

Chair: Brian Welch
Treasurer: Carol Courtney
Secretary: Maggie Mahoney



www.avivafellowshipcroydon.org.uk

Editor:
Dave Newland
93 Marlpit Lane
COULSDON
Surrey CR5 2HH

01737 551 048

dave.and.ann@classicfm.net

NEWSLETTER – Winter 2014

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EDITORIAL

In October, we were privileged to welcome Kirsty Cooper, AVIVA's Company Secretary, to a special lunch, where she outlined the Company's approach in the foreseeable future. (See the item on Page 2). Basically, times are hard and money is tight! The Fellowship's funding is being drastically reduced. Previously, nationally we received about £5 per head per annum; it could now be as little as £1, the price of just two postage stamps! So, if you haven't told us your e-mail address (if you have one) please,

please do so to enable us to contact you by that method and to provide the Newsletters on-line.

But all this has in no way deterred your Committee (hard-working as ever!) from producing a full schedule of activities for 2014, including some new ones.

We may have to ask you to pay a bit more for some events, but several of them are without charge (except possibly for buying your lunch, tea or coffee). So do come and join us; there must be at least one event for you.

If not, tell us at the AGM what you would like us to do – or organise it for us!

My continued thanks to the Committee and the other event organisers. There won't be any AVIVA birthday cards in future (one of the savings), so our particular thanks to Joan, assisted by Patricia, for sending these out in the past.

A happy 2014 to you all.

Dave Newland

Coming up Soon!

Please make a special note of these events in the next couple of months. More details below

Monday 17th February London Parks Walk

Thursday 6th March AGM

Thursday 20th March 10 Pin Bowling (Something new!!)

And don't forget the coffee mornings.

Now that we have received our AVIVA 2014 diaries, put all these dates in straight away!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Croydon AVIVA Fellowship AGM will take place on **Thursday 6th 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.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Welcome to 2014! I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and can now look forward to a good new year.

Your Fellowship had an excellent New Year Lunch in early January. Over 90 people attended and we all enjoyed the food, service and dancing(!) at Croydon Park Hotel and we thank Sue Barber for her superb organisation of the day.

You will find our diary of events for this year in the Newsletter and you will see that we are planning some new ones which I hope you will be able to attend and enjoy. An important date to note is 6th March when we shall hold our AGM at Bedford Court. I look forward to seeing many of you there so that we can hear your ideas and suggestions for future activities.

Our funding from the Fellowship will be reduced this year although we do not yet know by how much. This means however that we shall have less cash available and will therefore have to reduce or even cancel the subsidies which we provide for our events.

On a more positive note we will continue our lunches, suppers and walks which many of you enjoy.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

Brian Welch, January 2014

Congratulations to Brian and Delia who, since the last Newsletter, have celebrated their Golden Wedding.

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LUNCH & VIP AVIVA TALK – Friday 11th October



We organised this special event for our members. We were honoured by Aviva Company Secretary Kirsty Cooper's attendance together with Barry Summerfield, National Fellowship Chairman designate, and five Local Fellowship Area Chairmen with their guests.

After a memorable meal and superlative service, Kirsty Cooper explained the rationale behind the new direction the company is taking. Barry Summerfield then advised how the cost savings are likely to affect us. Elsewhere in this Newsletter the implications are explained further! CH

The report on the visit to the Aerodrome Museum, which preceded this meal, appears on page 4

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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 G.M. Barrett	Mrs L.A. Hallett	Mr G. Maguire	Mr C. Pountain
Mrs M.J. Bennett	Mr A.C. Homer	Mrs S. Mandalia	Mr A.P. Rance
Mrs S.A. Butterworth	Mr D.R. Hull	Mr M. Matthews	Mrs H.M. Rebbeck
Mrs P.A. Challenger	Mr J.S. Huntley	Mr C.F. Michael	Mr D.A. Sheridan
Mr I. Dinwiddie	Mrs C. Hyde	Mr E.W. Moore	Mrs D.A. Vallance
Mr C.O. Fatoberu	Mrs J. Joyce	Mrs J.A. Moore	Mr C.A. Watson
Mr P.G. Fieldwick	Mrs C. Kelly	Mrs A.P. Oakley	Mr A.E. Webster
Mrs M.M.J. Fowler	Mrs S. Kingcombe	Mrs B. Pendley	Mrs J. Wheeler
Mrs C.V. Frost-Gaskin	Mrs P. Lynch	Mr A.W. Perks	Mr K.H. Wright
Mr J. Gibbons			

