



# Newsletter December 2006

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## John Ward writes ...

Once again we have had a full calendar of enjoyable and mostly well supported events. You will see the programme for the first half of 2007 and we hope to see as many participants as possible during the coming year.

Unfortunately we have been told by Jean and George Cannell that they will not be continuing as members of the committee next year. They have served for 14 years in a number of roles and now deserve time to enjoy their retirement. I am sure that we all wish them well for the future and I know that we will see them at many of our coming functions.

This does mean however that if you wish to see the Croydon Area continue we must have fresh partici-

pants both on the committee and to help run future programmes. Without this we will not be able to operate. Many of the remainder of the committee have served for 5 or 6 years and the Company guidelines recommend that nobody should serve for more than 6 years which indicates the problem we will shortly face. Please contact any of the committee to let us know how you can help. We will, in particular, need to find replacements for George and Jean who also acts as our secretary. The present committee will of course welcome and give any help needed to new members.

Finally may I wish all our members a very happy New Year. With my best wishes,

John Ward (Chairman)

## Special points of interest:

- *This edition includes news of the events we plan for 2007*
- *Our Royal Parks walk is on Thursday 18th January*
- *Bookings are invited for the backstage and front-of-house tour of the Royal Opera House, on 26th February*

## Your responses invited

With this edition of the Newsletter, we have included a response form. This has three purposes:

- You can book for four imminent events.
- Where we are seeking to gauge interest in possible new events, you can tell us whether you would like to participate.
- You can register to receive mailings for particular kinds of event.

## AGM, 15th February

Make sure to book for the coming AGM, which will again take place in the Fairfield Room at the Fairfield Halls. The buffet lunch beforehand will start at 1.00 pm.

We need advance bookings only to get the catering right - there's no charge. All members will be welcome to attend the AGM itself, starting at 2.00 pm, even if they haven't booked for the buffet.

Advertisement:

## House for rental in the beautiful Dordogne valley

Holiday home with pool, fully furnished with 3 double bedrooms. Available all year round.

The house overlooks a picturesque 18 hole golf course, in a secluded woodland setting yet only minutes from the market town of Souillac and the famous medieval villages of Sarlat and Rocamadour. More details and pictures are on the Fellowship website, or see [www.lesorchidees.co.uk](http://www.lesorchidees.co.uk).


Special rental rates for Aviva pensioners range from £350 per week (low season) for up to six people. To book at these rates, or for further information, please contact

**Mike Ridding:**  
Tel. 020 8977 1053  
fax 020 8943 2365  
[mikeridding@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mikeridding@blueyonder.co.uk)

Advertisement:

## HOME ALONE PETS

Away from home? A well earned break? Holiday planned? I run a service which will look after your pet(s) and your home. I will:

 **Feed, water, comfort and make a fuss of your pet**

**Clean up any accidents** 

 **Check your property and take mail away from the letter box**

 **Leave lights on overnight and switch off in day time**

 **Leave a radio on so the property appears lived in**

 **Water house plants, and the garden in hot weather**

For dog owners who work full time:

- I can visit, make a fuss of your pooch and take for a walk



My name is Viv Murray (ex CU Overseas Division). Call me on:  
020 8651 0467

## Salvete and valet

We welcome to the Croydon Fellowship:

Mrs Susan Borg  
Mrs Jennifer Burcher  
Mr Edmund Challen  
Mrs Trudy Chen  
Mr Colin Fone  
Mrs Phaedra Jolly  
Mrs Elizabeth McIntyre  
Mrs Jacqueline May  
Mr George Miller  
Mrs Myrna Paraan-Williamson  
Miss Dharmista Patel  
Mrs Annette Peddie  
Mrs Pamela Redgers  
Miss Nina Rudd  
Miss Finolla Scallan  
Mr Derek Williams  
Mr Gordon White  
Mrs Cecelia Young

And we record the sad passing of:

Mr Francis Banaghan  
Mrs Freda Beach  
Miss Dorothy Clarke  
Miss K.M. Daws  
Mr Stanley Garrod  
Mr Stanley Harris  
Mr Philip Letchford  
E.T Marsh  
Mrs Joyce Northcott  
Mrs June Sparkes  
Mr Peter Vineall

## Advertise here ...

Mike Ridding has written to thank us for continuing to include his advertisement in the newsletter, which has so far produced two bookings from our local membership. (Others who may be interested could ask for a reference.) So it really works! Many other members must have services they would like to advertise. There's no charge. And it may be a little reassuring to deal with another Fellowship member, rather than a stranger.

