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**Treasurer:** Carol Courtney  
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**Aviva  
Fellowship**



**Croydon Area**

[www.avivafellowshipcroydon.org.uk](http://www.avivafellowshipcroydon.org.uk)

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## NEWSLETTER – Winter 2016

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### EDITORIAL

Just to prove that we are not a group of 'stop-at-homes', 2016 sees our Fellowship, together with some others from our region, venturing abroad, to visit Rouen and Honfleur. I am not suggesting our members haven't ever ventured beyond our locality individually! Indeed, in September my wife, Ann, and I, quite by chance, met the other David\* and Ann - the Westermans - on Italy's Amalfi coast, and whilst lunching in a pub in November in Weston-Super-Mare, again by chance, we met Julie Woodland. So we do get around!

Reading the points from our Regional Chairman (Chris) you will see there will be a change in the distribution of our pension payslips from April. So

don't go phoning up to say, 'Where's my payslip this month?'

We are still arranging most of our events to be a little nearer Croydon than France. However, we are proposing to visit Bletchley Park, but that is only a train ride away. Much closer to home, we are making a small change to our coffee morning venues. We are reducing to two those held at Knight's Garden Centre in Woldingham, and introducing two in their new café at their Chelsham branch – see the Diary. Hope to see you there, and at any of our other events, in particular at the AGM in our new venue – see below.

Happy 2016 to you all

Dave Newland

\* Since then David has sadly died, but Ann Westerman kindly agreed to allow me to include this. We offer Ann our sincere condolences

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### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Croydon AVIVA Fellowship AGM will take place on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 10:45 for 11:00 a.m.** at Croydon United Reformed Church in Addiscombe Grove. The building is a very short walk from East Croydon Railway and Bus Stations and Tram Stop, just beyond the NLA Tower. The meeting will be followed by a light buffet lunch.

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### ITEMS FROM OUR REGIONAL CHAIRMAN, CHRIS HOUSE

For family reasons, our Chairman, Brian, has not been available to give his usual New Year Message, but as Chris is our Regional Chairman, he meets with other Regional Chairmen and the Pension Scheme administrators from time-to-time, so if there is any matter of general concern about our pensions, do mention it to Chris.

**Pension Payslips** From April 2016 they will be issued thereafter annually except where the net payment varies by greater than £1.00. This caters for Tax changes etc. [In practice, this means that most people will receive 2 or 3 payslips per annum, but you will still receive your P60 tax statement. Ed.]

**Fellowship Budget** 'In Touch' and diaries were slightly over Budget in 2015 but were compensated by below expected expenses elsewhere. Budget for 2016 allows for increased costs of 'In Touch' and diaries and includes a small increase for other expenses based on 2015 figures. Area allowances have been maintained.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Here is a summary of events until July. Exact dates and times, where known are in the Diary of Events.  
(Information about later events will appear in the Summer Newsletter)

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

### VISITS

#### Two visits to St. Pancras Renaissance Hotel Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March



As most of us can't afford to stay in a London luxury hotel too often (!), here is your chance to see what one looks like from inside. As this visit is likely to be popular, and as numbers per tour are limited, Carol and Maggie have arranged two dates. Whilst in luxury mood, afterwards stroll round to St. Pancras International Station and treat yourself to a glass of champagne!



**Full details and booking forms are now available.**

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#### Weekend Abroad, Rouen and Honfleur – 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> February

We do have the 30 required but have been allocated a coach for 49!! For anyone, or even a Group, and are now facing the 'Winter Blues' this could be a bargain opportunity to get away provided they act quickly! Full payment will be required by 31st January. We have a mixed age Group ranging from mid-50's onwards and benefits are you can plan your own itinerary!



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#### Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June



We are planning a visit to Bletchley Park, home of the World War II Codebreakers. You can explore the Huts, the Mansion and the Museum at your own pace with the audio guide and/or also join a guided tour. Hear the story of Alan Turing and the people who worked at Bletchley and how they kept its secrets long after the war.



On a Saturday we can take an early train directly to Bletchley from Croydon or drive. Our group ticket will allow for flexible arrival and include return entry for a year.

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### EATING AND DRINKING

**Fish'n'Supper, McDermott's, Forestdale – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**Pub Lunch, 'Horseshoe', Warlingham – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**Italian Lunch, Gi Trattoria, West Wickham – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**Various Coffee Mornings**

We are planning to repeat our popular eating events, and intend to arrange a further buffet lunch in the autumn at the Croydon Park Hotel. Further details nearer the times.



