

Chair Brian Welch  
Treasurer: Carol Courtney  
Secretary: Maggie Mahoney

**Aviva  
Fellowship**



**Croydon Area**

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

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## NEWSLETTER – Winter 2017

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### EDITORIAL

Another year, another full programme of events that are being planned by your Committee, assisted by a few others. Although most events seem to happen very smoothly, the organisers will often have had to put up with problems, frustrations, last minute cancellations, you name it! OK, so I am sure I have put off others from offering to help to organise, but remember, like

Nymans (see report), many hands can make light work, so our usual requests: 1. do suggest ideas for alternative events, other venues to visit etc. and 2. do volunteer to organise or help to organise. There is a 'Fellowship Feedback Form' for comments and suggestions on our web site. See you at some of our events.

Happy New Year.

Dave Newland

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### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Croydon AVIVA Fellowship AGM will take place on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 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 Station and Tram Stop, just beyond the NLA Tower. The meeting will be followed by a light buffet lunch.

**N.B. At the time of printing, the Bus Station at East Croydon was still closed, so, if coming from the centre of Croydon direction by bus, you may have to alight in Wellesley Road and walk from there or catch a tram to East Croydon Tram Stop.**

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### NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and have braved the cold weather. Our New Year lunch this year was at a new venue - Jurys Inn - and 79 people attended and enjoyed the food.

For 2017 we have arranged some new events:

on 20th February there will be a visit to the Museum of London to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the Great Fire of London

on 14th March we will visit an exhibition at Whitgift School which celebrates Remembering 1916 - Life on the Western Front

on 7th June there will be a Treasure Trail in Battersea Park

in August there will be a visit to Hampton Court

in September we plan to have a river cruise from Westminster Pier to Kew Gardens

I hope you will be able to join us on these events.

Our AGM will be held on 9th March at United Reformed Church Hall, so please do attend and let us hear your views.

I look forward to seeing you during the year and hope you all stay in good health.

Brian Welch

## ITEM FROM OUR REGIONAL CHAIRMAN, CHRIS HOUSE

Chris is concerned about differing terms for staff and pensioners. Representations have been made to the Company. With the National Chairman, Peter Morgan, Chris took up this issue about loss of our Heritage Staff Key policies, particularly the imposition now of varying rates of APR interest on MyAviva premiums.

**Renewal Process in Brief:** 1) 60 days prior Members are asked to contact Aviva. Before doing so we recommend you check last years' cover schedule and booklet for any additional covers important to you. 2) Where possible, first obtain your own quote from [www.direct.aviva.co.uk](http://www.direct.aviva.co.uk). This will help to check notes of your conversation. 3) Claim, at outset, discounts for Shareholders, then multiple policies or multiple vehicles. 4) Check the policy when received.

Please help make members aware of this and our protest about differing terms from current staff. We've probably given 5 or more times service than current staff, which should be recognised. With closure of Branches the bond between current and former staff has sadly weakened. **Please visit our website for updates.** Chris House

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our Chairman has highlighted events being organised during 2017, so as well as the AGM (see notice on Page 1), here is a summary of events until July. Exact locations, dates and times, where known, are in the Diary of Events. Information about later events will appear in the Summer Newsletter

**Some of these dates below may be subject to confirmation or change**

## VISITS

### The Museum of London - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February



Last year you may have seen the wooden mock-up on barges on the Thames of the City of London before the 'Great Fire', which was later set on fire itself, and some who joined our visit to St. Paul's went on to see the 'Great Fire' exhibition there. (see report below)

Well, Judy Dumbrill has given us a further chance to brush up/add to our knowledge about this event, as well as the opportunity to see the other exhibits, in our own time, with a visit to the Museum of London.



**Full details and booking forms are now available on our web-site.**

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### Weekend Abroad, Reims – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March - CANCELLED

Regrettably, due to a lack of applications, we have had to cancel this trip! Perhaps there might be more support another year. But many thanks to Chris House for all his efforts to organise this visit.