## Committee

**Chairman:** John Ward  
12 Shaw Crescent, Sanderstead,  
Surrey CR2 9JA. Tel 020 8657 3642  
[johnward512@hotmail.com](mailto:johnward512@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Chris House  
141 Valley Road, Kenley, Surrey  
CR8 5BZ. Tel 020 8763 0890  
[ChrisHouse1@activemail.co.uk](mailto:ChrisHouse1@activemail.co.uk)

**Secretaries:**  
**George and Jean Cannell**  
199 Eden Park Avenue, Beckenham,  
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**Mrs Judy Dumbrill**  
7 Macaulay Rd, Caterham Surrey,  
CR3 5HR. Tel 01883 344659  
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**Mrs Sheila Garratty**  
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Caterham, Surrey CR3 6LD.  
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**Colin Hunt**  
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**David Newman**  
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**Miss Joan Price**  
58 Limsfield Road, Sanderstead,  
Surrey CR2 9EB. Tel 020 8651 0517

**Philip Talmage**  
33 Wickham Avenue, Shirley,  
Croydon CR0 8TZ. Tel 020 8656 1886  
[philip\\_talmage@bigfoot.com](mailto:philip_talmage@bigfoot.com)

## Event organisers

**Dave and Ann Newland**  
93 Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon  
CR5 2HH. Tel 01737551048  
[dave.and.ann@classicfm.net](mailto:dave.and.ann@classicfm.net)

**Roger Smith**  
58 Havelock Road, Croydon  
CR0 6QP. Tel 020 8656 2951

## The Big Beer Band

The Big Beer Band, mentioned in the last edition, has now moved 100 yards down the road to The Eagle, Tamworth Road, on the corner with Church Street. Still 9pm Mondays, still a great band, still free! [www.bigbeerband.org](http://www.bigbeerband.org)

## James O'Neill on Fine Art

I was pleasantly surprised when Philip asked me to contribute an article to the local newsletter, but then the 'pleasant' part gave way to a sense of trepidation; what, exactly, was I to write about? In the end, I thought that a brief chronological introduction, to explain how and why I am where I am today, then a description of what I'm doing and learning on the course itself, seemed to be the best approach, so here goes...

I started painting and drawing at night school about 10 or 12 years ago – I'd had never taken Art at school, so it was a complete start from basics for me. The tutor 'talked' me into taking GCSE at 'O' level, and then the 'A' level'. After taking early retirement in 2001, I investigated the possibility of going a little further; a quick search on the net showed that there was an Art & Design Foundation Course in Epsom, at the Surrey Institute of Art & Design. This involved two days a week part time over two years and besides the basic painting and drawing, the curriculum

also covered photography and film developing and printing, basic graphic design, introductory printmaking and three-dimensional work.

It was during the second year at Epsom that my wife and I decided we could manage my going forward on a

don't get to use the equipment unless you achieve the right competency levels.

The course itself is modular, and you are pretty much left to your own devices in the studios. There are regular tutorials by the full-time staff, and

there are even opportunities to get one-to-ones with visiting artists.

There are Theory components throughout the course, in parallel with all the practical work. These deal, essentially, with the history of Art since the

beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, together with the social, scientific and economic influences that have affected Art 'movements' to the present day (I must admit that I didn't expect to be reading Freud and psychoanalysis theory when I first enrolled!)

On the whole, it's been a really good experience so far, and there's a lot more to go before Final Dissertation early next year and Final Major Project for the early summer.

