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## NEWSLETTER – Winter 2015

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### EDITORIAL

Your Committee has again planned a very full programme of events for 2015 – indeed, we have even had to say that other possibilities will have to be held over to 2016! (So far only next year's New Year lunch has been allocated a provisional date – 8<sup>th</sup> January.) This programme can only take place through the hard work of the Committee, assisted by a small band of other event organisers, and we thank them all for their contributions.

A slight change to the content of the Newsletter. I have previously included details of contacts, coffee morning arrangements and the Diary of events. If you are receiving a printed copy, these are on the

back sheet. Please detach it and keep it handy for reference. This information will not be on the web-site version of the Newsletter as it is already there. The summer edition will only include updates and any amendments. Full details of each event (other than coffee mornings) will be available a few weeks prior to the date, and you will be notified if you have expressed an interest in that type of event.

Also below I have grouped together forth-coming events of a similar nature. So do come and support us, and hope to see you soon.

Dave Newland

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### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Croydon AVIVA Fellowship AGM will take place on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 11:30 a.m.** at **Exchange Court**, Bedford Park, Croydon. (Just off Wellesley Road, near the Lunar House Home Office building). The meeting will be followed by a light buffet lunch.

### Laurence Smith BEM



Laurence was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours last year for his services to the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. Do see the report in the latest *'In Touch'*. He brought his medal to the New Year lunch and told the Editor that the Number 10 resident cat, Larry, comes from the Home, and that Laurence was recently invited to Downing Street for tea.

Our congratulations to Laurence on receiving his award.

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## NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

I hope you had a merry Christmas and are now ready for the challenges of the new year.

We started with an enjoyable New Year Lunch at the Croydon Park Hotel where 78 people attended and had some excellent food.

Our planned activities for the year can be found in this Newsletter and you will see that your Committee has come up with some new events, including visits, walks, a river trip [later in the year. Ed] and lunches as well as our regular coffee mornings. So put the dates in your diary and I hope you will be able to join us.

Our funding from the Fellowship has been reduced and this means we will have to cancel the subsidies for many events but I trust that you will still feel that we are able to provide good value for your money.

Our AGM will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March at Exchange Court and I hope many of you will be able to attend so that we can hear your views and ideas.

I look forward to seeing you during the year and hope you all have an enjoyable 2015

Brian Welch January 2015

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**Late News Items:** The Regional Fellowship Meeting on 14th January agreed all five Local Areas would post their Newsletters and Event listings on the National website to improve Fellowship participation. [www.avivastaffpensions.co.uk/retired/fellowship/](http://www.avivastaffpensions.co.uk/retired/fellowship/) (There is a link from our own Croydon website.) Should a member wish to attend another Area's event please contact the relevant Organiser to indicate their interest.

The meeting also gave a sincere vote of thanks to Barry Summerfield retiring as both National and our Regional Chairman. It was agreed Chris House (Croydon) would assume the role of Regional Chair with Richard Haynes (Maidstone Chairman) as Vice Chair.

**Very Late News:** Sorry - BBC visit is full, but please do advise Judy if interested in a possible later visit.

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### SALVETE et VALETE

**During the last year or so the following have joined our fellowship. We wish you all a very warm welcome. If you haven't yet come to any of our events, do come. We'd love to see you.**

MRS M. J. BAILEY  
MR S.R. BISHOP  
MRS J. BLACKWOOD  
CHRISTIDIS  
MR M.J. BROOKS  
MR A.J. BUXTON  
MR A. CARTWRIGHT  
MRS P. J. CHASE  
MR L.R. DE-SILVA

MISS B. GOLDRING  
MR P.G. GRAM  
MR A. INGRAM  
MR S. LLOYD  
MR C.M. MARKS  
MRS H.M. MAXWELL  
MR P.G. MAY  
MR D.J. MYERS  
MRS J.L. O'NEIL

MRS M. POPPLEWELL  
MR P.G. ROBSON  
MR A.A. RUSSELL  
MR C.P. SHAW  
MRS P.S. STOCKHAM  
MRS R.M. THREADGALL  
MRS C.R. TURRELL  
MR P.S. WHITAKER

**Sadly, we also have to report the deaths of the following members and extend our condolences to their friends and families:**

MR P. BAILEY  
MRS P.I. BYE  
MRS S. CHOWBAY  
MR B.H. CLARK  
MR J.A. CLUE  
MRS V. GILL  
MISS J.E. HARRAP  
MR C. HOOKER

MR G.E. HYDE-GOMES  
MR D. JOHNSON  
MR D. LOW  
MR R.F. LYTHGOE  
MRS P.H.P. MCILWAIN  
MRS J.A. MOORE  
MRS J.M. NICHOLSON  
MISS E.B. PORTER

