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Secretary: Maggie Mahoney

**Aviva
Fellowship**



Croydon Area

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NEWSLETTER Summer 2017

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EDITORIAL

At our most recent Committee Meeting we discussed the Diary for 2018. I feel tempted to contact the powers-that-be to ask if they could send us our Fellowship Diaries 18 months in advance. (only joking) But this shows that your Committee never stops!

However, faces sometimes change and we welcome Viv Murray to the Committee, who took over the reins

at the AGM as Membership Secretary from Alan Emmins who had done the job for many years. Our sincere thanks to you, Alan, for all your hard work.

Below, our Chairman highlights the range of events that we offer, but there are links on our web-site to other Fellowships, where there are yet more events that you could attend. Do look if you can. Dave Newland

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I hope you are all enjoying the hot summer. This is the time of year to relax so we can sit outside and don't need our umbrellas. *[Except to protect us from the sun! Ed.]*

The Croydon Fellowship has had another busy year with visits, walks, lunches and coffee mornings. As you probably saw in 'In Touch' Jean and George Cannell celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary - congratulations to them. Later in the year we are planning a visit to Kew Gardens - why not take a river trip from Westminster Pier - so I hope you can join us.

If you are about to go away on a summer holiday I hope you have an enjoyable time and your committee looks forward to seeing you at a future event. Brian Welch

FROM OUR REGIONAL CHAIRMAN

National Representatives are meeting the company again about 'Heritage' issues sometime in September. Discounts and APR are still likely to be key issues in the success or otherwise of the conversions. The majority of Members are happy with the lower premiums but are uncertain about the exact cover they've lost. Travel policies for over 70's is also an issue and we would welcome our Members' feedback?

My concern is ensuring we communicate better with pensioners, as acknowledged by the Chairman at the Aviva AGM! I'm going to ask all our London Areas to ensure that their Committee members are aware and that they would be happy to hear from you with your thoughts. Chris House

GEORGE AND JEAN CANNELL



I would like to add my congratulations to George and Jean. They were the first couple that I met when I went to a coffee morning at Woldingham sixteen years ago, and they warmly greeted me into the Fellowship fold. It was great to see them at the 'Horseshoe' lunch recently - see picture.

A small correction. The item in 'In Touch' mis-quoted the date of their anniversary. It was actually April 20th, not 21st.

Anyway, whatever the date, well done the pair of you. Hope to see you at another event soon.

Ed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

As you can see, there is no letting up of activities. There must be something for you among the following, so do come along and join us. Detailed information will be available for particular events nearer the time. And don't forget the coffee mornings as well – see the Diary for dates and locations.

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

Quiz Night – Whyteleafe Football Club - Monday 7th August

It's thinking-cap time again, but entries for this will have closed by the time this Newsletter is published. If you are going, hope you do well.

Visit - Hampton Court – Tuesday 22nd August



An a-maze-ing place to visit! A chance to see a Royal Palace with its State Apartments, Kitchens, the Art Gallery and beautiful grounds. Booking details will now either be available or imminent.



Buffet Lunch – Croydon Park Hotel - Wednesday 6th September



Has a year really passed since the last buffet lunch at the Croydon Park? There is always plenty to eat at this meal – the problem is what not to have. Do leave some room for the dessert or the cheese and biscuits



Visit - Kew Gardens – Tuesday 19th September



The arrangements of this event are being finalised, but a possible river trip followed by a visit to Kew is something to be looked forward to. Every time I visit Kew there appears to be something new on offer. This is a trip not to be missed.



Visit – Charterhouse in Clerkenwell – Wednesday 18th October

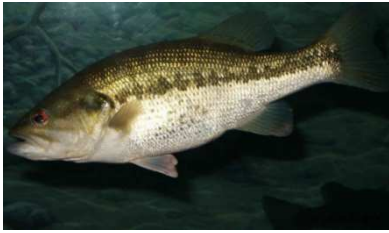


No, not the school – that is in Surrey, but it was once in London.

I am told that one of my ancestors attended the school when it was in the Capital, but we think it only a tale! Can't find any proof.



Fish'n'Chips Lunch – McDermott's, Forestdale – Wednesday 8th November



Two months will have passed since we will last have had a lunch together, so you must be getting hungry by now, so here is your chance to tuck into some good olde English fayre. Pass the salt and vinegar.