*James O'Neill*

*Some Fellowship members focus on a hobby when they retire. Some take evening classes or go back to college. Some combine the two. Here, James O'Neill writes about how he got to study for a degree in Fine Art. We would love to hear from members whose stories may inspire others to take up a similar challenge.*

full-time basis for a BA (Hons) degree in Fine Art. As I didn't fancy the prospect of commuting into London to any of the colleges there, I stayed with the Surrey Institute, at its second campus at Farnham.

During the first year, there were workshops in stone carving, printmaking (silkscreen and etching), and in the metal workshop, we were shown spot welding, oxy-acetylene welding and how to use a plasma-cutter. These are all voluntary workshops, and come with full Health and Safety issues, but you

## Walks

### London's Royal Parks: 11am on 18th January

Those who joined last year's walk from Hurst Green to Old Oxted will remember the mud! This January, Roger is going to lead a walk through **London's Royal Parks**, where we can keep to the pathways if the weather is unkind. We shall meet at 11am on Thursday 18th at Embankment Underground station (the western, Charing Cross side), and walk via Horse Guards Parade to St James's Park and Green Park, stopping for lunch in or near Shepherd's Market. Thence into Hyde Park, ending with tea in Kensington Gardens. No bookings required - just turn up!

We have three more walks in

prospect, but as yet no precise arrangements. Colin has undertaken to organize a **London walk** in April. There will be a charge, to defray the cost of a professional guide.

Then in July, Dave and Ann Newland are looking to arrange a **riverside walk** downstream from Kingston to Richmond, stopping along the way for a pub lunch. Before deciding a date, they have to consult tide tables to make sure that the path won't be submerged. (Oooh!) Judy plans a **country walk** (maybe near the coast) in August.

When available, we shall send details to the Walks mailing list.

*Advertisement:*



**5th - 13th January 2007 at  
Wickham Hall, Sussex Road,  
West Wickham. Fun for all the  
family; £5.50 and £6.50.  
Booking Office: 020 8777 9349  
West Wickham Pantomime Society**



## The Royal Opera House

Covent Garden: 26th February

The impressively-proportioned Royal Opera House, home to the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet companies, dominates Covent Garden. We have booked two tours, each for up to 20 members, on Monday 26 February.

Each tour will include an introduction to the colourful history of the theatre, an insight into the redevelopment of the Royal Opera House and a

look at aspects of current productions.

As the Royal Opera House is a fully working theatre, each tour is a unique experience, and may include opportunities to see The Royal Ballet in class, or the magnificent backstage technology in operation.

The cost of the visit (subsidised by the Fellowship) is £7 and **we need your bookings quickly.** *Judy Dumbrell*

## Pub lunch at The Good Companions

Hamsey Green, Limpsfield Road: 21st March

We have happily patronised the Horseshoe, Warlingham - but, sadly, they can't seem to make up their minds whether they still want us. So we have instead booked our next pub lunch, on 21st March, at the *Good Companions* in nearby Hamsey Green.

The "*Goodies*" - as it is known locally - is at the corner of Limpsfield Road and Tithepit Shaw Lane, on the B269 Limpsfield

Road. The 403 bus passes by, on its way via the Fairfield Halls to Warlingham Sainsburys. It takes maybe 30 minutes from West Croydon.

Keen walkers might like to note that the *Good Companions* is on the London Loop. Handy for walks through Riddlesdown or Kings Wood, and convenient for working up an appetite if you're so inclined!

*Sheila Garratty*

**There will be a Spring Lunch as usual - but the date and venue are not yet arranged . Make sure you're on our mailing list if you want to be advised.**



## The Bank of England Museum

Bartholomew Lane: 1.45pm on 29th March

We shall see an audiovisual show, and visit the museum and shop (alas no free samples!) Entrance is free but numbers are limited, so you must book in advance. First come, first served!

The museum documents the history of the Bank of England since its formation in 1694. Displays include historical banknotes, coins and even Roman gold bars. There is also a collection of weapons, including pikes and muskets,

used to defend against robbery.