MR B.C. PRICE  
MRS N.M. PULLEN  
MR J.H. RUTLEDGE  
MRS P. SNIPP  
MRS C. WALLACE  
MR J.L. WHITMORE  
MR J. WITHERS

**We have also said farewell to the following who have transferred to another Fellowship. We offer them every good wish in their new groups.**

MRS M.J. BENNETT  
MRS S.A. DALE  
MR R. GAMBLE

MRS S.D. NASH  
MRS J.F. NISBET  
MRS J.P. ROONEY

MR D. RUBIN  
MR C.F. STEPHENS

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(Please note that some of these dates may be subject to confirmation or change)

### VISITS

**BBC (Mon. 15<sup>th</sup> March) and Chiswick House (Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> April)**



Both of these conducted tours are likely to be very popular, and numbers for the BBC are limited to just 25, so once the full details are published, prompt application is advised. If significantly over-subscribed, we *may* be able to arrange a second tour later.

Chiswick House is a magnificent neo-Palladian villa set in beautiful historic gardens in west London. The gardens at Chiswick are the birthplace of the English Landscape Movement and have inspired countless gardens including New York's Central Park.



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### EATING

**Fish'n'Chips Supper (Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> April), Pub Lunch (Thu. 21<sup>st</sup> May), Italian Lunch (Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> July)**



McDermott's



'Horseshoe' Warlingham



Gi Trattoria, West Wickham

Having just gorged ourselves at the New Year lunch, and hopefully by April having shed the extra kilogrammes that the Christmas and New Year celebrations created, between now and the next Newsletter there are three more occasions when we can tuck in – two traditional British and one Continental!

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### WALKS

**Spring Stroll (Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> May), South Coast Walk (Mon. 29<sup>th</sup> June), Country Walk (Mon. 20<sup>th</sup> July)**



Warlingham



Brighton to Rottingdean



Betchworth and Buckland

Now come and walk off the pounds gained at the above eating events by strolling through bluebells, breathing in the bracing sea air and enjoying the Surrey countryside (This latter being the one that I had to cancel a couple of years ago through bad weather. Dave Newland). Attendance at these walks has been disappointing recently, so do put on your walking shoes or trainers and enjoy the chance to have a natter with other members, take some photographs and enjoy a time out. We either stop off or finish at a pub or café to fortify ourselves, so do join us.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS (Cont.)

### SOME MORE EXERCISE: Treasure Hunt (Tue. 2<sup>nd</sup> June)

Plus a bit of observation and a little brain power!



In 2013 we had a very enjoyable 'treasure hunt' around Oxted. This year we are going to search out the 'treasures' of **Reigate**.

With its tunnel, castle mound, Priory Park and Old Town Hall – not forgetting its famous ballerina - this promises to be a very intriguing and educational day.

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## REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

### COASTAL WALK Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Seaford



Starting the climb



Viewing the Seven Sisters



Lunch at the end of the walk.

This was a repeat of the walk Roger Smith conducted some years ago, but was well worth repeating. After signalling problems delayed our train at East Croydon causing us to miss our connection at Lewes, and then losing one member who managed to arrive at the scheduled time, found no-one there and gave up, we managed to set off half an hour late. We were rewarded with the climb to the cliff top with wonderful views of the Seven Sisters. We then descended to the estuary of the River Cuckmere, and walked inland along the river bank to a pub for lunch.

Our thanks to Roger, who left us at Seaford Station afterwards to go for a swim in the sea!

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### QUIZ NIGHT and SUPPER

Wednesday 6th August  
Whyteleafe Football Club

A new and very successful venture for our fellowship, with a good attendance. I never knew that Warwick Castle is in Warwick! The fish and chips, washed down with liquid from the bar in the interval, helped the brain cells to regroup for the final couple of rounds. Our thanks to Chris House and Christine Kelly for the arrangements, and to Ken Morcombe as Question Master. We hope to have a repeat in October this year – with different questions of course!

### BUFFET LUNCH

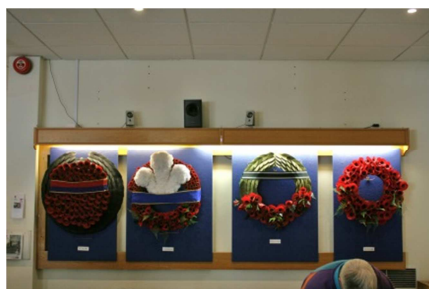
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September – Croydon Park Hotel

Following the successful 2013 buffet lunch and the 2014 New Year lunch at Croydon Park, we had another buffet. The lunch was up to the hotel's high standard. The only problem was that we were placed on tables at an upper level, meaning that less able people found it hard to walk up and down steps to help themselves to the food. We are hoping to arrange that this year's meal in September will be in the area at the same level as the food.

