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Vice Chair: Carol Courtney
Treasurer: Chris House
Deputy: Chris Garrett
Secretary: Maggie Mahoney



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NEWSLETTER – Winter 2013

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EDITORIAL

A special bumper 8 page edition this time, and I will be adding a 'Colour Supplement' to our web site with a few more photographs.

Life doesn't stand still; people and places come and go. Some venues have had to be changed, and we are always looking for new ideas of events. This year we are holding a 'Treasure Trail', and the experiment of a quarterly breakfast continues. If you haven't come to any of our events before, we would love to see you – and, if you haven't done so already, please let our secretary,

Maggie, know what types of activity particularly interest you, so we can keep you up to date. And do keep an eye on our web site for updates.

Chris House has indicated that he wishes to give up as treasurer at the AGM, a position he has held since 2002 (see his message on page 2). I can't imagine that will see a reduction in what Chris does for the Fellowship. A thousand thanks for all your hard work, Chris.

My usual thanks to all others who have helped in the running of your

Fellowship: Committee members, event organisers, table hosts at the New Year lunch, Joan for sending out our birthday cards (contrary to a generally held belief, these do not come directly from the Company), those who help to envelope your Newsletter – a job which will become a lot smaller, we hope! (see below) and so on ...

A Happy New Year to you all, and looking forward to seeing you at some of our events. DN

NOTICE OF THE 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2013 **Annual General Meeting** will take place on **Thursday 7th March, 2013** commencing **11.30 a.m.** at **Exchange Court**, Bedford Park, Croydon. (Just off Wellesley Road, near Lunar House Home Office building). The meeting will be followed by a light buffet lunch.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

For some time now a number of members have received their Newsletter on-line, which helps to reduce our printing and postage costs. Like everything else these expenses keep rising, so your Committee has agreed that future editions will **only** be available via our web-site **unless you specifically request printed copies** by advising the editor, preferably by e-mail, that you would like your Newsletter in printed form. If you have already advised us that you do not have e-mail, you will continue to receive printed copies, but please do tell us if you acquire e-mail later.

Coming up Soon!

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

Two eating events – **Buffet Lunch** at **The Croydon Park Hotel** and **A Fish'n'Chip Supper**.

Two London visits – To **Guildhall** and **The Tower**

Please make a special note of these events.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Welcome to the start of another new year. I hope you all had an enjoyable festive season, despite the wet weather. We have already planned many events for this year and the full diary can be found in this Newsletter. I hope many of you will be able to participate in the variety of activities.

Our first event, the New Year Lunch at the Hallmark Aerodrome hotel, has already taken place and enjoyed by most members, despite the kitchen problems.

The Annual General Meeting is planned to take place on Thursday 7th March at the Aviva office in Exchange

Best wishes to you all.

Court, Bedford Park in central Croydon (not at the Green Dragon pub as mentioned in my Christmas message). Please do try and come along as we would like to hear your views.

Your Committee is always looking for new ideas and suggestions so please do get in touch. Contact details are in the Newsletter and also on our website. I hope the weather will soon improve and that we are all able to reap the benefits of a warm sunny climate during 2013

Brian Welch

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AVIVA FELLOWSHIP OBJECTIVES

At the New Year lunch, Chris told us of the objectives of the AVIVA Fellowships. He has summarised them here (in bold type), and I have added some of my personal thoughts. Ed

- 1. Views & concerns of Members are conveyed to the Company,**
If there are any matters which you feel need to be raised with the Company, do let a Committee member know and we will follow it up as appropriate.
- 2. Advise Members of relevant Company matters to retain connection,**
We do our best via 'In Touch', our web-site, Newsletter etc. Any suggestions of how this could be improved?
- 3. Support less able Members' welfare via appropriate groups,**
I think we could improve this, but, again, any practical suggestions how?
- 4. Ensure event programs are arranged to keep social contact,**
I think we do this well, but we are always ready to hear of other ideas and to welcome offers of help.
- 5. Serving and retired staff local links are maintained.**

Passwords to the Aviva Fellowship site were always a flower, so a mnemonic to remember '**VASES**' would place them all together!!!! CH

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CROYDON FELLOWSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT 2012

You will find a copy of the accounts for 2012 on our web site*. A Company grant was received for 2012 of **£ 4,458 (2011 £ 4,410)** to help with activities and administration. Overall expenses and event costs were **£ 1,200 over our income**. Excess expenditure largely resulted from planned heavily subsidised annual New Year and themed surprise FREE (**£ 750+**) Diamond Jubilee lunches.

