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**Secretary:** Maggie Mahoney  
**Committee:** Judy Dumbrell  
Chris House, Patricia Pegg  
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**Aviva  
Fellowship**



**Croydon Area**

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## NEWSLETTER - Winter 2018

### EDITORIAL

Exercise, both mental and physical, seems to abound within our Fellowship. The brain has been applied both in our quiz and in remembering **everything** our guides have explained to us on our conducted tours of Hampton Court, Kew Gardens and Charterhouse. (Don't tell me you've forgotten some of it already – the reports below will remind you! And perhaps, at the next quiz, one round should be 'Places we have Visited.')

And my walks seem to have become very popular, even if some of you have had aches the following day, so there will be

more walks this coming year, as well as a new set of visits. (See 'Chairman's Message' and 'Forthcoming Events' below.)

For various reasons I have been unable to attend as many events as usual, so my thanks for photographs supplied to me by others. Credits appear at the end.

It was good to see some new faces at events recently, and I hope to see you at some of our others in 2018.

Dave Newland

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### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Croydon AVIVA Fellowship AGM will take place on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 10:45 for 11:00 a.m.** at East Croydon United Reformed Church in Addiscombe Grove. The building is a very short walk from East Croydon Railway Station, Bus Station and Tram Stop, just beyond the NLA Tower. The meeting will be followed by a light buffet lunch.

**You are strongly advised to come by public transport as parking is very difficult in the area.**

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Welcome to 2018! I hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year. We repeated our New Year lunch in early January at Jury's Inn and this proved to be very popular as 86 people attended and once the seating was sorted they all enjoyed the food (and wine!)

For this year we have arranged some new visits:

21<sup>st</sup> February – National Portrait Gallery  
21<sup>st</sup> March - Chislehurst Caves  
9<sup>th</sup> June – Amberley Museum

In August – Highgate Cemetery  
In September – Kensington Palace  
In October – The Postal Museum

In addition we will of course be having our usual lunches, suppers, walks and coffee mornings

Our Annual General Meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> March (*See notice above*) so please do come along and let us hear your views. I look forward to seeing you all.

Brian Welch

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### REGIONAL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Last year our Fellowship celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> year. My New Year message set out our history and what we continue to offer ( please see [avivafellowship.org.uk](http://avivafellowship.org.uk) ). The 'Outstanding Service' that members of our Region's Committees have given requires recognition. We need new thoughts and initiatives now to help replace those we've lost.

Regarding our Heritage policies, after strong representations from our National Committee, we've now obtained similar terms to the Staff. We thank our National Committee members for their sterling efforts on our behalf.

I hope to meet some of you during 2018.

Chris House

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Do bear in mind that some of these dates below may be subject to confirmation or change.**

*We realise that some of our Pensioners still have jobs, and are unable to come to our daytime events, so, if you are such a member, there are opportunities to come and join us on a Saturday at Amberley and The Fish'n'Chip Supper and the Quiz are both evening events.*

### **National Portrait Gallery - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. 11:45 for 12 noon**



A conducted tour of pictures of the famous and infamous. There is even a picture of Henry VIII! (See Judy's Reports below.)

The Gallery is just off Trafalgar Square, with its own café - and the National Gallery is around the corner if you wish to visit that afterwards.

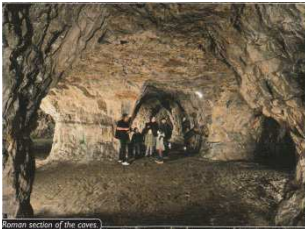
**Bookings are already open for this and close on 31<sup>st</sup> January.**

Advise Judy Dumbrill immediately if you wish to attend

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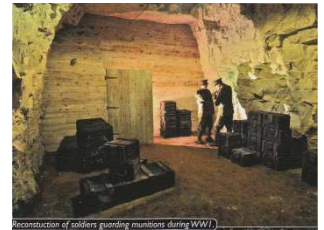
### **Chislehurst Caves - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March.**

The last time I visited the caves was with my father and brother when I was about eleven in the 1950s. It has been upgraded since then! Time to re-visit.



It is the site of Romans, Saxons, smugglers, murders, mushroom growing, a munitions store in WWI, a shelter in WWII and a chapel\*, the whole area covering 6 hectares and is 30 metres below ground.

It is not far from Chislehurst Station on the line from London Bridge to Orpington, and has plenty of parking space plus the inevitable café.



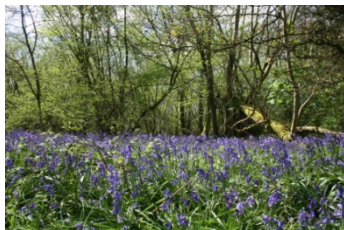
The event is being arranged by Carol Courtney and details will be available soon.

