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**Treasurer:** Chris House  
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## NEWSLETTER – Summer 2012

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### EDITORIAL

I have called this edition 'Summer 2012', although so far summer has been somewhat spasmodic!

I am afraid that I am rather late with this edition. My computer gave up the ghost a couple of months back and I have been undergoing a steep learning curve with the new one. It has also occurred to me that it would be better in future to produce the summer copy in August, after your committee consider the following year's possible events.

In my last Newsletter, I (somewhat with tongue-in-cheek) asked if anyone knew when General Accident or Norwich Union were founded. I was surprised to receive a couple of responses, so I have included a short item on GA and NU on page 5.

Some of our members have been involved in the Olympics (not in actual competition, I hasten to add) so I will include an item on this in the next Newsletter, but do read the article on Page 1 of the latest

edition of 'In Touch', featuring our website manager Ian Rae.

My thanks to all the Committee and others who have, in any way, been involved in arranging or helping with events.

I would like to welcome Chris Garrett to the Committee as Deputy Treasurer. Chris House has intimated that he only wishes to continue as Treasurer until the 2013 AGM, although, if he does retire, I doubt if he'll be working any less hard for the Fellowship. Thanks, Chris. DN

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### CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

We have had another busy year in the Croydon Area

A visit to the London Fire Brigade Museum; our AGM at a new venue with slightly more members present; 2 visits to Trinity House; a pub lunch and a fish and chips supper; a London Walk which unfortunately was almost a washout; an excellent Diamond Jubilee lunch at which many members wore clothes from the 50's.

More events were also planned – a visit to Guildford and a walk from Betchworth as well as a coffee morning at Chartwell, all in July. Due to the wet weather the Guildford visit was cancelled and we hope to be able to re-arrange on 12<sup>th</sup> September. The walk also had to be cancelled because of the soggy and muddy ground. The Chartwell coffee morning went well and we were all able to sit outside in the hot sun.

On 1<sup>st</sup> August we had a lunch at Gi Trattoria in West Wickham. 31 people attended and as always the food and service was excellent. A visit to Strawberry Hill House is scheduled for 15th August and this is fully booked.

Your Committee is certainly very busy and I wish to thank them for their hard work

Giardino's restaurant in Alders has now closed so we need to find an alternative location for our monthly coffee morning. In July we went to the Clocktower Cafe next to the Library and 25 members attended. It was very pleasant so we will go again in August to see if this venue is still acceptable.

Our website now has a link into the Maidstone Invicta website which in turn has links to the Bristol and Cardiff/Swansea websites so you can find out what is happening in other parts of the country.

I hope you all have a pleasant summer, were able to enjoy the Olympics and that the weather remains warm and sunny.

Brian Welch August 2012

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please note that more details of imminent events can be found on the web site, from where application forms can be printed where relevant OR contact the organiser(s).

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### GUILDFORD – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September



Another victim of the weather. It has been re-scheduled to the above date, to include a tour of the town and a boat trip on the River Wey. Application forms are on the web site or from the organiser, Hilary Kearney (01342 321834).



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### HORSESHOE LUNCH – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September

We shall be returning to the Horseshoe for our autumn pub lunch. Details are available on the web-site, or will have been sent out recently. Book your meal now.

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### BRUNCH at the CLOCKTOWER – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October

### FISH & CHIP LUNCH, McDERMOTT'S, FORESTDALE – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Instead of the usual coffee morning at the Clocktower, on 9<sup>th</sup> October we are hoping to enjoy brunch there, so do come and enjoy your eggs and bacon.

And the popular Fish & Chip lunch is again at the award-winning restaurant – 11.30 for 12.00.



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### WESTMINSTER ABBEY – Week Commencing 15<sup>th</sup> October

Judy is arranging a conducted tour of Westminster Abbey. This is bound to be a much sought-after event, so make a note now.

The actual date is still to be confirmed, but will be advised in good time.



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### LONDON 'SEA to SEA' WALK - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November



I have arranged a walk on 'dry land' from 'Sea to Sea' i.e. from BatterSEA to ChelSEA, through the park, beside the Thames and over Albert Bridge, finishing at a pub in time for lunch. Full details nearer the time.

I propose to have another go at the Country Walk in July next year.

DN

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### NEW YEAR LUNCH - HALLMARK AERODROME HOTEL 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013

### And AGM – Location to be advised 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Make a note of the dates of these major events.

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### OTHER EVENTS proposed for 2013

As Ronnie Barker used to say, 'In an action-packed programme'! In addition to the 'regulars', we are looking into tours of The Guildhall and Jewish Museum, a quiz night, visits to Amberley Museum and the Globe Theatre, and computer training (see item on Page 4)

## REPORTS ON SOME RECENT EVENTS

### FIRE BRIGADE MUSEUM, SOUTHWARK - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February



Probably a portent for the coming months, we went through snow to this event. We saw examples of fire-fighting equipment used over the last 150 years or so! The museum is located in the London Fire Brigade's training establishment, so we also saw through the windows fire-fighting staff undergoing their training.

