

Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents' Association www.theaspra.org.uk

1989 - 2017

Spring 2017



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

Streets ahead

Are You Looking to Sell or Rent Your Property? The Market is Booming!

Record Sales & Rents are Being Achieved Come in Now for Your Free, Up to Date Valuation

Croydon Branch: 020 8655 1300 www.streetsahead.info

From the Editor

OUR first magazine for 2017 and our first chance to wish you all a Happy New Year. Thanks to all of you who found time to comment on the new look we began in the Autumn. Please keep your ideas and comments coming in.

Our area didn't have the best of endings to 2016. We attracted national attention with the tram tragedy at Sandilands and we suffered locally with the Southern Rail industrial disputes. However, in spite of the sadness and the problems caused by an erratic transport system, we have managed to continue planning and celebrate Christmas. In the local High Street our Christmas lights looked great and provided a real note of cheer to lighten up the winter evenings.

In this issue we're concentrating on current-day Addiscombe, but in the Summer issue we'd like to think about what we were all up to forty years ago.

1977 marked the Queen's Silver Jubilee and it was also the summer of Punk Rock. We think that there's a wealth of good stories about both, and the clash of cultures, out there in Addiscombe. Did we not have our own Punk Band? Didn't the Queen come to Croydon?

Tell us what you remember, especially if it still makes you laugh.

In This Issue

Local News	page 4	ASPRA Dates	page 17
Let's Hear It	page 10	Picking Up Trade	page 22
United Kingdom	page 11	What's On	page 24
Pharmacies	page 12	Your Park Needs You	page 27
Jumble Trail	Page 13	Blackhorse Lane	page 27
ASPRA Committee	Page 16	Road Reps	page 30

Raising the roof in Croydon and beyond...



LOFT CONVERSIONS

Loft Conversion Specialist

Get in touch with the team at LMB Loft Conversions to discuss your requirements.

Call today on 08000 730 155 or email enquiries@Imb-lofts.com

Why not visit our website www.lmb-lofts.com to view our latest projects and see what our customers say about us.

KN STAINED GLASS

Traditionally constructed stained glass windows and leaded lights

> Old or damaged windows re-leaded

Broken panels repaired

For advice or free estimate call: **Keith Neiles 32 Fernhurst Road Phone: 020 8656 6334 Mobile: 07834 973 859**

DP ROOFING

Specialist in flat roofing slating, tiling All work guaranteed Free estimates 30 years' experience

Tel: 020 8656 8708

Dave Patey 45 Kingscote Road Addiscombe

Letters to the Edítor

Addiscombe and Shirley Rotary

would like to thank all the kind people of Addiscombe and Shirley Park who opened their doors and gave so generously to our Christmas collection for Local Charities. The total raised on the doorstep was more than £4400 to which Gift Aid can be added. In the past donations have been made to local projects like Croydon Churches Floating Shelter, Addiscombe Neighbourhood Care, MacMillan Nurses(Croydon), Woodside Bereavement Service and St. Christopher's Hospice. We also raise money to help overseas projects through Shelterbox and Polio eradication.

Addiscombe and Shirley Rotary meets at The Chateau, Coombe Lane, on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. We are part of Rotary International, a worldwide organisation of men and women who volunteer their time and talents to serve their communities at home and overseas. We focus on local community projects, helping the young, elderly and disadvantaged. As well as fellowship we have a lot of fun! If you are interested in the work of Rotary and would like to know more, please see our website www.aandsrotary.org or tel: 0844 884 9743. You will be made most welcome! Chris Rutter

Secretary

Local News

Even though it's now three months behind us, we have to comment on November's terrible tragedy on the tram at Sandilands. Many of the victims and injured were known locally and the sense of grief remains within our community, even after the floral tributes have been removed.

The trams have been running through our back gardens for more than 16 years without such a tragic accident. and their absence during the investigation and recovery showed just how important they have become to all our lives. Equally, the suspension of traffic flow along the A232 Addiscombe Road demonstrated how busy our local highways have become: one closure and the surrounding traffic flows crawl to a halt.

