reassurance that we keep all data safely and in accordance with regulations, it was a good opportunity to update details. I received 34 replies, most via email, but also by letter and telephone. Replies were very helpful and complimentary. We now have more email addresses, a good sign of the times, plus other changes in members' circumstances. Thanks to all who took the time to contact me.

Viv Murray

**Thank you for your wonderful hospitality, Viv.**

**Again, no reports of any of us going down with the lurgy afterwards! Ed**

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## QUIZ NUMBER 3 (Rather more advanced!)

### Word for Words

If two or more words are made up of the same letters e.g. Acer, Acre, Care and Race, they are **Anagrams** of each other. So what name is given to the following?

- 1 Words made up of initials. E.g. NATO?
- 2 Words that have two or more different meanings? E.g. 'Bear' is a large furry animal or it means 'to carry'.
- 3 Words which are pronounced the same, but are spelt differently. E.g. 'Bear' and 'Bare'?
- 4 Words, although spelt the same, are pronounced differently depending on meaning? E.g. 'Sow' a female pig or 'Sow' to plant seeds.
- 5 Words that spell the same forwards and backwards. E.g. 'Rotor' or 'Noon'?
- 6 Words that have been created from two words to express the meaning of both? E.g. 'Oxbridge' for Oxford and Cambridge or 'Motel' for Motor Hotel.
- 7 Words that have been created by combining sources from two different languages? E.g. 'Après-ski' (French and Norwegian) or 'Supermarket' (Latin and Germanic).
- 8 The (mistaken) transposition of the initials of two or more words or syllables? E.g. Saying, 'A town drain.' instead of 'A down train'!
- 9 Words or phrases which are out of place in the time of its context? E.g. Calling 'The Great War' 'The First World War' in a play set in 1935.
- 10 Using wrong but similar sounding words? E.g. As I heard announced at an **ecumenical** service, 'Welcome to our **economical** service.'!

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### BLUEBELL WALK and other 'lock-down' activity

No, the April Bluebell Walk didn't take place, but John did a bit of his own bluebell walking.

And Carol did her own walking, so these are two virtual walks for us!



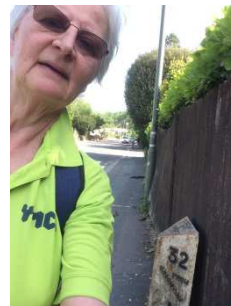
John's Walks

#### John's Bluebell Walks

We've been out for a lot of walks, finding public footpaths and bridleways we didn't know existed, even though we've lived here for very nearly 30 years. We have found some lovely bluebell pockets round here, almost from the end of March and some are still going (just), so maybe there'd still have been some around had your bluebell walk a couple of weeks ago gone ahead. If this is the new norm (as they say), mid-April might be the best time to see them next year.

I must say we're getting much more aware of different birdsongs (and listening out for drilling sounds from the woodpeckers) and seeing the tree blossoms really come on - lovely slow living !

John Whitley



Carol's Walk



#### YMCA Virtual Fun Run Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020

When East Surrey YMCA had to abandon its usual May Bank Holiday Fun Run and relaunched it as an individual walk or run in May, I decided to make walking 5 miles my challenge. As many of you will know I am a keen walker but I needed a knee replacement last summer so this is the first time I have managed 5 miles for a few years. Starting from my flat in Redhill I walked along the A23 from the milepost near East Surrey College, where I once worked, through Merstham, where I used to live, to the milepost by Harps Oak Lane and then back of course..... I would really just like to encourage everyone to keep supporting all charities that have lost their usual fundraising streams.

Carol Courtney

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## Finally

**A slightly different problem.** A trivial anagram example is two words where one is the reverse spelling of the other. E.g. 'pot' and 'top' or 'loot' and 'tool'. I am not aware of a special word to describe this, but what is the longest pair of such words that you can find? I have, so far, only reached seven letters: **'Deliver' and 'Revised'**. Can you find an 8-lettered pair or longer? If so, do let me know. Ed

Answers to the quizzes will be posted on our website about the end of July, and will also appear in the Autumn Newsletter.

## Some more pictures



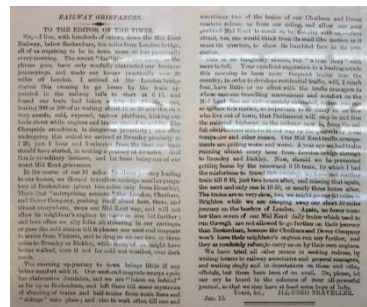
The Three Musketeers



The Party Gathering



Station Clock



A letter of complaint!



Trevithick's Circular Railway



Metropolitan Railway Timetable & Train



**Photographs:** The Three Musketeers Viv Murray  
John's Bluebell Walks John Whitley  
YMCA Fun Run Carol Courtney  
Transport Museum Editor