Don't forget our Coffee Mornings, monthly in the 'Clocktower Café' in Croydon and our others at various venues towards the latter part of most months. Do check the diary for dates and locations, remembering that there is now an additional venue of Knight's, Chelsham.

## WALKS

**Royal Parks, London – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
**Bluebell Walk, Banstead Wood – Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Summer Walk, location TBA – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July**



Here is chance to recover from the excesses of Christmas and the New Year, the pub lunch and the Italian meal. Roger Smith is leading us around the London Royal Parks. (I assume this means only those in the centre – Richmond Park is a long way!).

Details will soon be available.

Then I will be conducting my now usual Bluebell spring stroll (including a refreshment stop towards the end at ‘The Ramblers’ rest’), Summer Walk (and the Autumn stroll).

I am hoping the bluebells will still be out at the end of April. They were already through in early January, at least a month earlier than usual. I also hope it will be a lot drier underfoot than at present!



I have yet to decide on the summer walk location, but it will be an all-day affair. Ed.

\* \* \* \* \*

## REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

**COUNTRY WALK Monday 20th July 2015– Buckland and Betchworth**



Coffee break.  
Buckland Village Store



Lunch break. ‘Dolphin’, Betchworth  
(Photo: Patricia Pegg)



At Betchworth Lime Kiln

This was a walk from refreshment place to refreshment place, although we decided to skip the last one! Having had to cancel this walk a couple of years ago as much of it was water-logged, this time the weather was fine. Starting at Betchworth Station, we walked the short distance to the beautiful village of Buckland, (where, on this occasion, the village pond was almost dry) for coffee, before picking up the ‘Greensand Way’ to the Dolphin for lunch, after passing a patch of wild mushrooms (I won’t say what they were growing in!). We continued beside the River Mole, and then towards the North Downs Way (NDW). Nearing there, two of the group realised their train was due fairly soon, so I raced ahead with them, and left Ann to lead the others, forgetting that she had only done this walk, previously, in the opposite direction! Fortunately, taking the wrong path only meant they reached NDW a bit early, and I did find them after leaving the other two. So it all ended well.

Dave Newland

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**VISIT TO TITSEY PLACE - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August - Limpsfield**



Tour party



The house



The garden lake

Titsey Place, in Surrey, was our summer outing venue. 40 folks had a guided tour of the house, to hear about its history and the families who have lived there. After the culture hour it was into the tearoom for a much needed cuppa and a cream tea.

Joan Price

Photos by Joan. Many thanks, Joan, for arranging this event.



## MUSIC AND STEAM MUSEUMS Saturday 29th August – Kew Bridge

A very full day this: In the morning we visited the Music Museum, where we were given a demonstrations and a talk about the Wurlitzer organ, before moving down to a demonstration of the museum's display of old musical instruments: Metal pin-wheeled disc player, various mechanical devices to play music, phonograph (the early record player – HMV), giant musical box etc. Both volunteer presenters were very knowledgeable, and we could have spent all day there.



Wurlitzer



Metal disc player



Mechanical Violin Player!



Phonograph

However, time beat us and we had to hurry along the road to the Steam Museum and hopefully grab a quick lunch there. This tour was timed around when the various machines were fired up (they only do this once a month), causing a bit of confusion, with some party members being lost on the way round! We did, however, see the largest working engine in action (90 inch Cornish Steam), and one with a huge fly-wheel, as well as other old, steam driven devices.



Large fly-wheel machine



Old water tower



MWB fire engine



Ann turning off the 90" machine

Our thanks to Chris House for organising these visits.

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> VISIT to BBC Thursday 10th September



Outside Broadcasting House  
(Photo: Trudy Chen)

In September another group toured BBC Broadcasting House. We saw the newsroom in action and the 'ONE Show' studio. I now watch knowing the orientation of the shots. Then we toured the original wing with its Art Deco features. Brian [Welch] and I had a go at reading a news bulletin and several of us enacted a radio play. I haven't screamed so loudly for years.

Carol Courtney.

Our thanks to Carol for this tour.