While all sorts of work is going on highway alteration in central Croydon, we might begin to ask if any plan exists to lighten the traffic burden this area has to bear. Adding to the traffic woes is the continued closure of Blackhorse Lane. As we understand it, TFL have still to cost the project, approve it within their budget and then put it out to tender. The estimated work might take two years once started after these processes have been completed.

Our local traders are complaining that the closure is affecting their businesses. Take a look at our article Picking Up Trade on page 22.

The ever busier rushhours we're now experiencing are revealing a potential danger point. Where traffic turns out of (but particularly into) Bingham Road at the Lower Addiscombe Road junction, drivers are becoming more aggressive in their efforts to turn across the traffic and are in danger of not missing hapless pedestrians. The drivers probably aren't accelerating over 20 mph but, sooner or later, someone is going to get hurt.

We know a lot of local people who've begun using Wimbledon as their preferred shopping destination. They're going there, or out to the retail parks on the Purley Way, or they're ordering on-line.

Where they're not going is into Croydon, and who could blame them? The Whitgift looks tired, shabby and depressed, with many units now closed or leased to pop-up businesses.

The rejuvenation of the shopping centre promised by Westfield remains around a corner, but quite how far off that corner is - is hard to tell. We have tried to get some updated comment but to little avail and the last update on the website is from October. That estimates work for Westfield beginning in 2017 for full completion in 2021. A latest Council meeting report, however, has both the start and finish dates going out by yet another vear.

The Old Library building in Ashburton Park is seeing some activity behind the

boards that currently cover it up. According to our Councillors. essential work is going on to make the building habitable and a full planning proposal will be going through very soon. The idea, they tell us, is for the building to be managed by an outside charity or business, with the Hall downstairs and rooms upstairs available to rent for exhibitions. nurseries, youth groups et cetera. A popular feeling is for the building to be in a mix of use and the Council are interviewing possible partners.

The David Lean Cinema has won the Local Culture section in Croydon in the 2016 *Time Out* Love London awards.

The awards are determined by readers who vote for their favourites, in this case, arthouse cinema. This year is the first when London's weekly listings

magazine has ventured out as far as Croydon. The cinema's campaign director, Adrian Winchester, said: "We're extremely grateful to our loyal supporters who considered us worthy of this prestigious award. It's a great credit to all our volunteers who have made the David Lean a much-loved venue. We hope the resulting publicity will bring more patrons and help to keep the cinema open in future."

Around the area, the new year seems to have heralded a vast amount of building work. New roofs, new windows and conversions seem to be going on all around us.

When they're not too closely supervised, some of the builders are tempted to burn scrap on site and this has prompted complaints.

We checked the Council Website for advice on garden fires and found out that it's illegal to burn anything in the garden, except for garden waste. You have to site a fire carefully and consider smoke direction, and put it out with water to avoid smouldering. Above all, you have to consider your neighbours.

Strangely enough, there don't appear to be any such rules governing barbecue fires.

Boxpark seems to have opened with a degree of success.

It's certainly good to see the East Croydon site in use and active after so many years of stagnation.

Our editorial team is a little divided on our opinions of the new food-and-drink quarter, however. Some sing its praises as a vibrant and exciting new idea, others can't see the fun of sitting in the open drinking cold beer out of plastic glasses in the winter. Such fuddyduddies have to retreat to the George.

We understand that Croydon Council Leader, Tony Newman, joined MPs Gavin Barwell, Steve Reed and Chris Philp recently in talks with rail minister Paul Maynard. Local politicians are attempting to put pressure on the government to bring an end to the local rail chaos.

We're all acutely aware of the problems faced by commuters during the waves of industrial action of the last few months, and there are genuine fears that unless services improve quickly, the future growth and prosperity of the area will suffer.

ASPRA have been doing their best for Addiscombe with a quite special effort being put in to the Christmas lights display along the Lower Addiscombe Road.

You can read about how this came to be funded in Hilary Chelminski's article on page 28, and see who was backward in coming forward. Perhaps we should come up with some Scrooge effigies for next December.

