



Newsletter December 2007

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The 2007 Christmas Luncheon

David Newman

Our Christmas Luncheon was held on Wednesday, 5th December at the Aerodrome Hotel and was attended by 72 of our members. We had a number of compliments regarding the food, dining room decoration, table service and bonhomie from those who attended the Luncheon. The Hotel has increased the parking facilities and there was an attendant on hand to direct drivers to a parking space. There were also sufficient bar staff available to enable everyone to have a Christmas drink prior to the meal. Hopefully we will see more of our members attend next year to meet ex-colleagues and friends. Here are some of us enjoying drinks before the meal:



A Merry Christmas to all our members!

Making more of the Internet

We have submitted a proposal for an automatic facility on the Fellowship website, whereby members will be able to select the kinds of information they would like to receive via email. Meanwhile, we maintain manually a list of local members' email addresses, to which we occasionally send reminders and other messages.

If you are already on our local email list, you will receive a copy of this newsletter via email. (And if you don't, this will be because we don't know your current email address – if you have one.) You might conveniently save the email version in an appropriately named folder on your computer, rather than storing the paper copy. Or, of course, you can easily delete it! We send out notices of forthcoming events to those who are on our

separate lists. Most of our event organisers have email themselves, so if you want to make bookings or have queries, it's an easy way to contact them.

To add yourself to our email list, just send an email to philip_talmage@bigfoot.com.

If you have recently visited our web page on the Fellowship site, you will see that – at last – it is being kept up to date. (The inside back cover of *In Touch* tells how to access the website.) For this, we are grateful to Alan Emmins.

Additionally, you can find photographs taken at some of our events – including the above – at www.flickr.com/groups/avivafellowship/. If you join the group, you can upload your own photos too.

How to join in

For many of our events (identified by a "†" in the Diary of Events) you can just turn up; for others, you have to book with the organiser. See the list of committee members and other organisers for contact details.

We have five special mailing lists, to which we send advance details and booking forms. These are for Houses and Gardens; Lunches; Museums and Galleries; Theatre trips, and Walks. Notify Philip Talmage if you want to join any of these.

John Ward will be stepping down as Chairman at the AGM, while remaining on the committee, and two other committee members (Colin Hunt and David Newman) will be retiring after years of service. We shall need replacements! We also need members to organise events – this isn't necessarily very onerous – and just to help out from time to time with things like mailing these newsletters.

Please contact John Ward or Philip Talmage if you think you can help in any way, and /or to suggest events/visits that may interest you and

is to the Victorian engine rooms, housing the steam engines which once powered the bridge lifts. The entrance to the exhibition is in the northern tower of the bridge, on the upstream side.

Joan Price

Royal Parks Walk

11am on 18th March; free

Last January, our planned walk through London's Royal Parks ran into truly awful weather – so we shall try again, but, this time, in the week before Easter. We shall meet at 11am on Thursday 18th March at Embankment Underground station (the western entrance, facing uphill towards Charing Cross), 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 booking required - just turn up!

Roger Smith

Southwark – guided tour

10.45 for 11.00 on 16 April; cost £6

A Blue Badge guide will take us to see the Cathedral, Borough Market, Golden Hind, Clink Jail, secret gardens, the Globe Theatre, a galleried inn and other features of this ancient district. Meet by the escalators in London Bridge station at 10.45.

Judy Dumbrell

Lunch at the Good Companions

Wednesday 6 February, 12:15 for 12:45; cost £8.50

Booking is already under way for this lunch; members who have registered on our special mailing list will receive booking forms after Christmas.

Patricia Pegg

AGM and buffet lunch

Thursday 12 February; no charge

Do put into your diary 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. This is your opportunity to get involved with the Fellowship, if you haven't already, and to meet other members.

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.

Maggie Mahoney

Tower Bridge Exhibition

11.30 on 6 March; cost £4

We have arranged a group visit to the Tower Bridge exhibition. After an introductory talk, we shall be free to take the "self-guided tour", which lasts about 1 – 1½ hours. A lift will take us to the high-level walkways, 42 metres above the river, from which photographs can be taken unobstructed by glass. The second part of the tour

Guided walk - Bletchingley

10.30 on 29 April; cost £2

Peter Fernée, who guided us expertly around Godstone, will now show us the ancient village of Bletchingley. We shall meet outside the church, in which the tour starts – sitting down! There is no difficult terrain. After approx. two hours, those who wish will be able to continue for another hour to see more distant sites at the back of the village. Three local pubs offer lunch. There's no need to book; just turn up.

David Broom

Denbies Wine Estate

London Road, Dorking; 7 May, 11.00 am; cost TBA

Set in the spectacular scenery of the Surrey Hills, Denbies is one of the largest privately owned vineyards in Europe. When we visited two years ago, members were so impressed by the experience and by the quality of the wines that we are going again.