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### TRINITY HOUSE, TOWER HILL - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May



Coat of Arms woven into carpet



Bell from Royal Yacht 'Britannia'



'Patricia'

Trinity House on Tower Hill was built by Samuel Wyatt in the 1790's for the corporation responsible for lighthouses around England and Wales. Only the facade survived a fire bomb in 1940 but it has been restored to the original designs and colours from photos. Some of the paintings were lost in the fire but most of the treasures have been returned from saved storage. On our enjoyable visit on sunny days in March and May we saw model ships and lighthouses, fascinating portraits and splendid rooms. CC

Would you believe that on the May visit it was so hot the guide amended the order of viewing to enable us to have some air conditioning! Ed

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### SOMEWHERE-ELSE LONDON - Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April



Just Walking in the Rain



... and wet out here!



\*The Social Housing – No kidding

On one of the coldest, wettest days of April, 16 brave (foolhardy?) members met at the Embankment Tube station for a fascinating walk round some of the less well known areas of the South Bank.

Crossing the river, & holding on to our rain hats, we went first to the newly refurbished Festival Hall. where there are the most marvellous views from the café balcony. You can see from The Houses of Parliament right along to St Pauls Cathedral & Canary Wharf in the far distance. It really is breath-taking.

Then out into the rain again, & along to Gabriel's Wharf, a pretty enclave of shops and cafes. After a long battle, a Community Association managed to purchase a large area of land, and develop it for the local people, rather than commercial developers. There are shops, social housing units\* and a pretty park, all very attractive, and the rents from these are ploughed back into the community.

We then left the river & headed towards the Stamford St area. Here many of the little lanes look as if nothing has changed since Dickens' time. Georgian terrace houses, some back to back, built with outside privies & standpipes for water, are now much sought after as pied-a-terres and fetch vast sums of money.

This is the area much used by film makers, who pay the residents to park their cars elsewhere and come in with earth & sand to cover the yellow lines, and add the odd horse & cart for authenticity. One house even had an old 'fire mark' on the wall, to prove it was insured in case of fire.

Eventually we walked through 'The Cut' & came to the Old Vic, where the weather had its last fling, & pelted us with hail. We rapidly said goodbye to Stephanie, our fantastic guide, and fled in search of hot food & drink

A good day, in spite of the weather

JD

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## PUB LUNCH – HORSESHOE, WARLINGHAM - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May



The refurbished conservatory at the ‘Horseshoe’ served us a fine sit down meal – no queuing up for a carvery, the food was brought to your place.

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## JUBILEE LUNCH – HALL MARK HOTEL, CROYDON - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June



As if Chris House hasn’t enough to do for the Fellowship, he organised a Jubilee Lunch, which about 50 people attended, including a few guests from other Fellowships. King Brian and Queen Maggie presided and we all offered our obeisance to their supreme majesties!

The menu had a 1950s theme, with popular music from that era being played in the background, although the sponge pudding did exceed one’s weekly ration of sugar! When was the last time we ate spam fritters?

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## OTHER EATING and DRINKING



R.I.P.



Chartwell



Gi Trattoria



Clocktower

As well as the Horseshoe and Jubilee lunches featured above and a Fish & Chip supper, we continued our popular coffee mornings at **Giardino's Restaurant in Allders**, second Tuesday each month until Allders went into administration. For the last couple of months, we have used the **Clocktower** café instead, and we shall continue to use this venue every second Tuesday of the month for the next few months at least (but note the possible arrangement for October above)- but the start time has **been brought forward to 10.00**. **Knight's of Woldingham** (February and May), **Polhill Garden Centre** (June) and **Chartwell** (July) have also been venues. And we have just enjoyed ‘La Dolce Vita’ at Gi Trattoria. Thanks to Maggie and Brian for organising these.

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## STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August

This occurred at the time of going to print and a report will appear in the next issue.

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## COMPUTER TRAINING



If there is sufficient demand, Chris Garrett has offered to provide computer training during 2013 at all levels, from new-to-the-subject to advice on individual problems for the experienced. At this stage he would appreciate an indication of the level of demand, so please advise him if you are interested – by e-mail, if you can!

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## Bill Hunter A former Chairman

It is with sadness that I have to pass on the news that Bill Hunter died on Saturday 28 January 2012, aged 88.

Many of you will remember Bill as Chairman of the Croydon Area Aviva Fellowship at its formation at the turn of the century and will fondly recall his questionable jokes at our luncheons.

His captaincy of the Sunday (Social) Cricket Eleven and his unique bowling action will both be long remembered by those who played with him MM

## Jack and Millie King

On a much happier note, earlier this year Jack and Millie celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



To think that when they were married I was a babe in arms, and, like several of our fellowship members, my wife was not even born then

And we are a pensioners' group!!

Also see the 'In Touch' item on

page 17, where you can read more about their wonderfully long marriage.

**Congratulations from all of us**

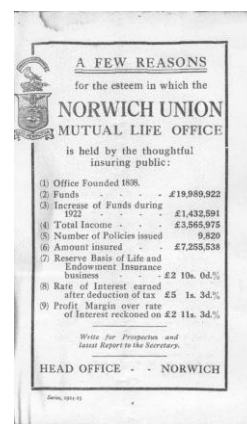
Ed.