Many thanks, though, to our colleagues in the Blackhorse Lane Residents' Association for their generous contribution to the lights.

In October we reported that an application to build on the site behind 263 Addiscombe Road (behind the veterinary surgery) had been turned down; the grounds for refusal were stated as being that 'the design and appearance...would be out of keeping and character of the area'.

We note now that another application has recently been made. All we can see at the moment is that plans have been submitted for a two-storey threebedroomed house, plus a garage. Northampton Road residents may want to watch out for more detailed information.

The homeless man who took up summer residence in the doorway of the old Discount Store has moved on. The store front, however, remains an eye-sore.

Rumours abound as to the building's future use, with a Lidl store being mentioned as well as a possible Wetherspoons site. Do any of our readers have any real information?

We are all a very short walking distance away

from Lloyd Park and the Shirley Hills. Indeed, a fifteen minute walk can have you out in open countryside, with Croydon's towers and offices just features on the horizon.

A four-mile circular can take you through the park and past the golf course and uphill as far as the reservoir and the water-tower at Coombe Lane, before bringing you back down through the woodland of Ballards Plantation.

Over Christmas, walkers have been bemused to discover a pitched tent and signs of residency in the woods by Coombe Lane station.

The camper has tucked himself quite out-of-sight from the busy road and the tent appears quite orderly and locked-up during daylight hours. We wonder if its resident is working locally.

Whatever his situation, he has to have top-marks for endurance during this prolonged spell of very cold weather.

Just before Christmas, there were a couple of TV showings of the Tony Hancock movie, *The Rebel*.

Made in 1961, the movie opens with a scene of a busy commuter railway station. Hancock. playing the 'rebel' of the title waits alone on one platform, while dozens of other commuters crowd the opposite platform. Two trains then arrive at the same time and, while the crowds try to pack on to the city-bound service, Hancock calmly steps on to the other train and walks right through it to secure his seat citybound through an opposite door.

It is probably more humorous seen on film than in our explanation.

Its relevance to us, however, is in its location. The station being used in the film is Addiscombe's old Bingham Halt, now long gone with the rail route replaced by the tram line.

The filming of this five minute sequence apparently took all of one Friday morning, with the cast and crew then retiring to the Black Horse for wellearned refreshments. Sadly, the Black Horse too is now just a memory.

How many of us know about Stroud Green Well, we wonder? Accessed from the gravel track next to Shirley Clinic, it's hidden away behind Stroud Green Well pumping station on Primrose Lane and the Glenthorne Avenue allotments.

About five acres of it were once a playing field with cricket pitches, but had become overgrown.

When Crovdon Council tree surgeons, who had a depot beside the ambulance station, were relocated, the depot was demolished and the wildflower meadow with a small area of woodland was laid out. There's a path all the way round, and a bin for doggy bags. The work was funded by Tramlink in return for land lost when the tram routes were constructed.

Our editorial team consider this a little jewel, yet folk probably living within a hundred yards of it hardly know it's there. What, we wonder, constitutes a consultation? How many of saw any documentation on the borough's 'conversation' and survey 'Let's Talk Parks'? We don't remember seeing anything in the library, or any publicity in the parks, but now Croydon has a plan based on public response. About a thousand responses. from an area of some 350,000 folk.

They must be listening to Addiscombe and Shirley, however, as there are only six Croydon parks apparently planned to receive much future spending, and two of them are ours. Ashburton Park and Lloyd Park are to be listed as 'destination parks'.

If budgets and resource are going to be prioritised to these 'destination parks', will the council be withdrawing resource from the other green areas and play centres?

Was this part of the consultation?

Let's hear it for Addiscombe! From Our Man in Northampton Road

There is only one Addiscombe in the whole wide world. Fact. The entire ASPRA team of respected, dedicated researchers have spent countless hours searching for another one anywhere – and have drawn a blank. World atlases have been scoured, messages in cleft sticks sent to distant parts of the world. The internet has never been so busy. The 796,000 results in 0.41 seconds revealed no other. Not a single one. Not a sausage. Zip, zero, zilch. We are, without any doubt whatsoever, the one and only, without equal, nonpareil, incomparable, matchless, unrivalled, unparalleled, unequalled, peerless, unmatched, beyond comparison, beyond compare, second to none, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, unbeatable, inimitable (get on with it – Ed).