Autumn Stroll – Belgravia – Thursday 16th November



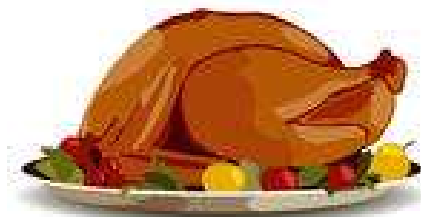
We hold our visits to McDermott's to build up your strength for my Spring and Autumn walks! This year's Autumn Stroll is in central London, starting at Victoria Station. We shall be visiting Belgravia, the domain of the Dukes of Westminster.



We shall see blue plaques, pubs, statues, pubs, extremely des-reses, pubs, embassies, pubs – oh and some pubs. Walking around London can be very thirsty work.

P.S. I see that the toilets at Victoria Station are now free.

New Year Lunch – Jury's Inn, Croydon – Friday 5th January 2018



What did one plate say to the other?



Yes, two thousand and eighteen! Our main meal of the year, and a wonderful way to get the Croydon Fellowship 2018 programme under way. Come for a welcome drink, a three-course lunch with wine and our Chairman's New Year jokes. Where else can you be?

Other events in 2018

Yes, we have another full programme being prepared for next year. Next year's diary of events will be available with the next Newsletter. Remember that if you would like to contribute an item to a future Newsletter or would like to organise or help with an event, please let me or any Committee know. Ed

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

The Museum of London - Monday 20th February

We do like our outings at Aviva! Off we went again, this time to the Museum of London, to see if we really knew the facts about the Great Fire of 1666.



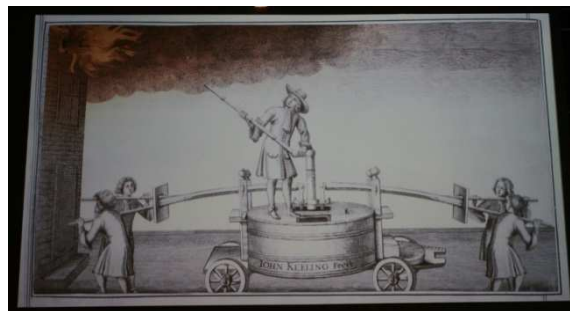
Undeterred by the continuing threat of train strikes, we gathered on the 20th February, to see if what we thought we knew, was actually correct.

The facts are overwhelming. The fire, probably starting in Pudding Lane, raged from the 2nd to 5th September. It gutted the mediaeval city, destroying 70,000 of the 80,000 homes within the walls.

Why did it spread so quickly? Well, it was not because of thatched roofs. Thatch had been banned long before the fire. The ban is still in place, and the modern Globe Theatre had to get special permission for its roof. However, most houses were built of wood, and the streets were very narrow, with the upper storeys being almost within touching distance of the houses opposite.

It had been a dry summer, with high winds that night. Then there was the Mayor! He refused permission to make fire breaks by destroying houses. He didn't want to have to pay for them to be rebuilt! The only water supply was the Thames and water had to be hand pumped from the river edge.

[See the picture of the contraption to pump the water. Ed.]



Thousands of people lost everything. They tried to flee with the little they could carry, but the streets got blocked with carts and barrows. Many only had the clothes they stood up in.

King Charles the Second ordered that the city be rebuilt, and because of the urgency, the same street plans were used, missing an opportunity to rebuild with wider streets.

The exhibition told all of this, with many interesting artefacts on show. What fascinated me the most was a heap of melted metal hooks and eyes welded into something looking more like a lump of coal. There were also padlocks, keys etc. so burnt, that only the x-ray photos showed their origins.

Once we had explored, most of us headed for coffee and lunch, before exploring more of this fascinating Museum.

Judy Dumbrill

[Thank you, Judy, for organising yet another interesting and knowledge-gaining visit.]

* * * * *

Remembering 1916 - Tuesday 14th March - Whitgift School



In March, the final month of “Remembering 1916”, we took advantage of free admission to enjoy a guided tour of this amazing exhibition on our door step. Costumes and artefacts, some from local collections, were arranged into tableaux to tell the story not just of the British trenches at the Somme but of life behind the French and German lines and in the drawing room of those waiting for news at home. Laurence Smith impressed us and our guide by recognising a brass button stick and being able to demonstrate how it was used to protect uniforms whilst polishing buttons.

