



Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents' Association

www.theaspra.org.uk

1989-2012

Newsletter
Spring 2012



An independent, non politically aligned organisation
run for and by the residents of Addiscombe

Road Representatives

Addiscombe Road (275-393)	Paul Pinder	28 Sefton Road
Annandale Road	Patricia West	5 Annandale Road
Ashburton Avenue	Jacquie Farrow	51 Ashburton Avenue
Ashling Road	Sheila Newbold	3 Baring Road
Ashurst Walk	Contact us for details	
Baring Road	Helen Tilbury	27 Baring Road
Bingham Road (W) (1-94)	Jenny Crook	29 Bingham Road
Bingham Road (E) (93-186)	Jenny Tighe	39 Bingham Road
Birch Tree Way	Contact us for details	
Brockenhurst Road	Sheila Newbold	3 Baring Road
Carlyle Road	Chris Facey	19 Carlyle Road
Cheyne Walk	Tony Wood	81 Selwood Road
Claremont Road	Fred Demay	6 Claremont Road
Colworth Road	Sheila Newbold	3 Baring Road
Compton Road	Kathy Gray	30 Compton Road
Craigen Avenue	Trevor Bowden	37 Craigen Avenue
Craven Road	Sarah & Julian Bishop	13 Craven Road
Elmgrove Road	Nicola Salisbury	36 Kingscote Road
Fernhurst Road	Amy Simmons	36 Fernhurst Road
Fryston Avenue	Sharon Rees	7 Sefton Road
Glenthorne Avenue	Crys & Mike Rotheron	33 Glenthorne Avenue
Greencourt Avenue	Paul Pinder	28 Sefton Road
Greencourt Gardens	Christine Kempton	23 Greencourt Gardens
Harriet Gardens	Bill Callow	3 Harriet Gardens
Kingscote Road	Nicola Salisbury	36 Kingscote Road
Northampton Road	Paul Pinder	28 Sefton Road
Parkview Road	Gerry Wade	26 Parkview Road
Sefton Road	Sharon Rees	7 Sefton Road
Selwood Road	Christine Kempton	23 Greencourt Gardens
Sherwood Road	Martine Edwards	11 Sherwood Road
Shirley Road (N) (1-52)	Margaret Grimsley	22 Shirley Road
Shirley Road (S) (57-196)	Ann & Bill Jameson	138 Shirely Road
Shirley Park Road	Mike Savage	45 Shirley Park Road
Whitethorn Gardens	Contact us for details	

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Dear neighbours

There are many changes to report to you in this issue. TFL have started work on improvements to Lower Addiscombe Road and refurbishments to the children's play area in Addiscombe Recreation Ground will begin in May. Coughlans bakery has now settled in to the old Gibson's deli shop, while Leslie's is back home with a new layout, now that the fire damage has been repaired.

Changes are coming to the planning application process as well. Croydon Council is proposing a major alteration in the application procedure, as they will no longer be informing individual residents closest to any proposed development by letter. Instead, they will be posting notices outside the property concerned, which must remain in place for ten days. The Council is also suggesting that an objection by a Residents' Association, to planning applications will in and of itself be enough, to have the application referred to the full Planning Committee for discussion. These changes will be taking place shortly so do keep your eyes open for any notices appearing on your street.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee is fast approaching. If your street is planning any celebrations to mark this event, let us know and we will post the information on our website www.theaspra.org. Aaron Hatton and his team at Hosting Vortex have been doing a great job maintaining the site, so if you haven't visited us recently, have a look. We would like to have more local events and groups featured, so if you have something you want your neighbours to know about, contact us through the website.

Details of the next Committee meeting on 31st May will be found in this magazine. Everyone is welcome and we are hoping for some volunteers to help with magazine advertising and website content. Another date for your diary is the Addiscombe Festival hosted by Croydon Lions 11am-5pm on 3rd June in Ashburton Park.

Finally, the Association extends warm congratulations to one of our Councillors, Eddy Arram, who has been elected to serve as Mayor of Croydon for the year 2012/2013.