In the last issue of this magazine, Lyn Simmons argued strongly that Addiscombe met the criteria required to be called a proper village. Lyn feels she lives in a village. Her children went to local schools. We have a proper high street, she says, with all the right shops, cafes, restaurants and services. She shops there and has got to know the shopkeepers. And as she so rightly points out, estate agents love the word "village". Village implies community, respect, responsibility and – not to put too fine a point on it – strong property values. From now on, she said, she will tell people she lives in Addiscombe village.

It's a worthwhile campaign and will need our support. The first thing I'm going to do is change my address. For years I have put 99 Northampton Road (say), Croydon CR0 7HD as my address. It's concise and accurate, a two-line address that works. But it doesn't mention Addiscombe. Why? Dunno. Couldn't be bothered, probably.

But do people who live in Shirley, for example, leave Shirley off their addresses, and let people assume they live in Croydon? No, they jolly well don't. Croydon? No thank you!

So in future my address will be:

99 Northampton Road Addiscombe CR0 9DD

The postcode will get it to the right postman, and the street number will get it to me. Let's go for it. Let's be Addiscombers.

Hurrah for us!

A United Kingdom by Jenny Crook

You may have heard about or even seen the film, 'A United Kingdom', released last year; but did you know that the film's main characters have a connection with Addiscombe? The film tells the true story of Seretse Khama, heir to the kingship of the Bangwato, the largest tribe in Bechuanaland (modern Botswana), who met Ruth Williams, an English woman, in the late 1940s at a London Missionary Society dance. They fell in love and soon after became engaged. Within a short time the young mixed-race couple faced trouble. Subjected to casual abuse in the streets, their marriage was opposed by Government officials as well as their families and church figures. In 1949, the Bishop of London blocked their first attempt to wed in a Kensington church, but a few days later Seretse and Ruth married in a registry office.

In the first months of their marriage Ruth and Seretse lived in a succession of homes, in southern Africa and in London. They were forced to spend some time apart. Their first child, Jacqueline, was born in Bechuanaland but they were exiled and returned to London in 1950. Initially, they lived in flats in central London but moved out to a rented house in Chipstead in 1952. Early the following year the Khamas had their second child, a boy, Seretse Ian. The family left Chipstead and moved to Addiscombe. They needed more space and wanted to find an area where people were less conscious of racial difference.

People were friendlier towards them in Addiscombe and would chat when they met locally. Jacqueline made friends at school whom she invited home to tea. Several neighbours had cars and took turns to give the children a lift to school. There were fields close to their home where both Seretse and Ruth went horse riding and Jackie also had lessons. Seretse had his 'own' pub where he was popular with other locals. Their home was a 1936 Tudor-style house, with black beams and leaded windows.

On Sundays the family invited friends for lunch to enjoy a curry or roast joint. Ruth welcomed visitors to her Addiscombe home of which she was very proud, and the house was full of friends from all over the world, including some South Africans who were leading the struggle against apartheid. In October 1956 their exile ended and the Khama family was allowed to return to Bechuanaland.

If you lived in Addiscombe in 1953, can you recall the Khama family living locally, or were you at the same school as Jacqueline? If so, could you pass on your memories for the next issue of this magazine?

11

The film is based on the book, "Colour Bar" by Susan Williams, from which information for this article also comes.

S. J. WHITE SERVICES (est 1968)

Your local BUILDER

Extensions Conversions Loft rooms

Qualified carpenters

Qualified electricians

PLANNING PERMISSION

BUILDING REGULATIONS

INTERIOR DESIGN

0208 407 0362 07960 386672

Local Pharmacies

Here are the opening hours of local chemists. They are, however, all closed on Sundays.

