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**Aviva
Fellowship**



Croydon Area

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NEWSLETTER - Winter 2020

EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the next decade! I thought that 20-20 had something to do with cricket, but I am not aware of a cricket fixture in this year's Diary! 20-20 is also involved with vision, and we do try to look to the future when organising our events. You will see from our Diary that there is an entry for 2021! Next year's New Year Lunch will be on a Monday instead of a Friday.

For the last two years we have introduced events in January/early February, in addition to our New Year lunch. This has highlighted a problem for me, as Editor, in that the

Summer edition of the Newsletter is too early to advise you of these events, and the Winter edition is too late. So I have decided that, in future, I will be producing Spring (end of May) and Autumn (end of November) editions instead. A consequence is that, for this year only, there will be **three** Newsletters, but the May one will be a bit smaller than usual!

Meanwhile, I hope to see as many of you as possible at our events, in particular at the AGM. Do come and give us your comments and ideas.
Dave Newland

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Croydon AVIVA Fellowship AGM will take place on **Thursday 5th March 2020, 10:45 for 11:00 a.m.** at East Croydon United Reformed Church in Addiscombe Grove. The building is a very short walk from East Croydon Railway Station, Bus Station and Tram Stop, just beyond the former NLA building.

The meeting will be followed by a light buffet lunch.

You are strongly advised to come by public transport as parking is very difficult in the area.

REGIONAL CHAIRMAN'S 2020 NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Wishing you all a Happy New Year. Welcome to all our new Friends Provident members and to the new decade.

The Croydon Fellowship, like many others, is sadly facing a slow decline in member engagement. This year's New Year Lunch happily reversed this trend with us finally achieving our record **100** bookings. I must thank Maggie for her meticulous organisation of our meal and all those involved for their sterling efforts and support. Thanks to Jerry Barnfield in particular, who had contacted over a hundred former colleagues, and then

persuaded around a quarter to attend. We should all perhaps try harder to encourage our former colleagues to participate. We have also now produced a full range of events for 2020.

Heritage Policies: Aviva have now produced a Retired Staff Policy discount leaflet which was issued with the Christmas 'In Touch' edition. It's also available on both the National and our own website.

Hoping to see you all at our AGM and some of our events during the year
Chris House.

DATA PROTECTION

The security of the data held on members of our Fellowship is of the utmost importance to us and your Committee is aware of its obligations under the GDPR rules. Our Membership Secretary, Viv Murray, will be sending all Croydon Fellowship members details of the information we are holding about them. In summary, as well as your name and address we hold the following information about you:

Your Reference Number, Date of birth, Telephone number and Date of Retirement, plus, optionally, Name of spouse/partner and Interest in specific events. Also your e-mail address, if you have provided it for us.

If you have not previously given us an email address and/or Telephone number, it would greatly assist us if these details could be emailed or posted to Viv.

We can assure you that we only record the information most relevant to us as your local Fellowship. The information has either been generated by the Pension Scheme Admin team in Perth or has been volunteered by you personally.

You can, of course, ask to have your data amended or removed from the list of members at any time, and please inform us of any changes

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Do bear in mind that some of these dates below may be subject to confirmation or change.

Visits to the Pantomime and to the London Transport Museum

These two events will have either taken place or will be imminent at the time of issue of this Newsletter. I will provide reports on these in the May Newsletter. Hopefully, in future I will be in a position to give some information about events at a similar time.

Thursday 5th March - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice appears on the front page. Do try to come to hear what we have been doing over the last year, and to give us your comments and suggestions. I'll also be showing photos from a whole range of events in 2019.

EATING & DRINKING EVENTS

Wednesday 18th March – Italian Lunch – Tre Fratelli, S. Croydon

Wednesday 22nd April - Fish'n'Chip Supper - McDermott's, Forestdale

Tuesday 5th May – Quiz Night and Supper – Whyteleafe Football Club

Tuesday 19th May – 'Horseshoe' Pub Lunch - Warlingham

Do work up an appetite! Four eating events in just over two months – two at lunchtime, two in the evening. The really good news is that we are having an Italian lunch once more, after a year or two's gap. This time it will be in South Croydon.