Dramatic increases in postal costs arose (**£1,000+**) excluding printing, envelope & label costs for the year. Personally I have 'gifted' 11,000 envelopes at the outset of my tenure which now need supplementing. Further stamps were purchased before the April increase and our remaining holding, although reduced by a third, has increased its face value by **£ 300+**.

Regarding overall Newsletter printing, postage costs, and facing a 30% reduction in our company grant we must review our policies. Despite numerous requests, (**500+**) group of our Members, most of whom we believe have emails, have so far failed to provide them. We have already invested in our own website and an enhanced colour version of our next Newsletter, together with past copies, will be held & available on our website. We decided to advise these Members that additional hard copies will only be supplied if requested to contain unnecessary costs?

We aim to provide regular updates, via email where required, of our activities. Members who have told us they do not have emails will not be affected.

We reduced prepayments for 2013 by **£1,000** and residual funds only remain in line with immediate needs and our Secretary has Nil funds currently. In the current economic climate, our events require early deposits and pre-payment months in advance! We are pleased our FREE Coffee Mornings in Croydon have managed to attract more new Members. To this end we have added a quarterly subsidised Breakfast option (**£750+** costs are subject to review). Apart from our Diamond Jubilee Lunch we have not been able to offer local Theatre, Excursions or some other Events as we have lost the services of former Organisers.

The accounts, by activity, indicate the extent to which the Committee has been able to subsidise each activity. My thanks go once again to Richard Carr, as our Auditor, and Maggie Mahoney for her very considerable help and assistance in preparing these accounts. I would like to welcome Chris Garrett, who assumes this role, and I know our Funds will be in expert hands CH.

* There is also a very helpful pensioners' tax guide. Ed

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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



We are trying a new eating venue. This is a buffet lunch, so no need for choosing food in advance. Fairly short notice, but please apply by 15th February. £12.00 per person, 12.30 for 1.00p.m. Sue Barber and Maggie are organisers.

GUILDHALL – Monday March 25th



Joan has arranged a visit to London's Guildhall, to see the historic rooms in the 600 year old building with a guided tour. Meet 10:45 for 11:00 tour. Cost will be £2.00 per head.

TOWER OF LONDON – Tuesday 16th April



Judy is organising this visit. Again, meet 10:45 for 11:00. Unfortunately the cost will be somewhat higher at about £20 per person. Please be assured that you will not be entering via the Traitors' Gate!

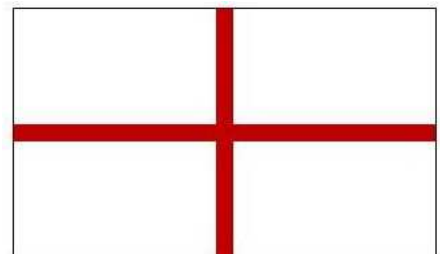
Both the above London visits are likely to be very popular, so please apply early.

FISH & CHIP SUPPER, McDERMOTT'S - Tuesday 23rd April (Subject to Confirmation)

Maggie organises this.



Yes, it's St. George's Day, so do bring your flag and/or come dressed in red and white! Non-English members welcome to this popular event at the National Prize Winning restaurant. Also it's Shakespeare's birthday, but more about him later this year.



For England, AVIVA and St. George.

Meantime, see you at Macbeth's, sorry, McDermott's.