In the 'ONE Show' Studio  
(Photo: Joan Price)

The area in the picture above left was used during the 2015 General Election to create a schematic 'jigsaw puzzle' map of each UK constituency, placing pieces in the winning colour as the results came in.

## WINDSOR CASTLE Monday 28th September



Round Tower & Middle Ward



Moat Garden

(Sorry No photos from inside. Photography not allowed)



St. George's Chapel

Hilary Kearney was asked if she would write a report on this visit, so she decided to put it in verse. Hence, I think for the first time, your Newsletter includes some poetry!

*Windsor Castle visit great  
As we all met at the gate.  
Booking in was so much fun  
Then we all went on the run!  
Didn't see a soul all day  
Did they all come out to play?*

*Did everyone have a good time?  
Very hard to define.  
No complaints, I'm pleased to say  
Hope everyone had a good day.*

HK



Reading the guide.

Does anyone know Lithuanian?

Chris House and Hilary organised this visit. Our thanks to them both.

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## CONDUCTED LONDON TOUR – APSLEY HOUSE

Friday 9th October – Hyde Park Corner



Apsley House



Horse Guards

(Again - Sorry No photos from inside. Photography not allowed)



Waiting to go in

Have you ever heard Police whistles screeching out, fighting to be heard above the roar of London traffic? No, neither had I, except at the Cinema! But, standing outside Apsley House before our guided tour, that is exactly what we heard.

Amazingly, the traffic did stop (Maybe the Police Land Rover had a hand in that) and, crossing the road, came the glittering sight of the Horseguards! We guessed they were off to Buckingham Palace from their Barracks. A good start to a very interesting morning

Apsley House was the home of the first Duke of Wellington and to celebrate 200 years since the Battle of Waterloo, when Napoleon was defeated, we decided to brush up on our history.

The house is the last surviving great aristocratic London town house open to the public. and the

present day descendants of the Duke, still have rooms at the top of the house.

Our guide, Martin Stiles was brilliant, telling the history of the rooms and its many artefacts, but also full of anecdotes, ..Champagne out of a silver chamber pot anyone?

The Waterloo Gallery contains the vast banqueting table decorated with a stunning silver centrepiece from the Portuguese Service, and the walls are hung with some of the many pictures by famous artists. There are nearly 3000 paintings, sculptures & works of art throughout the house.

If you would like to see more of this house, but can't get to London, have a look at the Apsley House website. Well worth a look.

Judy Dumbrill

Thank you, Judy. An unexpected event such as seeing the Guards always adds to the occasion.



## **LONDON AUTUMN STROLL – ‘Park and Walk’** **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Wimbledon Park to Wandsworth**



The party after the coffee start



River Wandle



King George's Park Lake

It wasn't the best of the weather, but could have been worse, but a warming cup of coffee to start was welcome! After walking round part of Wimbledon Park, we progressed in the Earlsfield direction to the southern end of King George's Park and the path (Foster Way) which runs the park's length. A brief diversion saw the river in full flow from an adjacent footbridge. At the north end of the park we walked round the lake and into the side entrance of Wandsworth's 'Southside' shopping mall, most of us choosing to lunch in the newly opened Debenhams.

Dave Newland

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## **2016 NEW YEAR LUNCH** **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at Croydon Park Hotel.**



Again a very enjoyable start to the Fellowship New Year. Seventy five people sat down to a very tasty meal, washed down with wine from on the table, all at a very reasonable subsidised price. You may not be aware that, in addition to the subsidy from our Fellowship, the Company provides a further £5 per head towards a Christmas or New Year lunch. My only complaint is that for two years running I still haven't won a raffle prize. What did you do with my numbers, Judy? In fact no-one on our table won a prize. With ten tables and about twenty prizes, the odds of no-one winning are pretty small. The profits from the raffle are donated to Age UK.

I am guessing that the 2017 lunch will be on January 6<sup>th</sup>, so pencil this in now.

Dave Newland



Well done Carol, Judy, Maggie and Patricia in organising this very popular event.

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Photos: St. Pancras Hotel interiors: St. Pancras Renaissance Hotel web site.  
Bletchley Park: Bletchley Park web site.  
Rouen Cathedral: Rouen City web site.

All other photographs, unless otherwise indicated in the text, are by the Editor.

I hope to have on display at the AGM a lot more photographs taken during 2015. I can only include a very limited number in the Newsletters.

Dave Newland