Our usual range of coffee mornings continues. Second Tuesday of **every** month at Croydon Clocktower plus various garden centres towards the end of each month except January, October and December – see the Diary for dates and venues.



Friday 24th April – Bluebell Walk – Badgers Mount, Kent



This is just two days after the Fish'n'Chip Supper, so you will be able to walk off any excess eating! This year, I am taking us to an area that we passed through on one of my Summer Walks some years ago.

We'll start and finish at the Polhill Garden Centre, and will be walking through the nearby woods. Only a couple of miles in the afternoon, with the chance to enjoy a cup of tea afterwards.

Saturday 13th June – St. Albans City

Thursday 18th June – Coastal Walk – Seaford/Cuckmere

A brief note on these two events. More information in the May Newsletter.



St. Albans: This visit, being on a Saturday, means that those who work during the week will have a chance to come to one of our daytime events. It also means that we can catch trains as early as we wish, and still obtain cheaper tickets.

Coastal Walk: Roger Smith has taken us to this area in the past but has worked out an easier walk than previously, avoiding the climb up the cliff!



REPORTS ON SOME RECENT EVENTS

Wednesday 14th August - Conducted Walk - London Bridge to Rotherhithe



Initial Briefing

On a dark, dismal Wednesday morning, our intrepid crew gathered on Queen's Walk, by City Hall, on the south bank of the Thames. Whilst waiting for our guide to arrive (he was punctual, we were a bit early), the day's weather forecast of heavy rain throughout the day, became the topic of conversation.

When Alan, our guide, arrived, he gave us a brief itinerary for the walk, starting off by pointing out that, looking eastwards along the river 'through' Tower Bridge, we were seeing our destination, St Mary's church Rotherhithe. As we walked past Tower Bridge, Alan regaled us with the tale of the No 78 bus that, in December 1952, had had to jump the gap over an opening Tower Bridge after a traffic signal failure. Luckily, no passengers were injured, but the bus conductor did suffer a broken leg.

Continuing along our journey, we came to Shad Thames, an area that included the largest warehouse complex in London during the 19th century. We passed Le Pont de la Tour, the Terence Conran restaurant that, in 1997, hosted a meeting between Bill Clinton and Tony Blair; President Clinton's cavalcade however, was delayed by over a quarter of an hour by the bridge having to open for the Thames sailing barge 'Gladys', much to the chagrin of the President's Secret Service.



About half way. Now pouring!



Refuge at 'Mayflower' pub

Unfortunately, at this point, it became evident that the weather forecast had been correct, and the heavens opened! As we walked on towards our destination, we passed one of the bore holes for the Thames Tideway Tunnel, and across the river we could see Wapping, once the site of Execution Dock where Captain Kidd, amongst others, met his demise.

A short bit further on our walk brought us to the ruins of Edward III's Manor House (built c1350).

We arrived at St Mary's shortly before one o'clock, still in the pouring rain, and Alan then pointed out the memorial to the final resting place of Christopher Jones, captain of the 'Mayflower', which took the Pilgrim Fathers to North America in 1620. Also buried in the cemetery is Prince Lee Boo, of the Pelew Islands in the Philippines, who was brought to England in 1784, unfortunately succumbing to smallpox after only six months.

A short visit to the site of the Brunel Museum concluded our very wet walk, although thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. A good lunch at the Mayflower pub ensued, ending one of our most interesting walks.

James O'Neil

Many thanks, Judy (Dumbrill) for organising this very soggy walk. And thanks, too, to James, one of our party on the day, for writing this report. I always welcome reports from attendees. It saves the organisers or myself having to do them.

Incidentally my wife, Ann, and I revisited the Brunel Museum on a much drier day, and had a short presentation on the history of the rail tunnel beneath. You can get married at the foot of the vertical shaft if you wish!