James Maloney

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When I moved to Croydon

By Adam Kellett



When I moved to Croydon in 2001 with my wife, Hilary and young son Finlay, I had no intention of dabbling in politics again. In 1986 I had stood unsuccessfully to be a Councillor in Richmond but I had new priorities here and being a Dad was a new and rewarding experience for me.

I was born in Barnes and grew up in East Sheen. With the expanses of Richmond Park on my doorstep it was no surprise that I developed a keen interest in the natural world and a love of open spaces that would help form my outlook on life.

In Richmond the “eleven plus” survived into the 1970’s and I was in the last intake to Sheen Grammar in 1972. ‘O’ levels and ‘A’ levels followed and then three years at Reading University, before graduating in Zoology with Psychology. After a couple of years doing various office jobs I decided to become a taxi driver.. All that stood in my way was the small matter of “The Knowledge”. Thankfully I had always been fascinated with maps. I just had to add detail to what I already knew of London and I had the right type of brain to assimilate vast quantities of apparently useless information and the desire to succeed.

I met Hilary in 1993 and married in 1995 at Epsom Baptist Church. She was a nursery nurse and has since worked as a nanny and for the last few years as a teaching assistant at Thornton Heath Primary school. She has always done wonders with special needs kids and has coped admirably since Finlay was diagnosed as autistic. He now attends the Spectrum Centre at Addington High School.

My unexpected return to politics was triggered by the previous administration’s attempt to build a leisure centre in my local park. I found myself at the centre of the residents’ campaign, which was ultimately successful. I think that my experience with that campaign has left me with a natural empathy with residents and their causes, particularly when they are very much the underdogs. Of course I can not always give residents what they want, but the greatest satisfaction from being a Councillor is on those occasions when I feel that I have made a difference in providing a successful outcome to an issue.

Murder She Wrote but not on this train!

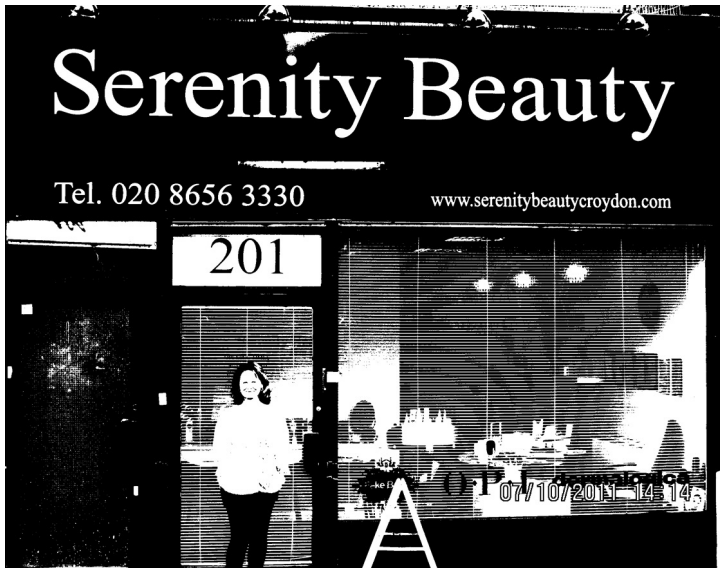
By Avril Slipper



We were booked for a trip on the famous Orient Express train for a Christmas outing to Salisbury. Once booked in, we were conducted to coach 'Audrey' and our private four-seat compartment. As with many of the coaches, 'Audrey' had started life in 1932 as part of the famous Brighton Belle service; she was in remarkably good shape for her age! The train manager introduced himself and gave us a brief resume of the day.

As we rolled across the river, our immaculately attired steward appeared with our 'Bellini'; a cocktail of peach juice and sparkling wine. Brunch continued with fresh fruit cocktail, followed by scrambled egg with smoked salmon and caviar, served on a potato and herb rosti, accompanied by a comprehensive selection from the bakery and coffee. Our journey took us through many familiar places, we even glimpsed the Croydon tramlink at Wimbledon and continued through Surrey, Hampshire and Wiltshire to Salisbury.