There are also many fine paintings, and the permanent exhibits include a look into the fantastic detail put into banknotes throughout history in order to deter forgeries. Visitors are also encouraged to take the mental aptitude tests that applicants joining the bank in Victorian London were required to pass and are given the opportunity to hold a genuine gold bar.

*Joan Price*

## Garden visits

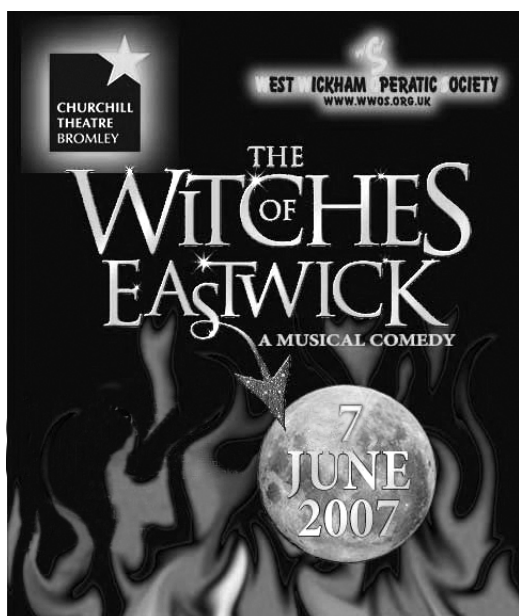
Jack Wheeler's Japanese garden: 15th May

In May, when it will be at its best, we have again arranged to visit **Jack Wheeler's Japanese garden**. Some of you may remember Jack from the CU, and some may remember his delightful garden from our visit in 2005. The garden is in Sevenoaks, close to the station so it is quite feasible to get there by public transport. We can also arrange lifts in members' cars.

There is a limit to the number who

can visit at any one time, about 20, so we are planning two sessions, one morning and one afternoon.

In July, Judy is organising a visit to **Great Comp Garden**, a few miles east of Sevenoaks. Features of Great Comp are the 'ruins', follies which blend into the gardens and provide focal points for the hardy and near-hardy plants which are the garden's main attribute and include a huge collection of Salvias.



## Musical Theatre 2007

*The Witches of Eastwick: 7th June*

We have just enjoyed two fine local shows: West Wickham Operatic Society's production of **Titanic** at the Churchill Theatre, and Croydon Stagers' tapdance spectacular **42nd Street** at the Ashcroft. Stagers' next show will be **Thoroughly Modern Millie**, another small-town-girl's dreams-come-true story set between the wars in Manhattan, with lots of song and dance. This will be about the same time next year.

Meanwhile, WWOS offer **The Witches of Eastwick**. As you will

know if you have read the book or seen the film starring Jack Nicholson, Cher, Michelle Pfeiffer and Susan Sarandon, three single women in a picturesque village have their wishes granted - at a cost - when a mysterious and flamboyant man arrives in their lives. (I wonder, will they fly?)

We shall book for the matinee on 7 June. Members who are already on our theatre mailing list will receive a booking form. Let us know if you want to be added.

*Philip Talmage*

## Music Hall

Wickham Hall, West Wickham

I must confess to a vested interest in the West Wickham Pantomime Society. I help front-of-house and as official photographer, although I have never ventured on stage, either as cast or as crew. That I leave to my daughter Jess, who, this year, plays Ali Baba. Margaret Norton's grand-daughter Kathryn is too busy with A-levels at present, but has also been in the cast recently. Whether you're aged 8 or 80, the show is always great family fun: see the ad for details.

At other times of the year, a small group from the WWPS - half a dozen performers plus accompa-

nist - will put on musical entertainments: songs, comic monologues, maybe a sketch or two, and a sing-along (song sheet supplied). They will do a show for us, to take place at Wickham Hall, which is just off West Wickham High Street, starting at 2.30 on a midweek afternoon in late spring or summer. It will take about an hour, afternoon tea to follow. We plan to make **no charge** for the show, as long as we can attract a worthwhile audience.

Please return the booking form if you hope to go and would like to be advised when the event has been arranged.