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### Remembering 1916 - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Yes, we are now into 2017, but the exhibition at Whitgift School remembering events a century ago was so popular that it was decided to extend it into this year. I quote:



*Whitgift presents Remembering 1916 - Life on the Western Front: a major new exhibition telling the story of a pivotal year of the First World War, through a unique series of personal stories set against the backdrop of Verdun, the Somme and the broader Western and Home Fronts.*

It is proposed that we proceed from that morning's coffee at the 'Clocktower' to the School. There is a café for refreshments.



[One of the items is a flag from the Battle of Jutland, which normally hangs in St. John's Church in Old Coulsdon. I can thoroughly recommend this exhibition. Do come if you can. Ed].

## Treasure Trail - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Battersea Park



Carol Courtney is organising another of her popular 'Treasure Trails'. Would you like to explore Battersea Park with the added fun of finding clues and solving puzzles? After the success of our treasure trails in Oxted and Reigate, this year's trail takes in the Thames Path, the Peace Pagoda, the boating lake and a secret "Old English Garden". Meet afterwards for refreshments and the results.

The park is always worth visiting and should be looking really lovely in early June. I am sure we can all show off our brilliant powers of deduction and observation!



## EATING AND DRINKING

**Fish'n'Chip Supper, McDermott's, Forestdale – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

**Pub Lunch, 'Horseshoe', Warlingham – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

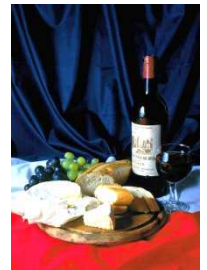
**Italian Lunch, Gi Trattoria, West Wickham – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

**Various Coffee Mornings**



Very much a repeat of previous years, but, as these events are always popular, why change them?

Don't forget our Coffee Mornings, monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, in the 'Clocktower Café' in Croydon, including the quarterly breakfasts, and our other 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.



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## WALKS

**Bluebell Walk, Selsdon/Sanderstead area – Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April**

**Summer Walk, location TBA – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July**



I will be conducting my now usual Bluebell afternoon spring stroll in the South Croydon area, possibly slipping over the border into Farleigh. Exact location and details in due course.

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



It could be a variation on the bits of last year's walk that I cut out because of the heat, or I may leave that to another year, and take us somewhere completely different!

Advance notice: Over the last five years I have conducted my Autumn London Strolls in central, north, east, south and west London, so this year (**16<sup>th</sup> November**) it will be somewhere central again.

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## REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

**Nymans – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016**



On a beautiful warm Summer's day, 18 Aviva members met at the gates of Nymans Gardens in Sussex. Here we met our guide for the morning, Sylvia Claydon, whose knowledge of the gardens and the history of the house, helped make our visit so very enjoyable.

There are 200 acres of woods plus 33 acres of formal gardens, so plenty to see. As with so many of our (*Cont. over page*)





famous gardens, it was the Victorian plant hunters that inspired the creation of this magical place. The most stunning area at this time of the year, has to be 'The Top Garden' This is the 100 metre herbaceous border, broken only by a fountain at the centre. It is just a rainbow of colour all through the summer, and in late August was still crammed with colour. Hundreds of annuals form the first two rows of plants, with the taller perennials in the back rows. At the beginning of the season, every volunteer is brought in to help plant out the annuals and although it is a mammoth task, it is done in 2-3 hours. Many Hands etc....

The House at Nymans was devastated by fire in 1947, leaving a picturesque ruin, but some rooms are intact and now open to visitors. As a bonus, there was an exhibition about Vivien Leigh, with some of her costumes, including the headdress from Cleopatra. The connection to Nymans is that the house was owned by the Messel family, and Oliver Messel was Britain's leading theatre designer.

We said goodbye to Sylvia at the house, and then some went to find lunch, others to revisit their favourite parts of the garden, and some just to sit in the sun and enjoy the day.