OXTED TREASURE TRAIL - Wednesday June 19th



Last summer I took part in a Treasure Trail in The City of London. The participants were all London Ambassador volunteers and we set a new Guinness World Record. I am planning a similar trail for us in Oxted. The trail is on foot covering about two miles in two hours. Teams of 2-5 would be best and there would be an option of lunch at the Oxted Inn afterwards.

The invitations will go out after Easter but if you want to ensure you are sent details please email or phone Carol after 6th February. Also if anyone would like to help me on the day sitting (probably outside a pub) checking the teams through at the mid-point or at the end, please get in touch.

Carol Courtney

BROOKLANDS - Monday July 15th



Chris House is organising this one. Cars, buses, bikes (pedal & motor), planes – they're all there. Originally this was envisaged as a coach outing, but we realised that this would make the cost prohibitive, and there is easy access by road or rail. A great day out for all who are interested in transport of the 20th Century. More details nearer the time.

SALVETE et VALETE

During the last year the following have joined our fellowship. We wish you all a very warm welcome.

Mrs G.R. Aldred	Mrs. L. Crockatt	Mr. D. Marshall	Mr. P.W.A. Rowlands
Mrs. D.S. Banton	Mrs. S. Dartnell	Mrs. S.P. McCulloch	Mrs. G. Shah
Mrs. S.A. Barton	Mrs. S.C. Ellis	Mrs. P.H.P. McIlwain	Mr. J.C. Skinner
Mr. A.W. Bays	Mr. C. Farlow	Mr. B.D. McLean	Mrs. J. Stallwood
Mrs. S.M. Bradley	Mr. A.N. Fox	Mrs. W.E. Miller	Miss. C. Stephen
Mrs. O.D. Chinoy	Mr. R. Gamble	Mr. G. Moore	Mrs. C.E. Storer
Mr. D.D. Clegg	Miss. S.L. Georgiades	Mr. C. Morris	Mr. I.H. Swankie
Mrs. D.J. Cook	Mr. M. Green	Mrs. J. Patterson	Mr. J.D. Whitley
Mrs. D. Cooper	Mr. B.J. Kearns	Mr. M. Prendergast	
Mrs. G.F. Cowton	Miss. S.M. Macari-Bauer	Mrs. P. Presland	

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

Mrs A. Adams	Mrs E.L. Ford	Miss J.E. Mahony	Mrs G. Rees
Mrs P. Baird	Mrs. S.J. Halpin	Mr D.G. Marlow	Mr M.J. Rogers
Mrs J.P. Brie	Mr T. Harrington	Mr J.F. McCrory	Mrs A.J. Robertson
Mr A.G. Burfoot	Mr B.E. Herbert	Mr E.P. Morley	Mrs I.P. Smith
Mr L.T. Chaplin	Mrs C.Y. Herendeen	Mr L. Nunn	Mr R.L. Wakeham
Mrs S.G. Cowell	Mrs N.S. Hickson	Miss V. O'Hara	Mrs C. Wyant
Mrs M.E. Faunch	Mr G.H. Langham	Miss D.I. Payne	
Mr C.F. Fone	Mrs M. Lapham	Mrs M.E.E. Peach	

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

Mr P.J. Beal	Mr D.R. Denny	Mr D.R. Morrison	Mrs J.E. Smith
Miss D.J. Brookes	Mrs M.M. Forster	Ms. L.I. Pearson	Ms S. Swallow
Mrs M.P. Butcher	Mr D. Green	Mr A.R. Rees	Mrs J.A. Wilson
Mrs C.E. Clarke	Miss O.M. Jordan	Mr R. Sayce	

REPORTS ON SOME RECENT EVENTS

STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE – Wednesday 15th August 2012



A medium grey sky greeted us at Clapham Junction as 20 or so members were mustering for our Strawberry Hill House trip to Twickenham. An immediate delight ‘steamed’ by in the form of ‘Bittern’, an A4-class (‘Streak’) locomotive, hauling a trainload of steam enthusiasts to the West Country.