[\* A useless bit of information: There is also a chapel in Beer Caves in Devon. The rock was dug out to build Truro Cathedral – two churches for the price of one!]

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### **Bluebell Walk, Woldingham – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Haven't we done the Woldingham bluebell walk before? Yes we have, but it's worth doing again, and I'm amending



the route slightly to cut out some of the rather steep and rough walk up Church Road. It's not that there aren't other bluebells to see, but I haven't been able to check them out, and, unlike my other walks, for obvious reasons they need to be checked when the flowers are in full bloom. So, as well as this walk, I shall also be scouring other woods to see which will be suitable in future years.



If you have a favourite, do let me know.

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### **Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June**



We are going to Sussex for this Museum. I quote 'Dedicated to the industrial heritage of the South East, exhibits include a narrow-gauge railway and bus service (both provide free nostalgic travel around the site) ... The Museum is also home to traditional craftspeople, such as the blacksmith and potter. We aim to have at least three crafts demonstrated every day.' [From the museum web-site]

**Fish'n'Chip's Supper, McDermott's Forestdale – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**Quiz Night and Supper, Whyteleafe – May date TBA**

**Pub Lunch, Horseshoe, Warlingham – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

**Italian Lunch, Gi Trattoria, West Wickham – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July**



Don't forget our eating out sessions at our ever-popular venues. They always provide excellent food, usually at a Fellowship-subsidised rate and it saves you having to do the washing up. I arrange walks soon after some of them for those who feel they have eaten too much!



Food is also provided to nourish your grey cells at our Quiz Night, and do come to our Coffee Mornings.

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**Summer Walk, Banstead – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**



A couple of years ago I took you on a bluebell walk through Banstead. Woods. This coming summer we will be returning to that area, but almost entirely over different paths, very little of which will be in the woods themselves. As I seem to choose very hot days for my walks, it will be a bit shorter this year, just in the afternoon, starting and finishing at 'The Rambler's Rest', where you can obtain a lunch beforehand and a welcome drink after if you wish..



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**Information about later events will appear in the Summer edition of the Newsletter, but do note the dates from the Croydon Fellowship Diary for 2018.**

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## **REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS**

**Quiz Night, Whyteleafe Football Club - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

Winners of the quiz night were The Whit Wonders: John Whitley, Martin and Judy Green, and Diana and Stephen Banton. I don't have a report on this, but there is a photo of the winners at the end!

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**Visit, Hampton Court – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017**



On a bright sunny day, and in spite of Southern Rail threats [and problems at Waterloo Station], 29 of us visited Hampton Court Palace and Gardens. As usual, we had arranged a Guide, John, who had so many facts and figures at his fingertips we were all very impressed.

The Palace was built by Cardinal Wolsey, but greedy Henry VIII decided it was too grand for a mere Cardinal, and took it for himself. He then spent a great deal of money, enlarging it, rebuilding the rooms, and designing the gardens etc. (Cont.)



John led us through narrow yards (often used in period dramas these days) and grand courtyards, As usual, it was the kitchens and servants areas that fascinated me. In one of the kitchens, there was a very large piece of meat roasting on the spit, and we could take turns in rotating it. The meat is used for staff meals, so not wasted. Forgetting our stomachs, too early for lunch, we walked on through great rooms lined with tapestries and pictures, with John bringing it all to life

Eventually, with our heads full of history, we said goodbye to John, and headed to the magnificent gardens. Hampton Court is famous for its Maze and the Great Vine which was planted in 1768. However, it was the herbaceous border in the Great Fountain Garden that really took our breath away. It is the longest in the world and stunning.

If you have not been to The Palace for a while, put it at the top of your list for places to see next year, you won't be disappointed.

Judy Dumbrill

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### Buffet Lunch, Croydon Park Hotel - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017



The picture left speaks for itself - our Chairman and Regional Chairman helping themselves, hopefully leaving something for the rest of us! But, as always, there was always plenty to eat. We did, however, on this occasion have to share with another party, who were equally hungry.



Thanks to Chris House and Patricia Pegg for organising this. Ed

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### Visit, Kew Gardens – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017



We travelled by rail or boat to get there, and by the little train around the site. Kew is always worth a visit, and this time in September we could still see and admire the summer plants *and* the beginnings of the autumns ones, especially the colchicums and the chestnuts, one of which is the oldest tree on site. (picture Page 6). We also had a conducted tour of the site, which highlighted some of the specialist projects they are undertaking, in particular the collection of natural species as opposed to man-produced varieties. The lady in the picture above is showing a wild apple tree, with fruit about the size of a cherry. How do they keep their lawns so green?