Judy Dumbrell/Joan Price

Our thanks to Judy and Joan for arranging both the visit and for the lovely weather.

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### Buffet Lunch – Croydon Park Hotel - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September



I think the pictures speak for themselves! (There are some more at the end.) There was a very wide range of fare - five courses (or was it six or seven?), but yours truly resisted the temptation of eating yet more fish, having just returned from a stay in Italy.



The trouble with a buffet lunch is that one does want to sample everything! Rather disappointingly, only thirty four people attended.

Dave Newland

Thanks are due to Chris House and Patricia Pegg for this event

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### St. Paul's Cathedral – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016



In spite of delayed and cancelled trains and a member of staff who didn't know what to do, when we presented him with a cheque, instead of a debit card, we had an excellent trip to St Pauls! The sheer size and grandeur of the Cathedral put little irritations right out of mind.



The Great Fire of London in 1666 totally destroyed St Pauls, and Sir Christopher Wren was charged with the rebuilding. It was the first Protestant Cathedral built since the Reformation. Other Cathedrals had been

Roman Catholic and simply 'converted' to Henry VIII's wishes. There was all the usual arguments about design and money (nothing changes) but building started in 1675 and finished in 1710, with services starting in 1697.

It has been the centre of so many historical events, State Funerals, Weddings, and National Celebrations.

Our tour covered the main floor and the Crypt, with the opportunity to visit the Whispering Gallery and Dome after lunch. To stand at the West door and look down the church to the High Altar was a really stunning vista. One of my favourite corners was the Geometrical staircase. It is a spiral of 92 stone steps, each step held in place by the step beneath it. It has been used in Sherlock Holmes films and also Harry Potter adventures. In the Crypt were monuments to every historical figure you could think of...Nelson, Lawrence of Arabia and of course Sir Christopher Wren himself.

[No pictures from inside, I am afraid. Usual ban on photography. Ed]

There was just too much to mention in a short report, but if you have never been, please go. There are audio guides to help, but to really get the best from your visit, join a group led by one of the official Guides. It will be the best £3 you have spent for a long time.

Judy Dumbrell

A very satisfying 35 of us came on this visit. Thank you Judy both for the visit and for your reports.

## Autumn Stroll – Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November - Kew Bridge to Barnes



Twenty two of us (and Arthur the dog) enjoyed this Thames-side walk, with a lunch break about half way. The weather was fine, the threatened rain holding off until we reached the end. However, underfoot things were a bit slippery on occasions. That there were twice as many as previously advised to the staff in no way fazed them at our lunch stop, 'The Ship' near Chiswick Bridge, despite their also having to accommodate a funeral party.



Not only was the number walking very encouraging, especially as half a dozen of our regular walkers were unable to come, it was also lovely that a new member and partner came. Hope to see you all on my next walk.  
Dave Newland

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### 2017 NEW YEAR LUNCH

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Jury's Inn, Croydon.



A new venue for our annual New Year Lunch. Food and service were both very good, although some people were not happy at having to fetch their cups of coffee. The drawback of this site was the layout, with our tables being spread over two separate areas.



This meant that poor Brian had to perform his jokes twice!

Calling out the winning raffle numbers also caused a bit of a problem, but we soon discovered the talent of the Maggie and Delia double act (well, those in our area did), as Brian's wife echoed Maggie Mahoney every time she called out a number. (Again, there are some more pictures at the end.)  
Dave Newland

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

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### Photos and other pictures:

I hope to have on display again at the AGM a lot more photographs taken during 2016. 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

War, Plague and Fire	Museum of London Web Site
Remembering 1916	Tour Brochure
Battersea Park	Carol Courtney.
Food, wine and countryside	'Windows' pictures
Nymans	Joan Price

All other photographs are by the Editor.



## SOME MORE PICTURES



Buffet lunch, Croydon Park Hotel



Group waiting to enter St. Paul's



Autumn Stroll



New Year Lunch  
2017