Our coach and guide were waiting to take us on the short drive to the Cathedral, where we were welcomed by stewards who conducted us to our seats for a Christmas Carol Service performed by the Cathedral Choristers. Following the service, we went to the Cloisters for mulled wine and mince pies, followed by a tour of the Cathedral, during which we saw a plaque, recording all the Bishops of Salisbury for the last 900 years and recognised the name of the last Bishop to retire as the son of the Canon, who had married us. Next was a shopping trip. Salisbury has a wide range and variety of shops and we discovered many different outlets, which one does not usually find in city centres, before returning back to the station, where a welcoming glass of champagne was served. A splendid four course dinner was served, complete with choice of wine and a plethora of Christmassy bits and pieces. It was a day that we will truly remember for a long time.



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Flower Festival and FloFest

St John's, Shirley Church Road

18-20th May 2012

The Flower Festival is to celebrate the Psalms as well as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics 18-20th May 2012. The event will be open on Friday and Saturday 10-5 and on Sunday 12-4, giving everyone plenty of time to browse and appreciate the displays, which promise to be well worth seeing. Refreshments will be served each day.

There will be plant and craft stalls and to further enhance your enjoyment there will be performances of live music throughout the event, including local school choirs, a Mandolin Trio, a string quartet and organ recitals.

On Saturday 19th May 7-9 there is the FloFest, a concert including Andrew Samarasekara, a talented young violist from Trinity school and the Belle Canto Choir.

Please come and join us as we celebrate and appreciate all the beauty of our nature and flowers all around us. Entrance to the Festival is only £2.50 with the first 100 visitors receiving a handcrafted tote bag. Entrance to FloFest is £6.00 per ticket including refreshments. This is available in advance from the church.

St. John's Church is a Grade II listed Gothic revival church designed in 1854 by Sir Gilbert Scott set in picturesque grounds with many listed and historically important monuments, including those of John Ruskin's parents, Rev, William Wilks, founder of the Chelsea flower show and propagator of the famous Shirley Poppy.

We are delighted to have many local businesses, shops, schools and organisations supporting us in decorating our Church and we thank them for their support.

Shirley Park Podiatry and Chiropody

Shirley Park Podiatry & Chiropody (www.croydonchiropodist.co.uk) was established by Cathy Richardson in 1976. The practice consists of three Podiatrists. All three of us were educated and have lived and worked in Croydon all our lives.

All of us are members of The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists (www.feetforlife.org) and are registered with the Health Professionals Council (www.hpc-uk.org) and undertook three year professional training to achieve this. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is something we have to do annually to maintain our registration with the HPC. We are very proud that we are an Accredited Practice, which means that a set standard has been achieved, which is renewable every two years and has been achieved three times since 2006, when Accreditation started.

The term “Podiatrist” is a relatively new word and title which replaces the word “Chiropodist”, which more accurately describes our profession. However both titles are in common use and are now protected in law to safeguard the public.

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If you would like to know more about us, please check out our website www.croydonchiropodist.co.uk.

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Not Plymouth Hoe but

By Bob Wright

Sir Francis Drake had to learn his bowls somewhere. In Devon? For YOU where better than on one of the bowling greens in Croydon's parks? Ashburton Park, for instance. Generations of bowlers have learned the arts (including the crafty ones) there and gone on to refine their skills - so could you.

What's special about the game? First it's a life-long sport (well nearly). You could start in childhood. Over 80s are by no means unusual. Centenarian bowlers are not unknown and Heaven help the youngsters, who think they're in for an easy game against them. Secondly you can play the game all year round, normally outdoor in Summer, retreating indoors late in September. It's not easy though. Confirmed bowlers experience as much elation and dismay at their day-to-day performance, as sporting people in any other game. "It's time for me to pack up" is said quite frequently. Few do, however, despite severe preoccupations and disabilities. You come to know that it will be better for you tomorrow, that's the challenge.

The bowls (no longer made of wood) are biased. They swing on their way to reach the "jack", a smaller, unbiased, ball. Get the right line, bowl at the right pace, not too heavy, not too slow and hear the applause! Get the line and weight wrong, then pray to do better next time. Whether you have a good or an "off" day, you'll find friendship and refreshment back in the pavilion. Even the washing-up afterwards can be fun.