Afterwards we enjoyed lunch in the ‘Edwardian Café’ and some of us returned to the exhibition to learn about the Battle of Jutland and Whitgift School’s link to the Red Baron. Carol Courtney

Bluebell Walk - Friday 28th April – Selsdon Wood.



It amazes me how many bluebell woods there are around Croydon, and the display of these beautiful flowers in Selsdon Wood was exceptional. Indeed, one of the paths has even been named ‘Bluebell Grove’, a fully justified name.

16 of us, accompanied by Arthur, the dog (now a regular attender on my walks) started at the ‘Forestdale Arms’, walked along Yew Tree Way (An utterly in-appropriate name – I think there is only one yew tree along its length!) and into the woods, up a short incline and along several paths, most of which are identified by wooden plaques affixed to trees. Half way round we came to a small pool, much to Arthur’s delight. We returned via Bluebell Grove, Beech Grove (entirely lined by oak trees!) and Yew Tree Way to the ‘Forestdale Arms’ for a welcome drink. Dave Newland



Treasure Trail - Wednesday 7th June – Battersea Park



Four teams completed the trail on a bright and windy day. Two of the teams solved (or guessed correctly) all the clues and found the correct de-activation code – well done. There was a clue on a map of Gallipoli, another behind Brown Dog, two were on manhole covers and two on sculptures by Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. One clue was a prime number and another had us counting how many times the words “peace” and



“mile” occurred on a description board. Multiplying the answers was the easy bit. We started and finished at the Pear Tree Café overlooking the boating lake – a lovely day. Carol Courtney.

[Many thanks, Carol, for the two events you organised. We all knew that 1,889 is a prime number, didn’t we? Ed.]

Summer Walk - Epping Forest– Monday 17th July

Why do I always seem to choose a hot day for my summer walks? This year was no exception, although there was a certain amount of shading by trees, it was, after all, in a forest, but like other forests it is not all trees. A number of us met problems with Southern (how unusual!) in getting to London Bridge, but all 14 of us and Arthur managed to arrive at the start point of Chingford Station allowing us to get away on schedule. (Cont. over)

We started by walking along the London Loop to the village of Sewardstonebury (Try saying that after a couple of pints!) and on up a rather hot open field (The views from the top were worth the effort) to the Gilwell Park Scout Camp, of fond teenage memories. We then followed a small part of GMT (Greenwich



Meridian Trail), which vaguely follows the line of guess-what and then crossed part of the West Essex Golf Club onto a narrow path through grass and bushes (where a young deer appeared ahead of us) arriving at 'The Owl' pub for our lunch stop. Have you noticed that 'Arthur' and 'pub' do seem to crop up in my reports?. After a short walk down a road, we entered the



Forest once more, walking along 'Green Ride', also part of the London Loop. A diversion took us to the beautiful Connaught Water, which feeds the river Ching and where Rob Hall claims he caught his very first fish as a lad – a 10 metre long pike, so he tells me! We finished the walk at the 'Butler's Retreat' café with tea and/or ice-cream, passing some of the horned cattle that graze in the Forest on the way.

A short distance back to Chingford Station and our return home.

Dave Newland

EATING AND DRINKING

Fish'n'Chip Supper, McDermott's Forestdale in April; Pub Lunch, 'Horseshoe' Warlingham in May, Italian Lunch, 'Gi Trattoria' West Wickham in July and various Coffee Mornings, at least one a month in Clocktower Café, Croydon (with breakfast available quarterly) and another in most months in various Garden Centres.

We appear to have been just as hungry and thirsty as ever. No individual reports, but here are a few pictures from the 'Horseshoe' and Italian lunches:



Photographs:

Remember, if anyone would like a copy of any of my photographs, please let me know and I will be pleased to let you have a copy, preferably as an e-mail attachment.

Dave Newland

Photo Sources: Charterhouse: Charterhouse Web Site, Remembering 1916: Carol Courtney, Gi Waiters: Brian Welch All others by the Editor