Wednesday 9th October - Follow-up Visit to Tate Britain



Self-portrait of Turner



Turner's 'Holy Family'



**Alan explaining
Constable's 'Salisbury Cathedral'**

Our visit to Tate Britain in March, was so interesting, that we revisited the venue again in October, after running out of time in March, without even visiting the vast Turner collection. So, we started at the Turners. The Tate has

the largest collection of Turner paintings in the world, and they can only ever exhibit a very small proportion of the collection at a time. So, when ever you visit, you will most likely see a totally different display. (Cont. over)

One of my favourites was the Self Portrait ,with a good looking young man, staring straight at you. (*See above*)

Another was the death of Nelson showing him collapsed on the deck, with the French marksman still up in the rigging of the French gunship. How anyone could shoot accurately in the middle of a battle at sea, is amazing and must have been a very lucky shot.

Turner's skill with capturing the sun through mists and over water is just amazing, and many of his paintings have this lovely effect.

We then carried on with our tour through time and some of my favourites were, Gwen John's Self portrait, which

actually looked remarkably like Anna Massey. Gwen John was the sister of Augustus John and he declared that his sister was the better artist, even though, at the time, he was the more famous.

There was a lovely painting by Dora Carrington showing The Farm At Watendlath (Lake District) and Ships in Distress in a storm by Peter Monamy also caught my eye.

Do look at Tate Britain's website. It is excellent and you can see all the paintings I have mentioned and many, many more.

Judy Dumbrill

Thank you, Judy. Your visits are always very interesting. Looking forward to others later in the year.

Tuesday 15th October – Greenwich: Queen's House and Fan Museum

Two visits in one day in Royal Greenwich

In the morning we had a conducted tour of the Queen's House



The Queen's House



The Marble Floor



The Tulip Spiral Staircase

The house was originally a royal residence, built adjacent to hunting ground (now Greenwich Park). It was designed by Inigo Jones as a residence for Anne, Queen of Denmark, Consort of James 1st after whom the house is named. Construction started in 1616, but was halted in 1618 when Queen Anne fell ill and died. It resumed about 10 years later, when it became the house of Henrietta-Maria, Consort of Charles 1st but not completed until 1635. Its chequered existence continued, with the Civil War causing much of the building and all of its interior to be lost.

It is now very much restored, a Grade 1 listed building and part of the Maritime Museum, with a beautiful marble floor and housing a fine collection of maritime portraits and paintings.

After lunch we were shown around the Fan Museum



Fan Museum



Explaining the different types of fan



Fans for ladies in crinolines



Unlike the Queen's House, the Fan Museum is a relatively new venture, opened in 1991, although it is housed in a Grade II Listed building built in 1721. It houses several thousand fans from all over the world, dating from the 10th Century onwards, with a large collection of European fans from the 18th and 19th Centuries. There are several different types of fan, not just ones that fold up and then 'fan out' when needed (!) and different types are displayed in a range of cabinets on the ground floor. As the collection is so large and for preservation of the fans, the exhibits are changed at very regular intervals

Ironically for a fan museum, we did find it rather warm inside, and one of our party found it too much, needing some medical assistance, but nothing serious. I gather she was given a fan as a memento!

Our thanks to Maggie Mahoney and Chris House for organising these two visits

Thursday 21st November - Autumn Stroll: Victoria Park, East London



West Park Lake & Fountain



Beside the Hertford Union Canal



East Park Lake

Fifteen of us managed successfully to make our way to Cambridge Heath for the short walk to Victoria Park, in the Borough of Tower Hamlets. The park is in two sections – the West Park and the much larger East Park, and is named after Queen Victoria, who commissioned it in 1840, as a source of recreation for the people of East London. It opened in 1845, and is East London's largest park. The south side of the West Park is skirted by the Regent Canal, whilst the eastern side of the East Park is adjacent to the Hertford Union Canal, which links the Regent Canal to the Lee Navigation.