After a short journey together on a more mundane train, allowing us to meet & greet some old colleagues, we alighted at Strawberry Hill railway station. A five-minute walk saw the group entering the gates of Strawberry Hill, home of Horace Walpole (1717-1797), third son of Sir Robert, Britain’s first Prime Minister. Welcoming teas and coffees were served before we split into two groups of 14 to start our tours.

Julie, our knowledgeable guide for the tour, then explained Walpole had purchased it, as one of the last remaining sites available on the banks of the Thames in the fashionable countryside of Twickenham. He perversely, and totally contrary to the then Italianate fashion, set about transforming what was a couple of cottages into his ‘little gothic castle’. It featured pinnacles, battlements (crenulations), round tower and held his lifetime collection of art & glass exhibits. The castle (or villa) became an elite tourist attraction in Walpole’s life-time. He used to allow four visitors a day and even published rules for their guidance, one of which was that no children were allowed (nice one, Horace!).

Once inside the house (more like Hogwarts!) we went through the hall to the staircase, lit only by a long hanging Gothic althorn. It was Walpole’s idea that some of the corridors and passageways would be deliberately dark and shadowy (he even coined the word ‘gloom’ to describe this). These would then open out into a sudden splendour such as the Gallery. The restored mouldings there are actually made from papier-mâché, the same as the originals.

Julie, made sure that we knew the history of the house and its owner, including showing us the former location of the ceramic vase that inspired Thomas Gray to write his poem ‘On the Death of a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Gold Fishes’. Sadly, the vase and the entire contents were later auctioned after his death as he had no direct heirs. The vase and a few of the other contents are now in the V&A. A further little known fact is that after suffering a nightmare, Horace Walpole created the ‘gothic horror genre’ by his book ‘The Castle of Otranto’(1764).

The tour took exactly the scheduled hour and a half returning us then to the café for our booked lunch. For those that missed this excellent trip it is worth a visit and, as for me, I intend to return. It’s not like the normal historic house visit but is one with a distinct difference!

I must thank Carol Courtney for arranging this visit.

James O’Neil

Jim O’Neil was just a member of the group visiting, not the organiser or the editor, so I decided to produce his report in full. It would be wonderful if other group members were to do the same on future events. Ed

GUILDFORD – Wednesday 12th September



35 members enjoyed a re-scheduled lovely sunny September day. We met at the YMCA for refreshments and then took a guided tour alongside the River Wey over Town Bridge to historic High Street which included Abbots Hospital, the Guildhall, Guildhall House and 13th Century Undercroft and then onto the Castle. After lunch we enjoyed a boat trip on the river. HK

WESTMINSTER ABBEY – Friday 19th October 2012

Our postponed trip to Westminster Abbey finally occurred on a rather wet drizzly day recently.

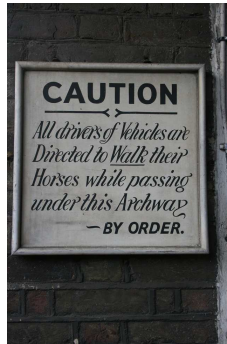


We had 48 eager members for this outing, the biggest group we have had to contend with, but all went well. We split into two groups & as usual our guides were brilliant, knowledgeable funny, & with eyes in the back of their heads to keep track of us all

We are all familiar with the Abbey. It is the cornerstone of so many historic events, even in our lifetimes: The Coronation, State Funerals, Celebrations of Weddings & Jubilees. Even so, to see it 'in the flesh' so to speak, is awesome. Soaring pillars, stunning glass windows, the Choir Stalls with historic banners overhead. So many memorials & of course, Poets Corner with many famous names. Very moving, was the Grave of the Unknown Soldier, with the Scarlet Poppies contrasting with the dark marble. Even Kate & William detoured around this, & Kate continued the Royal tradition, started by the Queen Mother, of laying her bouquet here, although it was kept until the photos had been taken. JD