And we welcome back: Mr P.J. Beale Mr D.R. Denny **from other Fellowships**

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

Miss J. Abrahams	Mr J.W. Fordham	Mr A.J. Kelly	Mrs O.A. Poulton
Miss M.G. Apps	Mrs V. Gotts	Mr J.A. King	Mr J.H. Simms
Mrs P.N. Auger	Mrs J.T. Griffiths	Mr R. Krant	Mr E.G. Slater
Mrs K.E. Coombes	Mrs E.T. Harvey	Mrs P.E. Martin	Mr A. Sydenham
Mr S. Dodds	Mrs M.E. Howard	Miss M. Murphy	Mr J.E. Tingley
Mr A.C. Dyke	Mr J.O. Imlah	Mr A.J. Paxton	Mr C.W. Turton

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 J.S. Dawson Mrs L. Tattoli

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(Please note that some of these events are subject to confirmation
Full details will be available nearer the time)

LONDON PARKS WALK Monday 17th February



Roger Smith is repeating his walk which he did some years ago, starting at Embankment Tube Station 11a.m., finishing in Kensington Gardens and including a lunch break.



I'm going on this walk again! Roger is also planning to repeat his walk over the cliffs at Seaford in July. Ed

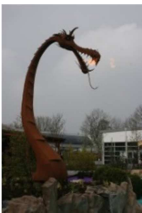
10 PIN BOWLING Thursday 20th March – Orpington



A **new** venture and a **new** location. We don't often organise events in the Bromley / Orpington area, so here is the chance to take part in something more local for our members living in the Eastern Hemisphere.



FISH 'N' CHIPS SUPPER Wednesday 23rd April – McDermott's Forestdale



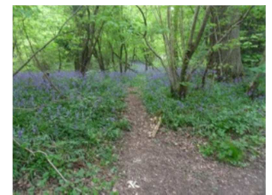
Like last year, this very popular event is being held on St. George's Day / Shakespeare's birthday. And note that a Fish 'n' Chips *lunch* is scheduled for 5th November. A dragon, Shakespeare, Guy Fawkes - what else could you want!! Bon appetit!



SPRING STROLL Friday 9th May – Coulsdon Common



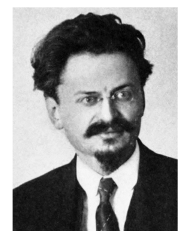
A pleasant afternoon stroll from Coulsdon Common to New Hill, Devilsden Woods and Happy Valley to see the primroses, cowslips and bluebells, starting and finishing at 'The Fox' pub in time for a cuppa or something stronger and with the option to arrive early for a light lunch beforehand.



UNKNOWN EAST END OF LONDON Tuesday 17th June - Whitechapel



The Kray Twins, Elephant Man, Trotsky, a bell foundry - sounds very intriguing! This is another of the conducted tours organised by Judy, which are always very interesting, and very popular.



REPORTS ON SOME RECENT EVENTS

SHAKESPEARE'S AND DICKENS' LONDON - Monday 16th September

Did you know that the Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, adjacent to the Hospital, was where Hugh Grant didn't marry Duckface? An interesting fact which had nothing to do with our 'Shakespeare & Dickens' walk, but was nice to know!

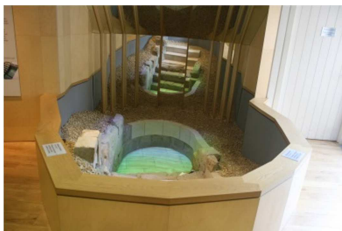


Our walk this time, covered quite a small area of the City, but the medieval maze of streets would have been familiar to Shakespeare. Quite what he would have made of the high rise buildings is another matter!

We walked past Milk St and Bread St, saw a lovely Knot Garden tucked away in a quiet corner, peered into The Royal Wardrobe and had our memories refreshed by our Guide, quoting both Dickens and The Bard JD.



JEWISH MUSEUM, CAMDEN TOWN - Tuesday 24th September



After an introductory talk on the development of the museum, we were free to study the exhibits on the first and second floors, with front-of-house volunteers readily available to explain the various exhibits. A number of the group expressed an interest in revisiting on their own.

DN



AERODROME MUSEUM VISIT - Friday 11th October

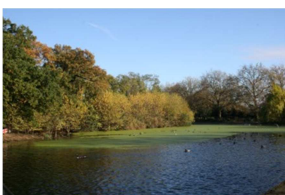


Prior to our meal (See Page 2), Frank Anderson, Chairman of the Airport Museum Society, with his two colleagues guided our 50 members and guests around the museum. This museum was once 'London's First Airport' and also introduced radio directional navigation and it retains many interesting historic exhibits.

Afterwards we hurried back next door to join the expected further 20 members for our Bucks Fizz and Hotel Lunch.

