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NEWSLETTER –Summer 2013

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EDITORIAL

In the last Newsletter, you were asked if you wanted to continue receiving printed copies, otherwise we would assume you would obtain them from the web site. As the response was so minimal, we decided to relent and print in bulk again (about 500 copies). However, do read our Chairman's message, which suggests that we may not be able to do this much longer!

If you look at the top left of this page you will notice some changes. At the AGM, Chris House gave up the treasurer's job, as was indicated in the last Newsletter. Unfortunately, Chris Garrett also felt obliged to discontinue as Assistant Treasurer. Consequently, we agreed to hold the post of Deputy Chairman in abeyance, and Carol has taken over as Treasurer. Our thanks to all three. Having worked with

Carol on computerised accounting systems, I know our finances will still be in very safe hands. As I suspected, Chris H. hasn't completely withdrawn from 'active service' and was elected as a committee member.

So too was Sue Barber. Sue arranged the very successful lunch at The Croydon Park Hotel (see her report on the event), and is looking into theatre visits and other possibilities. Welcome to the Committee, Sue. (Her profile is on Page 5.) I fully endorse her last two paragraphs – do come and do suggest alternative activities. It has been really good to see some new faces (and some older ones after a break!) at recent events. If you haven't been to any of our 'get-togethers' do come. You'll be most welcome, I promise.
Dave Newland

Coming up Soon!

As well as the regular **Coffee mornings**, coming up in the next few months are:

Two lunches –**Autumn** at Hallmark Aerodrome Hotel, **Fish & Chips** at McDermott's

Three London visits – '**Shakespeare's and Dickens' London**', **Jewish Museum** and **The Autumn Stroll**

Please make a special note of these events. More details below

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

I hope you are all enjoying the hot summer weather (assuming it is still sunny when you are reading the Newsletter) but that you were also able to keep cool.

As you will be aware the Company is having to reduce costs and this includes the funds payable to the Fellowship. One consequence of this is that there will be no diaries or birthday cards for 2014. We still need to examine what the implications of the reduced funding will mean for our Croydon Area but hope that we can continue to arrange our usual events, albeit maybe asking members to pay an increased contribution.

Our schedule of events for the remainder of this year can be seen in this Newsletter and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during the year.
Brian Welch

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SHAKESPEARE'S AND DICKENS' LONDON Monday 16th September – NOTE NEW DATE



Another of our very informative conducted London walks. Full details are imminent, so put the date in your (final!) AVIVA diary.

It will be the best of times, so once more unto the breach, dear friends ...



JEWISH MUSEUM, CAMDEN TOWN Tuesday 24th September



Come and learn about the development of Judaism in Britain over the centuries; see the small display about the Holocaust; follow the life of a Jew from birth to death; read the 10 Commandments in Hebrew from the Torah scrolls!

Again, full details are imminent



AUTUMN LUNCH – HALLMARK AERODROME HOTEL Friday 11th October



We have now agreed a special Autumn Lunch with the Hallmark Aerodrome Hotel on the above date. We are honoured as our Aviva Company Secretary Kirstie Cooper has also agreed to attend. Kirstie Cooper will be able to tell us more about the highly publicised new direction the company is now taking. These corporate changes will in turn also affect us as Fellowship members.

This replaces the previously planned Pub Lunch at the 'Horseshoe', which has now been cancelled

And don't forget the FISH'N'CHIP LUNCH on Wednesday 6th November

AUTUMN STROLL – FROM FINSBURY PARK TO HIGHGATE Friday 22nd November



After last year's popular walk from 'Sea to Sea' this is another chance to take in some autumn air (and, hopefully, sunshine) for a gentle walk from **Finsbury Park** to **Highgate** along the 'Parkland Walk' (a long-time disused rail line, so fairly flat) and part of the 'Capital Ring'.



About the same distance as last year, and nothing too exhausting!

REPORTS ON SOME RECENT EVENTS

A further selection of pictures taken at some of these events will be available on the web site.

{Photographs taken at events are by the Editor except ‡ Carol and ‡‡ Beth Chipperfield}

BUFFET LUNCH AT THE CROYDON PARK HOTEL - Tuesday 26th February



In February I organised a 5 course buffet lunch at the Croydon Park Hotel. Approximately 74 people attended, of which for some this was their first event with the fellowship. I asked quite a few people how they felt about the food and location etc. and I got a very good response, so much so, I have organised our New Year's Lunch there on 3rd Jan 2014.



Sue Barber (‡)

In the last Newsletter, I showed a picture of Jack and Millie King who had celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary. Sadly, soon after our New Year lunch and just before this buffet lunch Jack died and (on this occasion) diners contributed to flowers for his forthcoming funeral.

Ed

GUILDHALL – Monday 25th March



The Guildhall



Standard Measures



A Crypt 'Guild' Window

On a bitter March day London's Guildhall was visited. Our guides gave us the history of the building which is part of the wider story of our ever changing capital city.

The building encompassed the glittering Great Hall with its statues, chandeliers and the standard imperial

measures; The Crypt (to which we were allowed special access – this is not normally available to the public) with its stained glass windows representing the various craft guilds; and down in the depths the remains of Roman Londinium.

Joan Price & Ed

TOWER OF LONDON – Tuesday 16th April



Changing Guard



Traitors' Gate



Avian Resident

Living so near to London, our members are really spoilt for choice when it comes to outings. This time we decided to really follow the tourist trail and go to THE TOWER

Our guide (an American from Oregon!) was brilliant, telling tales of ghosts & executions, pointing out the ravens, and the legend that if the ravens leave the Tower, Britain will fall.

This really worried Winston Churchill during WWII and the Wardens kept some in captivity in an Aviary so there were always birds on the Green.