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## VISIT TO THE POPPY FACTORY

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October - Richmond



Royal Family wreathes



Cavalry wreath



Modern poppy making machines

With the heightened current interest in WW1, the visit to the Poppy Factory in Richmond added to our knowledge of how the Poppy came to mean so much, and, today, sales are still supporting our Armed Forces.

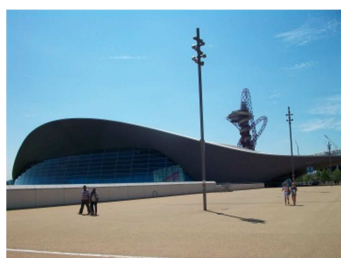
We learned that the Factory, which employs disabled service men and women, is a separate charity from the Royal British Legion itself, and that Scotland make their own slightly different design of poppy. Did you know that broom bristles are used in making some wreathes? Joan Price & Dave Newland

Our thanks to Joan for organising this very informative visit.

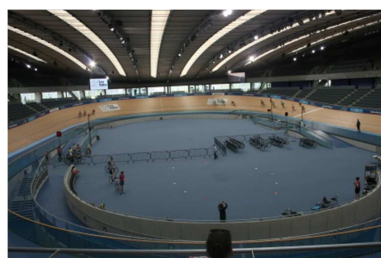
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## CONDUCTED LONDON WALK - OLYMPIC PARK

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Stratford.



Aquatic Centre and 'Orbit'



Velodrome



Athletes' Accommodation Village

On a rather grey and very windy day, a group of hardy members gathered at Pudding Mill Lane Station. A rather attractive name, for what appeared to be a building site. Splitting into two groups we headed cautiously through the Crossrail construction area, and along The Green Way and into the Park.

Our surroundings immediately improved, and we looked somewhat cautiously at the strange Meccano like ArcelorMittal Orbit, looming above.

Then we turned towards the enormous Stadium, central to so many of the Olympic events. It is now being reconfigured for use as a Football Stadium for West Ham Football Club. We saw the beautifully shaped swimming centre, now with its

'Pods' removed, and were told we could swim there for less than £4 a session. Cheaper than my local pool! Then we went into the Velodrome and again, anyone can use this facility and cycle madly around for £12 an hour. Then off again looking at the Athletic village accommodation, being turned into Apartments, hopefully for local people

The park is very much larger than I had realised, with areas of gardens, fountains & The River Ley running through to give another dimension to the area. In a few years when the gardens are mature, it will be stunning. Our Guides then returned us to Stratford and the famous Westfield Shopping Centre, the largest in Europe, and we headed off to find lunch and maybe a quick look at the shops.

Judy Dumbrell

Our thanks to Judy for organising this visit on that very windy day.

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## LONDON AUTUMN STROLL

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November - Hackney



The first perforated toilet rolls were developed near Hackney Wick Station!



Maggie and Chris 'dancing'



Boats moored by the Lee Navigation

The sun shone on us that beautiful autumn day. From Hackney Wick Station and skirting the Olympic Park we walked along the Lee Navigation tow path from where we could see further Park developments taking place. Leaving the path, we entered Wick Wood, where Maggie and Chris entertained us with their 'dancing'! This led us to the River Lee proper and a lunch break in the Hackney Marsh café. The area is now a vast sports

ground – once played upon by Chris - with 50+ soccer and four Rugby pitches. We continued around the circumference of the Marsh, resisting the temptation to use the 'trim trail' apparatus or to sit on the **very** rustic seats, until we picked up the Navigation again. There were many narrow boats moored, several where the roof was a miniature garden, bike shed or pet basking area! From there we retraced our steps to the Station. Dave Newland

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## 2015 NEW YEAR LUNCH

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 at Croydon Park Hotel.



And so to 2015! Our annual New Year lunch was again held at the Croydon Park. Accompanied by a selection of Christmas carols and seasonal popular songs (Schubert's setting of 'Ave Maria' immediately followed by 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas' did seem a strange juxtaposition!) we all enjoyed a splendid three-course lunch (despite the fish being served with roast potatoes instead of mash), with wine, hats, crackers and Brian's selection of his family's cracker jokes.

Our thanks to Carol, Maggie and Patricia for the organisation and to Judy for the raffle – I still haven't won a prize. Do you think it would have helped if I had bought a ticket? Dave Newland



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