Thanks to Chris House and Maggie Mahoney for this event. Ed

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### Visit, Charterhouse in Clerkenwell – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017



We seem to be visiting the EC1 area of London quite frequently, with St Pauls Cathedral and The Museum of London included in our past trips. Anyway, back we went, this time to The Charterhouse with six centuries of history to entertain us. (Cont.)

Originally built on a Plague pit, in 1371, a group of Carthusian monks established a Monastery here. It flourished for centuries, until the wicked villain, Henry VIII [Not him again! Ed], decided it was far too rich and influential, and raided its coffers. For a while it became a private Tudor mansion and Elizabeth 1st stayed here for a few days before entering London and becoming Queen.

In 1611, Thomas Sutton established his charitable foundation and in 1614 the first scholars and Poor Brothers were admitted. If one of those first Brothers were to return, he would recognise most of the buildings. The Cloister, the Chapel, the Great Hall, and the Great Chamber would all be recognisable to him. Even after an incendiary bomb damaged part of the buildings, they were rebuilt to blend with the original rooms.

There are still 'Brothers' living here today, not necessarily connected to the Church, but 'respectable single gentlemen'. The Poor Scholars moved to Godalming in 1872 and continues, to this day, known as The Charterhouse School.

Our guides, Barry and Heather were, as usual, brilliant with facts and figures at their fingertips.

After the tour, we said our thanks to them both, and retired to the Thackeray tearooms for cream teas. Cream teas also seem to be part of our tradition. Dave Newland always seems to include a tea in his trips! Judy Dumbrill

**Many thanks, Judy, for both your reports and for all your hard work in organising these visits. I know that arranging some of them is a real nightmare for you! By the way, I don't always have tea on my walks – it is sometimes drinks at a bar and others a proper lunch break!! Ed**

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### **Autumn Stroll, Belgravia – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017**



A walk where the famous and infamous have lived, including Prime Ministers, writers and composers, murderers, gangsters and a spy, and all within one of the poshest parts of London, with numerous Embassies. 30 of us set off from Victoria Station and, passing where Mendelsohn once stayed, made our way to Belgrave Square [left] where we could guess whose embassy flags we saw flying, then on to lunch at the 'Plumbers' Arms' [right], passing the house where Lord Lucan murdered his children's Nanny. After



lunch we saw the former residences of Lady Thatcher, Harold McMillan, Mary Shelley (of Frankenstein fame) and Guy Burgess. Further on we passed a residence of Noel Coward and the house, (in Mozart Terrace, where-else?), where Mozart wrote his first symphony at the ripe old age of eight. His statue is at the end of the road. We finished at Sloane Square, by which time it was dark and the rain was coming down. Dave Newland

**I produced an itinerary of the walk for those who came. If you would like a copy I would be happy to let you have one.**

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### **New Year Lunch, Jury's Inn, Croydon – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018**



And now our first event of 2018, the big one of the year. This is the second year that we have used Jury's Inn, very central with buses and trams stopping virtually outside, for our New Year Lunch. Tables were laid out differently this time, so Brian didn't have to give us his jokes twice, but we were a bit squashed up in places. It did mean, though, that it gave us a chance to mingle beforehand with our bucks fizzes.

General opinion was that the food was very good – certainly my roast beef was – and the staff very friendly and obliging. Needless to say, I still haven't yet won a raffle prize, but at least there was one on our table! As I said in my Editorial, it was great to see a number of new faces. One new-comer I hadn't seen since my Whyteleafe days 34 years ago! Do put Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 into your diaries as the probable date for our last New Year Lunch within the EU.

**Our thanks to Judy Dumbrill, Chris House, Maggie Mahoney and Patricia Pegg for all their hard work in organising this event.**

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## Additional Photographs



The Whit Wonders, Quiz Winners



Diners at Buffet Lunch, Croydon Park



Kew Gardens Lake



The Oldest Tree



Colchicums



Belgravia: 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Westminster



Waiting for our Lunch



Young Mozart



New Year Lunch



**Photo Sources:** Henry VIII: National Portrait Gallery web-site; Chislehurst Caves: Their Brochure  
Amberley Museum: Museum web-site, Hampton Court: Carol Courtney  
Charterhouse: Jacky Pepper and Carol Courtney  
Plumbers Arms and Marquess of Westminster: Ann Newland  
All others: Editor

I will have more photos displayed at the AGM.

Remember, 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