Denbies is just north of Dorking, on the A24, and 15 minutes' walk from Dorking station. Our visit will start with the winery tour, which is entirely indoors, lasts 50 minutes, and ends in the magnificent cellars, where we shall be able to taste and enjoy three different wines. Light lunches are available in the bright and airy Conservatory Restaurant. Then in the afternoon, the Denbies

train will take us at a leisurely pace around the vineyard. The tour has a full commentary and follows the North Downs Way to some of the best viewing spots in the vineyard, looking across Mole Valley to Box Hill.

Also at the estate are a kitchen garden, nursery outlet, and gift shop, where the wines are on sale.

John Ward

Annie Warbucks

West Wickham Operatic Society

**Churchill Theatre, Bromley, on Thursday
29 May, 2.15 pm; cost TBA**

Annie Warbucks is the sequel to the musical Annie, which WWOS have just presented. The story begins immediately after Annie ended, on Christmas morning in 1933. It involves Oliver Warbucks' search for a bride (as he cannot lawfully adopt unless he is married) ... a plot to bankrupt him and bump him off and his slow realisation of his attraction to Grace!

A gaggle of cute little girls seeking parents, Warbucks staff including Drake, Mrs Pugh and Mrs Greer, Sandy, the dog and President Franklin D. Roosevelt return to take part in the shenanigans. It all ends happily for most, but not without a few surprises, sub-plots, new comic-book characters, new sets and new show-stopping songs and dances.

Philip Talmage

Penshurst Place and Gardens

10.45 for 11.00 on 18 June; cost £8.50

Built in the 14th century, this grade 1-listed medieval manor house was substantially enlarged in the 16th and 17th centuries. It has been used as a setting for films and TV series. The photos at <http://tinyurl.com/2hke8g> give a good impression of the exterior and grounds. The State Rooms hold a wonderful collection acquired by generations of the Sidney family.

We have booked a private tour of the house at 11.00 am (before it opens to the general public); meet in the car park at 10.45. Afterwards, we shall be free to wander the grounds, visit the museum, shop & restaurant etc.

Penshurst lies between Edenbridge and Tunbridge Wells. By car, take the Hildenborough exit from the A21.

Judy Dumbrell

A country walk

Sometime in July

We are also planning, provisionally, a walk in the Penshurst / Chiddingstone area of Kent, which is not only very pretty, but, surprisingly, also very easily accessible from the Croydon area by public transport. (But beware – Penshurst station is a considerable distance from the village!)

Dave and Ann Newland

Committee

Chairman: John Ward (*will retire at AGM*)

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Colin Hunt (*will retire at AGM*)

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David Newman (*will retire at AGM*)

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Web correspondent

Alan Emmins

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Diary of Events 2008

Month	Date	Organiser	Event	Venue	Time
Jan	Tue 8	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
Feb	Wed 6	PP	Pub lunch	Good Companions, Hamsey Green	12:15 for 12:45
Feb	Tue 12	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
Feb	Thu 21	MM	Buffet lunch AGM	Fairfield Room, Fairfield Halls, Croydon	13:00 14:00
Feb	Wed 27	MM	Coffee morning †	Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
Mar	Thu 6	JP	Exhibition	Tower Bridge	11:30
Mar	Tue 11	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
Mar	Tue 18	RS	Royal Parks walk †	Embankment tube (entrance facing uphill)	11:00
Apr	Tue 8	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
Apr	Wed 16	JD	Guided walk around Southwark	London Bridge Station, top of main escalators	10:45 for 11:00
Apr	Wed 29	DB	Guided walk around Bletchingley †	Bletchingley Parish Church	10:30
May	Wed 7	JW	Tour and wine tasting	Denbies Vineyard, London Road, Dorking	11:00
May	Tue 13	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
May	Wed 28	MM	Coffee morning †	Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
May	Thu 29	PT	West Wickham Operatic Society: <i>Annie Warbucks</i>	Churchill Theatre, Bromley	14:30
Jun	Tue 10	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
Jun	Wed 18	JD	Country house visit	Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge	TBA
Jul	Tue 8	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
Jul	Thu 10	PP	Pub lunch	Good Companions, Hamsey Green	12:15 for 12:45
Jul		Dave & Ann	Country Walk	Penshurst / Chiddingstone	TBA
Jul	Thu 24	MM	Coffee morning †	Chartwell	10:30
Aug	Tue 12	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
Aug	Wed 27	MM	Coffee morning †	Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
Sep	Tue 9	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
Sep	Tue 16	PP	Lunch	TBA	TBA
Oct	Tue 14	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
Nov	Tue 11	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30
Nov	Wed 26	MM	Coffee morning †	Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
Nov	Thu 27	PT	Croydon Stagers <i>Anything Goes</i>	Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon	TBA
Dec	Wed 3		Christmas luncheon	Aerodrome Hotel, Purley Way	12:15 for 13:00
Dec	Tue 9	MM	Coffee morning †	White Hart, Brasted	10:30

NOTES:

For organisers' contact details, see list of committee members and other event organisers

† No booking is required for events with the † symbol

* Dates and /or times of starred events are liable to alteration