*Philip Talmage*

## The Whitgift Archive

Whitgift School, South Croydon

The Archivist, Bill Wood, is keen to show us some of their treasures, which date back 400 years, and which for security reasons they do not publicise overmuch. Googling for "Whitgift archives" will lead you to a site with a few of the more recent items, which include a rendition of the school song; the line "Adeste Seniores" could well serve as a motto for the Fellowship!

However, they are very busy coping with academic researchers, and the archive itself can accommodate groups of not more than six at a time (and is unsuitable for disabled access). Before arranging a visit, therefore, we wish to gauge the likely level of interest.

*Philip Talmage*

| Month | Date    | Organiser    | Event                               | Venue  | Time            |
|-------|---------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Jan   | Tue 9   | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| Jan   | Thu 18  | RS           | Royal Parks Walk †                  | Embankment Underground   | 11:00           |
| Feb   | Tue 13  | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| Feb   | Thu 15  | JC           | Buffet lunch                        | Fairfield Halls, Croydon                                       | 13:00           |
| Feb   | Mon 26  | JD           | Backstage and front-of-house tour   | Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (two tours)                   | 12:15 and 14:15 |
| Feb   | Wed 28  | SG           | Coffee morning †                    | Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham                              | 10:30           |
| Mar   | Tue 13  | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| Mar   | Wed 21  | SG           | Pub lunch                           | Good Companions, Hamsey Green                                  | 12:00           |
| Mar   | Thu 29  | JP           | Bank of England Museum              | Meet at the Bartholomew Lane entrance, off Threadneedle Street | 13:45 for 14:00 |
| Apr   | Tue 10  | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| Apr   | tba     |              | Spring Lunch                        | tba  | tba             |
| Apr   | Wed 25  | Colin Hunt   | London Walk (guided)                | tba  | tba             |
| May   | Tue 8   | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| May   | Tue 15  | Chris House  | Jack Wheeler's Japanese Garden      | Sevenoaks (two groups)   | 10:00 and 14:00 |
| May   | Wed 30  | SG           | Coffee morning †                    | Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham                              | 10:30           |
| Jun   | Thu 7   | PT           | WWOS <i>The Witches of Eastwick</i> | Churchill Theatre, Bromley                                     | 14:30           |
| Jun   | Tue 12  | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| Jun   | tba     | PT           | Music Hall and afternoon tea        | Wickham Hall, West Wickham                                     | 14:30           |
| Jul   | Tue 10  | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| Jul   | tba     | JD           | Great Comp Garden                   | Platt, near Borough Green, Kent                                | tba             |
| Jul   | tba     | Dave Newland | River Walk                          | Kingston - Richmond  | tba             |
| Aug   | Tue 14  | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| Aug   | tba     | JD           | Country Walk                        | tba  | tba             |
| Sep   | Tue 11  | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| Oct   | Tue 9   | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| Nov   | Tue 13  | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |
| Nov   | *Thu 22 | PT           | WWOS <i>show to be announced</i>    | Churchill Theatre, Bromley                                     | 14:30           |
| Nov   | *Thu 29 | PT           | Croydon Stagers                     | Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon                                      | 15:00           |
| Dec   | Wed 5   |              | Christmas Lunch                     | Aerodrome Hotel, Purley Way                                    | 12:15 for 13:00 |
| Dec   | Tue 11  | JC           | Coffee morning †                    | White Hart, Brasted  | 10:30           |

**NOTES:** For organisers' contact details, see list of committee members and other event organisers on p.2  
† No booking is required for events with the † symbol  
\* Dates and /or times of starred events are liable to alteration

## STOP PRESS: Renewals of staff insurances

One of our members has advised that their latest renewal schedule showed a cover change not requested (i.e. Business cover included & costed). We understand that a records trans-

fer is taking place and members are advised to check their renewals carefully, as always, to ensure the correct cover (and underwriting) is provided. If you have any problems please

phone Lynne Crookshank on 01603 681096. The next issue of *In Touch* due shortly we understand will explain details.

Chris House