LONDON 'SEA to SEA' WALK - Thursday 22nd November 2012

For once the weather behaved itself as 21 of us (the most I think I have had on one of my walks) set out from BatterSEA Park Station, and around the park itself, to see some beautiful autumn colours,



a large array of aquatic birds and banana trees all wrapped up in their winter coats. The only hiccup was finding the loos temporarily closed. A film crew had turned up and an overnight storm had forced them to protect their equipment in the only available place – the toilets! Thank goodness for Portaloos! The coffee kiosk in the Festival Garden enabled us to improve our Russian! After

admiring the newly re-painted Albert Bridge and breaking our step, we ensured that we *walked* our horses under the arch of Cheyne Mews, as we entered ChelSEA! We finished outside the Army Museum, and several of us went inside after for lunch and to look around. A possible venue for a future visit DN

Did you notice in the last 'In Touch' that Oxford/Reading Fellowship had had a conducted tour of the Army Museum

Ed

NEW YEAR LUNCH - Hallmark Aerodrome Hotel – Friday 4th January 2013

Our thanks to Chris House, Patricia, Maggie and Carol



for the immense hard work in organising this event. Numbers were slightly down this year at 79. Maybe

others had already had their fill of turkey and Christmas pudding! Unfortunately, the staff had a problem with the workings of the kitchen, causing the lunch to be delayed for 30 minutes, but it did give us time to have another pre-lunch drink and to buy more raffle tickets, and it did mean our Chairman couldn't give us one of his jokes beforehand as we were all ready to eat!

Comments on the food were variable; it seems that the nearer you were to the serving point the better you did! I also noticed a cultural change, epitomised by Maggie walking around with a bottle half full of white wine, trying to do a swap for a red one. I am sure that 25 years ago, it would be the other way round.

£50 from the raffle proceeds has been donated to Age UK

DN.

YOUR COMMITTEE

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	Hilary KEARNEY (HK)	01342 3212 334	mhkearney@hotmail.co.uk

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.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2013

Date	Organiser	Event	Venue	Time
FEBRUARY				
Tue 12	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10.00 to 11:30
Tue 26	SB/MM	Buffet Lunch	Croydon Park Hotel, Croydon	12.30 for 13.00
Wed 27	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10..30
MARCH				
Thu 7	MM	AGM & Buffet	Exchange Court, Bedford Park, Croydon	11.30
Tue 12	MM	Coffee / Breakfast †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10.00 to 11:30
Mon 25	JP	Guildhall	Gresham Street, London, EC2	10.45 for 11.00
APRIL				
Tue 9	MM	Coffee/Tax queries †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10.00 to 11:30
Tue 16	JD	London Visit	The Tower of London	10.45 for 11.00
Tue 23	MM	*Fish'n'Chips Supper	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Croydon	19.00 for 19:30
MAY				
Tue 14	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10.00 to 11:30
Wed 15	CH/PP	*Lunch	The Horseshoe, Warlingham	12: 15 for 12:45
Wed 29	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
JUNE				
Tue 11	MM	Coffee / Breakfast †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10.00 to 11:30
Wed 19	CC	Treasure Hunt	Oxted	10.50 for 11.00
Thu27	MM	Coffee Morning †	Polhill Garden Centre	10.30
JULY				
Tue 9	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10.00 to 11:30
Mon 15	CH	*Museum Visit	Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey	TBA
Thu 25	MM	Coffee Morning †	Chartwell	10:30
AUGUST				
Wed 7	BW	*Italian Lunch	GI Trattoria, West Wickham	12:00 for 12:30
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
w/c 16	CH/PP	*Lunch	The Horseshoe, Warlingham	12:15 for 12:45
w/c 23	DN	*Jewish Museum	Albert Street, Camden Town, London NW1	TBA
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
Wed 16	JD	*London Walk	Shakespeare's & Dickens' London	TBA
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
w/c 18	DN	*Autumn Stroll †	Leisurely walk in London	TBA
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

Notes: For organisers' contact details, see list of committee members and other event organisers (Page 7).

For Coffee Morning locations, see previous page

† 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.