On arriving at the West Park via the Bonner Gate, we walked a short way beside the Regent Canal and on to the café beside the West Lake for lunch. We then proceeded across to East Park and walked beside the Hertford Canal, past the Gunmakers Gate (located near to where guess-who used to work) and on to St Mark's Gate (by the Church). Thence we turned into the centre of the park, beside the model boat lake (plenty of ducks, but no boats) and on to the children's play area, one of the largest I have ever seen and designed for all ages – even us 'second childhood' group, some of whom were tempted to acquaint themselves of the facilities!

I strongly recommend those with grandchildren to take them there, though it will be very crowded during the summer holiday period.

Our next point of call was the East Park Lake, which unlike the West Lake, is very informal, and is home to a wide range of aquatic wild life. Our final East Park site was the Burdette Coutts (of Coutts bank fame) Fountain, a drinking variety. This made us feel very thirsty and by this time we were getting chilly, so we made our way to The Royal Inn-on-the-Park, where a very welcome mulled wine was on offer, whilst across the path you could purchase a Christmas tree, if you wanted to. (Hopefully any purchase would still have its needles over a month later!)

Having warmed and lubricated ourselves, we finished by skirting the West Park, with its more formal gardens, walked along a bit more of the Regents Canal, visited the Pagoda beside the West Lake and made our way back to Cambridge Heath Station.

Dave NEWLAND

Friday 3rd January – New Year Lunch – Jury's Inn, Croydon



Brian telling his jokes

I'm sorry, I haven't a report on our main meal of the year, but do see the Regional Chairman's Note on page 1. Both my wife and I were laid up with a very nasty bug and couldn't go.



Judy with the Raffle Prizes

My thanks to Joan Price for these two pictures.

Also to Hilary Kearney and Martin Green for other photos, some of which are at the end.

And for the team who organised this event, which requires planning up to a year in advance.

Monday 20th January – New Year Walk – South Norwood Country Park



Up the only steps



Visitor Centre



Lake from 1st view point



Lake from 2nd view point

A really suitable place for a short Winter Walk, albeit some paths, especially those for access to the lake, were rather muddy in places!

Starting from the Arena Tram Stop, fifteen of us followed part of Waterlink Way (a track), which passes the Visitor Centre and Café (both closed). Either side of our track was a variety of terrain: wetland, scrub, areas where wild flowers bloom later in the year, woods and two short diversions to see the very large lake from viewing platforms. One cannot actually stand at the lake's edge. It has a wide range of aquatic birds, as can be seen from the pictures.

Having seen the lake, we emerged onto the Elmers End Road for a short roadside walk to the 'Grace' pub for lunch. I gather that the pub used to be called 'W.G. Grace' as the famous cricketer is said to be buried in the adjacent Beckenham Cemetery. Having eaten, about half of us continued by walking to Harrington Road Tram Stop **via the said Cemetery!** Isn't it amazing how, when passing graves, we spend so much time looking to see who is buried, when he or she died and at what age. It is quite sobering to us Pensioners when we see how many people departed this world at a much younger age than we are! I can honestly say I have never before been on a walk where we finished in the graveyard! As Chris said when we reached the Tram Stop, 'This is the dead end of the walk'.

Thanks, Roger (Smith) for organising this. I hope you have another one in mind for next year and looking forward to your Coastal Walk in June.

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Some further photographs



A



**Edward 1st Manor House
Rotherhithe Walk**



B



**Introducing Turner
Tate Britain 2**



Bomberg's 'Mud Bath'!



C



**Admiring the Marble Floor
Queen's House. Greenwich**



Naval College from Queen's House



**Fan Depicting Vesuvius!
Fan Museum**



**'Second Childhood' Group!
Victoria Park Play Area**



**Hilary's Photo
Diners enjoying the New Year Lunch**



Martin's Photos



A-Chamber Street B-Prince Lee Boo's Grave C-Portrait of Anne, Queen of Denmark

All photos by Editor except: Tre Fratelli - web site, St. Albans Cathedral - web site, New Year Lunch – as indicated above