You'll be very welcome to give it a try at Ashburton Park Bowling Clubs (ladies and men) located in Ashburton Park adjacent to the old library. Open days (Taster Sessions) will be held on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th April 2012. No need to buy bowls or other kit and dress is informal while you give the game a try. The club will supply what's needed on the day. The Open Days will be followed by free coaching sessions on Tuesday evenings through May. Roll Up (literally), get the bug and wonder why you didn't get started earlier in life.

More information from:
Bob Wright: 020 8654 3211.

The Croydon Art Society

By Bob Sleeman

The Croydon Art Society meets alternate Monday evenings at the Methodist Hall in Lower Addiscombe Road.

The Society was founded in 1881 and is the oldest Art Society in England outside London. It has around 100 members, some of whom live within the ASPRA area.

New members are welcome, subject to selection panels in February and October.

Exhibitions will be held during 2012 as follows :

Croydon ClockTower:	21 st May - 9 th June (excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays)
Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking:	3 rd to 16 th September
Fairfield Halls Croydon:	19 th November to 1 st December

Visitors are welcome to attend talks at our open meetings in 2012:

Sculptures for Science and Film:	6 th February
Light Interacting with Matter:	2 nd April
British Art Now:	30 th April
Two Rivers paper Co.:	28 th May
Hidden Wonders of Korean Art:	25 th June
Terence Cuneo, Painter to the Queen:	22 nd October
Composition:	19 th November

Bob Sleeman
Hon. Treasurer

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**By Janet Ambrose
(Resident of Mildred Court)**



Adrian Connell conducting a rehearsal of John Ruskin Choral Society

John Ruskin Choral Society

“He who sings frightens away his ills”- Cervantes

I haven't sung before,

No experience is necessary; even experienced singers feel a bit lost at first, but you will soon gain confidence.

I am rusty

The Choir is mixed ability and is suitable for anyone who has not sung for a while or is 'rusty'. There is no audition. We will help you improve your technique and gain confidence. Why not come to the next concert?

I can't sight read music.

Most of our members need some help with reading music. Parts are played on the piano and many of us find rehearsal CDs helpful.

Why do we need new members?

We have 30-40 members and sing with a full orchestra for 1 concert. We tackle some ambitious pieces so we are always keen to recruit new members and make new friends.

Where does the choir rehearse?

Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7.45-9.45pm at Shirley Methodist church.

Can I sit in and see if I like it?

You may try 1 or 2 rehearsals before making a decision. We follow school terms with 1/2 term break. We learn a new piece each term. The beginning of term is the best time to start but you are welcome to join at any time.

Do I have to buy music?

Music is provided for members. You need a pencil to mark the score and money for refreshments during the break!

What type of music do you sing?

We sing classical music in four part harmony, including new, unperformed works. In the summer we sing lighter works. *Music from Stage & Screen* is on 7 July 2012.

What happens at rehearsals?

Rehearsals start with a brief vocal warm up. Members should attend regularly and to take part in the concert at least 8. Try to let us know in advance if you cannot attend.

Will I have to sing on my own

You will sing as part of a small group. We occasionally ask for volunteers for solos either as part of a choral work or another piece within a concert, specially in the Summer concert, but No one is forced to sing a solo. If you are interested, speak to our Musical Director.

What sort of performances do you give?

We work towards an end of term performance held close to where we rehearse. Tickets are £7 and under 18s free. If you cannot sing in the concert please let us know, but you can still sing all term.

How is JRCS organised?

We are a registered charity No 1119667. A Committee is elected annually at the AGM in October who manages JRCS. All members help with selling tickets, catering and setting up and putting away after rehearsals and concerts. All are encouraged to attend the AGM and volunteer for the committee.

What does my membership include?

All over 18s pay a membership fee of £60 per year, or £20 per term. which covers the cost of the rehearsal venue, fees for the Musical Director/ accompanist, and the cost of staging concerts, orchestras, venues, insurance, etc. No concessions or refunds.

What do choir members wear for the concert?

Women: full/ankle length all black skirt or smart trousers together with a long-sleeved white blouse, black tights and black shoes. Women may wear make-up and jewellery.

Men: black dinner jackets and trousers, black shoes and socks.

phone: 020 8777 3594

email: johnruskinchoir@yahoo.co.uk,

website: www.communigate.co.uk/london/johnruskinchoral.