CH

AUTUMN STROLL – FROM FINSBURY PARK TO HIGHGATE - Friday 22nd November



The weather was kind and 24 of us walked the 2½ miles (or 3 miles or ... depending on which sign-post you read!), with a leisurely lunch break half way. We saw acid grass, the old Crouch Hill railway station and work to make a disused tunnel 'bat-friendly'.

DN



NEW YEAR LUNCH – CROYDON PARK HOTEL - Friday 3rd January 2014

Well the new year's lunch seemed to be a success; so far I haven't had any complaints! I was hoping for 100 to attend but we had 98 people who paid and 6 were absent due to illness. Thank you to those who personally thought my efforts were well received; it is nice to be appreciated, as I put a lot of time and effort into this event.



The staff at the Croydon Park Hotel did a fantastic job at making us welcome and their services were outstanding. My aim was to make this more like a party atmosphere instead of



just a lunch. I think those who joined in the dancing enjoyed themselves, even those who had to be coaxed on to the dance floor.

S B (Report), Philip Talmage (Photos)

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Brian WELCH (BW)	020 8657 1354	brian.welch3@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Carol COURTNEY (CC)	01737 642 558	carol.courtney22@gmail.com
Secretary	Maggie MAHONEY (MM)	020 8651 5024	mahoney@avivafellowship.force9.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Alan EMMINS (AE)	020 8651 4079	aemmins@f2s.com
Sue BARBER (SB)		01689 848 252	barber.clan@btinternet.com
Judy DUMBRILL (JD)		01883 344 659	dj.dumbrill@ntlworld.com
Chris HOUSE (CH)		020 8763 0890	housec@avivafellowship.force9.co.uk
Patricia PEGG (PP)		01737 552 234	
Joan PRICE (JP)		020 8651 0517	joan_price@btinternet.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Website Manager	Ian RAE (IR)	020 8660 6910	ian@irmamusic.com
Newsletter Editor	Dave NEWLAND (DN)	01737 551 048	dave.and.ann@classicfm.net
Event Organisers	Hilary KEARNEY (HK)	01324 321 834	mhkearney@hotmail.co.uk
	Roger SMITH (RS)	07842 780 782	r.smith001@btinternet.com

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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 2014

Date	Organiser	Event	Venue	Time
FEBRUARY				
Tue 11	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Mon 17	RS	London Parks Walk †	Embankment Tube Station	10:45 for 11:00
Wed 26	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
MARCH				
Thu 6		AGM & Buffet	Exchange Court, Bedford Park, Croydon	11.30
Tue 11	MM	Coffee/Breakfast †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Thu 20	SB	* NEW 10 Pin Bowling	Orpington	TBA
APRIL				
Tue 8	MM	Coffee/Tax queries †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Wed 23	MM	*Fish 'n' Chips Supper	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Croydon	19:00 for 19:30
MAY				
Fri 9	DN	Spring Stroll †	'The Fox' Coulsdon Common	13:15 for 13:30
Tue 13	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Tue 20	CH/PP	*Lunch	'The Horseshoe', Warlingham	12:15 for 12:45
Wed 28	MM	Coffee †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10.30
JUNE				
Tue 10	MM	Coffee/Breakfast †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Tue 17	JD	*London Walk	Unknown East End of London, Whitechapel	10:45 for 11:00
Thu 26	MM	Coffee Morning †	Polhill Garden Centre	10:30
JULY				
Tue 8	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Wed 16	BW	*Italian Lunch	Gi Trattoria, West Wickham	12:00 for 12:30
Mon 21	RS	* Sussex Cliffs Walk †	Seaford Station	10:45
Thu 31	MM	Coffee Morning †	Chartwell	10:30
AUGUST				
Wed 6	SB/CH	* NEW Quiz Night/Supper	Selsdon Centre for the Retired	19:00 for 19:30
Tue 12	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
Wed 27	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
SEPTEMBER				
Tue 9	MM	Coffee/Breakfast †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
W/C	CH/PP	*Lunch	To be decided	13:15 for 13:45
Thu 25	MM	Coffee Morning †	Polhill Garden Centre	10:30
OCTOBER				
Thu 9	JP	* Factory Visit	Poppy Factory, Richmond	13:00 for 13:15
Tue 14	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
TBA	JD	*London Walk		
NOVEMBER				
Wed 5	MM	*Fish 'n' Chips Lunch	McDermott's, Forestdale Centre, Croydon	11:30 for 12:00
Tue 11	MM	Coffee Morning †	Clocktower Café, Katherine Street, Croydon	10:00 to 11:30
TBA	DN	Autumn Stroll †	London	11.15 for 11.30
Wed 26	MM	Coffee Morning †	Knight's Garden Centre, Woldingham	10:30
DECEMBER				
Tue 9	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 above.

† 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.