## Norwich Union and General Accident

My thanks for communications from Geoff Clark and Barry Summerfield (our Regional Chairman) for providing me with some background about the founding of the Norwich Union and General Accident. Indeed, Geoff sent me a copy of an article about how the GA was formed. Briefly, like the formation of CU, it came about through 'events'. In the case of GA, it was accidents happening to farm workers in Scotland, and the company came into being in 1885, so make a note in your diaries for 2035 to celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup>.

Barry advises me that NU was created (as a fire and accident company) in 1797, and that he was invited to a celebration dinner in 1997 to celebrate their 200<sup>th</sup>. Interestingly, Geoff also sent me a copy of a NU advert from the mid-1920s, indicating that the life business began in 1808.

Additionally, Geoff also sent me an item from Pepys' Diary with an entry about Trinity House, and congratulations to him for the 'In Touch' prize letter (Page 15).



## YOUR COMMITTEE

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Brian WELCH (BW)</b>	020 8657 1354	brian.welch3@btinternet.com
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Carol COURTNEY (CC)</b>	01737 642 558	carol.courtney22@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Chris HOUSE (CH)</b>	020 8763 0890	housec@avivafellowship.force9.co.uk
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<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Alan EMMINS (AE)</b>	020 8651 4079	aemmins@f2s.com
	<b>Judy DUMBRILL (JD)</b>	01883 344 659	dj.dumbrill@ntlworld.com
	<b>Patricia PEGG (PP)</b>	01737 552 234	
	<b>Joan PRICE (JP)</b>	020 8651 0517	joan_price@btinternet.com

## OTHER CONTACTS

<b>Website Manager</b>	<b>Ian RAE (IR)</b>	020 8660 6910	ian@irmamusic.com
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Dave NEWLAND (DN)</b>	01737 551 048	dave.and.ann@classicfm.net
<b>Event Organiser</b>	<b>Hilary Kearney (HK)</b>	01342 3212 334	mhkearney@hotmail.co.uk

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## THE LOCATION OF THE VARIOUS COFFEE VENUES:

**Clocktower Cafe, Croydon Town Hall / Library Building complex, Katherine Street.** About five to ten minutes' walk from both East and West Croydon railway stations, on many bus routes (buses from the south of the Borough stop almost opposite) and a couple of minutes from the George Street tram stop. Queen Victoria (at least, her statue) is by the entrance to welcome you. Please note: These coffee mornings start at 10.00 a.m.

**The Dene Restaurant in Knights Garden Centre,** Woldingham Road, Woldingham, Surrey. CR3 7LA, a short walk from Woldingham Station or 2<sup>nd</sup> left at the Wapses Lodge Roundabout just past the Ann Summers building, if approaching from Croydon on A22.

**Chartwell,** Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent. TN16 1PS where there is also the opportunity to visit Sir Winston Churchill's home and to roam the gardens. Follow sign posts from Westerham village.

**Polhill Garden Centre.** At the top of Polhill on the **A224** between Bromley and Sevenoaks or off the M25 Junction 4. Look for the windmill.

Access by public transport is not easy for the last two venues, although an hourly bus service runs from Bromley (route 402) to Badgers Mount for Polhill, so please ask if you would like a lift, to see what we can arrange.

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## DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2012 – early 2013

Date	Organiser	Event	Venue	Time
<b>AUGUST</b>				
Wed 29	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
Tue 11	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00
Wed 12	HK	Conducted Tour	<b>Guildford</b>	<b>11.00</b>
Mon 17	CH/PP	Lunch	<b>Horseshoe, Woldingham</b>	<b>12.15 for 12.45</b>
Thu 27	MM	Coffee Morning†	Polhill Garden Centre	10:30
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
Tue 9	MM	*Brunch	<b>Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon</b>	<b>10:00</b>
w/c 15	JD	*London Walk	<b>Westminster Abbey</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
Wed 7	MM	Fish 'n' Chips Lunch	<b>McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Selsdon</b>	<b>11:30 for 12:00</b>
Tue 13	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00
Thu 22	DN	'Sea to Sea' Walk	<b>Chelsea, London</b>	<b>11.00</b>
Wed 28	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
Tue 11	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00
<b>JANUARY</b>				
Fri 4	CH/PP	New Year Lunch	<b>Hallmark Hotel, Purley Way, Croydon</b>	<b>12.15 for 12.45</b>
Tue 8	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
Tue 12	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00
Wed 27	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
<b>MARCH</b>				
Thu 7	MM	Buffet & AGM	<b>TBA Croydon</b>	<b>11.30</b>

**Notes:** For organisers' contact details, see list of committee members and other event organisers (Page 5).

For Coffee Morning locations, see top of page

† No booking is required for events with the † symbol. Just turn up.

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

**Please note:** When members have booked an event and cancel or do not turn up on the day, we will still bank their cheques as we need to cover our costs. Failure to appear could also stop other members on the waiting list from attending the event.