After touring most of the Tower, we were free to get some lunch, visit the Crown Jewels, absolutely magnificent, & explore the Armoury. And it didn't rain!

Judy Dumbrill

OXTED TREASURE TRAIL - Wednesday 19th June



Initial Briefing



'Eureka – We've found it!' ‡



The Winners

On June 19th, one of many “the hottest day of the year so far”, twenty of us met on a street corner in Oxted to be briefed on the Treasure Trail. We had to deduce the murder weapon and who murdered Stanley Knife. Five teams set off to find their first clue and cross the Greenwich Meridian into the Western Hemisphere.

Each clue eliminated a murder suspect or weapon. Some clues were hard to find but all the teams managed to follow the route through the churchyard to Old Oxted and back again. We finished in the Oxted Inn and the prize chocolates went to “Old Farts United” team after a tie breaker.

The participants were enthusiastic and are encouraging us to run another Treasure Trail.

Carol Courtney

BROOKLANDS - Monday 15th July



Pavilion



1904 Cadillac



Concorde

By this time the heat was really on! We learnt that when motor racing first started, the organisers based things around horse racing – hence terms like ‘paddock’. We saw the remains of a Wellington bomber, and Allan Chipperfield was given special

permission to climb into the cockpit once more. For those of us who didn't have the ready £6000 to fly Concorde across the Atlantic, we had the chance of climbing aboard for £4 – but no champagne and caviar!

Ed



Our two RAF Veterans, Bert Fermin and Allan, by the Wellington Bomber ‡‡ In the cockpit once more ‡‡

Our other RAF man, Alan Dyke, sadly died a short while before the Brooklands visit, and by co-incidence his funeral was on the same day. A few moments silence was observed in his memory

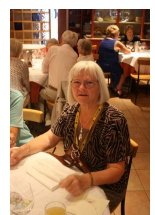
ITALIAN LUNCH: GI TRATTORIA, WEST WICKHAM. - Wednesday 7th August



Millie with other guests

As usual a very enjoyable meal, albeit some found farfalle followed by tiramisu quite a challenge! Service was first class and an indication of the meal's popularity was that several guests asked to see the restaurant's full menu in anticipation of a follow-up visit. It was lovely that Millie King could join us, and we all sang 'Happy Birthday' to Maggie.

Ed



Birthday girl

YOUR COMMITTEE

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SUE BARBER, our new Committee Member

My name is **Sue Barber**. In the 70's I used to work in the Croydon branch of the Commercial Union Assurance as a Commercial Underwriter and I was also on the Social & Canteen Committees as well as a First Aider for the company.

Over the years I have qualified as a British Wheel of Yoga teacher and have taught various types of students with all different needs in the Croydon area for over 35 years. I have also trained in Homoeopathy, Reflexology and various massage techniques including Aromatherapy and Shiatsu.

I took my pension early, I understand like many other Members, 5 years ago at the age of 52. When the Croydon Aviva Fellowship contacted me about various events, I felt very hesitant to go to any of them in case I was '**20 years too young**' and wouldn't have anything in common with older members. How wrong was I?

I first went to their New Year Lunch and was made very welcome. I noted there were a number of '**early pensioners**' like me and after that I have been on several trips and got to know a few faces. I realise now many Members are taking their pension early, but like me still working, and there is therefore a good mix of younger as well as mature active Members in the Fellowship.

At the 2013 AGM I became a Committee Member and now hope to organise some other more varied events for the Fellowship. If Members are interested in anything in particular, which our Members are likely to support, please do let me

know.

If you haven't yet come to any of the Fellowship events, why not come and meet us, you never know you might enjoy yourself, meet former colleagues, and have some fun at the same time.

A fuller version of this will appear on the web site

Ed.



A Recent Committee Meeting



A Get-together with our other Region Committees ‡

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2013 & Early 2014

Date	Organiser	Event	Venue	Time
AUGUST				
Tue 13	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Wed 28	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
SEPTEMBER				
Tue 10	MM	Coffee /Breakfast †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Mon 16	JD	London Walk	Shakespeare's & Dickens' London - St Paul's Tube	10:45 for 11:00
w/c 16	CH/PP	*Lunch	The Horseshoe, Warlingham	CANCELLED
Tue 24	DN	Jewish Museum	Albert Street, Camden Town, London NW1	13:15 for 13:30
Thu 26	MM	Coffee Morning †	Polhill Garden Centre	10:30
OCTOBER				
Tue 8	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Fri 11	CH/HK	Autumn Lunch	Hallmark Aerodrome Hotel, Croydon	12:15 for 12:45
NOVEMBER				
Wed 6	MM	Fish'n'Chips Lunch	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Croydon	11:30 for 12:00
Tue 12	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Fri 22	DN	Autumn Stroll †	Finsbury Park to Highgate	11:15 for 11:30
Wed 27	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
DECEMBER				
Tue 10	MM	Coffee / Breakfast †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
JANUARY 2014				
Fri 3	SB	New Year Lunch	Croydon Park Hotel	TBA
Tue 14	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30

Notes: For organisers' contact details, see list of committee members and other event organisers above.

† No booking is required for events with the † symbol. Just turn up, although, in some cases you may be requested to intimate your intention of coming in case of last-minute changes.

* 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.

In addition to the above, there is an **AVIVA Golf Club**. Details are on our web site or contact Howard Smith on 020 8402 5826 or howard.smith500@ntlworld.com. If there are any other interest groups within our Region, please let us know.

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 (most 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.

Quarterly (March, June, September and December) breakfast will also be available.

Please note: The above coffee mornings start at 10.00 a.m. Those below start at 10.30

The Dene Restaurant in Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham Road, Woldingham, Surrey. CR3 7LA, a short walk from Woldingham Station or 2nd 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.