1989-2012

For your diary:

Committee meetings

31 May 2012

8pm in the Small Hall

23rd Annual General Meeting

12 September 2012

8pm in the Pavilion

Held at St Mildred's Centre, Bingham Road

Everyone welcome!

ASPRA Magazine Team

Thank you to those of you who sent in information about local groups. This is a really good way of advertising your group locally and we are always interested to hear about local groups. We are in the process of compiling a list of local groups and organisations. If you are a member of a local group, please send us details. Once complete we will add it to the website and magazine. If you have an article or anything else of interest please send them in. All articles must be sent in by email as MS office documents as an attachment with a maximum of 2 sides of A5 and pictures as jpeg. We are still looking for 2 people willing to take over as Advertising Editor and Features Editor. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved. You will be given as much help and support in taking this on as you need.

Liz Brereton
Magazine Editor

ASPRA Spam

It has been brought to our attention that when we send a mass email, messages may be considered as SPAM by various Service Providers & the message put into the resident's Spam folder. Therefore, can I please ask you to make sure that:

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Pints and Phones

The Samaritans

What is the connection between The Cricketer's pub in Shirley Road and St Stephen Walbrook in the City of London? One is where the Samaritans was founded and the other supports their work. I leave it to you to work out which is which.

The Samaritan's have had a branch in Croydon for fifty years. When the branch started there were so many volunteers, the phones in Kidderminster Road were manned or womanned 24/7. The number of volunteers has lessened, but we still take in excess of 20,000 calls a year at this branch and do 18 duties a week, two of which are overnight. Today, although our branch is smaller, the Samaritans service to those in distress, who call 020 8681 6666 continues 24/7.

Of the current volunteers, five live in the Shirley, Addiscombe area. They drive or bus in at all hours of the day or night to pick up the phones, answer email, take a 'face to face' or the most recent innovation, SMS messaging. Although technology has changed, Samaritans maintain their core principles, providing a human contact to those who are distressed, perhaps even suicidal. A contact that is confidential, non judgemental, a belief that each person has the right of self determination, but offering 24hr emotional support.

What of The Cricketer's? All local Sam's groups are self funding and we appreciate the support The Cricketer's have given us through holding a Race Night, a fancy dress parade through to the local High Street, raffle prizes and of course collecting tins on the bar which are generously filled by the patrons.

For the last twelve years or more we have held a Boot Fair in Ashburton Park the first Sunday in September. This has grown in popularity, last year there were over 180 sellers and buyers crowded the park. Many now come by car. Does this mean our fame is spreading or are people reluctant to walk; do they buy so much they cannot carry it home?

So if you see us around in the local area give us your support. Perhaps even join us. Call 020 8681 6667, we would be delighted to give you the date of our next Information evening and then who know six, seven, eight volunteers in your area, perhaps even more.

Grand Charity Swimathon

Are you an organising swimmer?

The Rotary Club of East Croydon are offering a great opportunity for swimmers to take part in a Grand Charity Swimathon enabling swimmers to raise money by sponsorship, for their own favourite Charity.

This event is taking place on 6th October 2012, at Trinity School's beautiful swimming pool in Shirley Park.

Subject to pre-booking, any number of teams, consisting of 4 to 8 swimmers per team can compete. Each swimmer will receive an official endorsement of their Entry Form recording their lengths swum and authorising their collection of sponsorship donations, to be made by the Swimming Team or individual Swimmers, to the Charities of their choice after deduction of their share of the one off team admin charge. Furthermore, all the money raised by the admin charge of £35 per team will, after deduction of unavoidable expenses, be donated to worthy Charities of the organising Rotary Club's choice.

This is a fun event for competent swimmers, male or female of any age, able to safely swim unaided for 25 minutes in a deep pool, 25 metres in length.

Supporters of the swimmers are welcome to cheer on their Teams from the viewing balcony. Light refreshments will be available at a modest cost, again all profits going to Charity.

This event is expected to be a sell out and early booking by team leaders is advised.

Visit the organiser's website for more details and download an entry form:

www.croydoneastrotary.org.uk

Email: Mail@croydoneastrotary.org.uk

Telephone: 0844 884 9743

Registered charity "Rotary Club of Croydon East Charity Fund"

Registration No. 1035507



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