Addiscombe Pharmacy

331 Lower Addiscombe Road Telephone 020 8654 1542 **Opening hours** Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm Saturday 9am - 1pm

Boots 257 Lower Addiscombe Road Telephone 020 8654 2128 Opening hours Mon - Sat 9am - 5.30pm

Larchwood Pharmacy 215 Lower Addiscombe Road Telephone 020 8654 1149 **Opening hours** Mon - Fri 9am - 7pm Saturday 9am - 6pm

Shirley Pharmacy 175 Shirley Road Telephone 020 8654 1065 **Opening hours** Mon - Fri 9am - 7pm Saturday 9am - 5pm

For longer opening hours (and Sundays):

Sainsbury's Superstore Trafalgar Way Telephone 020 8681 5800 Opening hours Mon - Fri 7am - 11pm Saturday 7am - 10pm Sunday 11am - 5pm



ASPRA Jumble Trail

Saturday 1 July 2017 10.00am – 3.00pm

from Lyn Simmons

Following ASPRA's successful Jumble Trail last year, planning has now started on the 2017 event. If you didn't manage to visit, or are unsure what it is, here's a brief introduction. A jumble trail is like a car boot sale but residents set up a stall in their front garden. You register and publicise your stall at Jumbletrail.com and a map showing all stallholders is generated, creating a trail for visitors to follow.

This year we are holding it on a Saturday to maximise visitor numbers by encouraging shoppers in Lower Addiscombe Road to visit all the stalls in the nearby streets.

ASPRA JT 2016 was a wonderful community event and we hope to really build on this in 2017. More stalls would be fantastic, and clusters of stalls in roads adds to the atmosphere so if you are thinking of participating, start talking to your neighbours now and encourage them to join you.

It would be good to increase the variety of items on offer and maybe to have more residents providing food and refreshments. We are certain there are lots of hidden talents out there.

Start planning now:

- Get creative and make craft items for sale
- Sort out your attic or garage
- Declutter your cupboards and shelves
- Offload unwanted Christmas presents
- Think about anything you want to sell or give away

The three ASPRA Jumble Trail Champions, Anne, Jenny and Lyn are looking forward to organising this year's event but would welcome support from residents. There are several ways you could get involved and it won't involve too much time or be a huge commitment, but will aid the Champions enormously.



Why not:

- Be on a rota to help with email and telephone enquiries
- Help with social media, including the ASPRA JT facebook page on https://www.facebook.com/aspra.jumbletrail.1
- Assist in the production of posters and other marketing material
- Deliver leaflets to local residents
- · Liaise with local shops and businesses to display posters

If you are interested in helping or want to discuss further, please email aspra.jumbletrail@gmail.com or ring **07803 876008**.

To register your stall go to http://www.jumbletrail.com/event/ ASPRA2017



Stovell House PPG relaunched in the Autumn

Group Aims

Promote co-operation between the <u>Practice and the Patients to the benefit</u> of both

Raise awareness of and improve access to other support agencies

Encourage communication of public health messages

If you want to have your say and make your voice heard, or wish to find out more contact:

> Surgery Reception on 0208 654 1427

www.stovellhousesurgery.co.uk

or email contact@stovellhouseppg.org.uk

Your ASPRA Committee

Chairman Steve White chairman@theaspra.org.uk

Vice-Chairman Mary Alexander vicechairman@theaspra.org.uk

Treasurer Frederick Law 4 Parkview Road treasurer@theaspra.org.uk

Secretary Gill Lee 38 Northampton Road secretary@theaspra.org.uk

ASPRA Magazine Editor Phil Poole editor@theaspra.org.uk

ASPRA Magazine Advertisement Manager Bob Sleeman adverts@theaspra.org.uk

Webmaster Bob Sleeman info@croydon-it.co.uk

Email Postmaster

Dave Lee 38 Northampton Road contact@theaspra.org.uk

Projects Consultant Hilary Chelminski projects@theaspra.org.uk

Future Dates

Road Reps' Meetings

Wednesday 8th February - Small Hall Thursday 27th April 2017 - The Pavillion Wednesday 14th June 2017 - Small Hall

All our meetings are held at St. Mildred's Centre, Bingham Road Refreshments; 7.30 pm - Meetings Start: 8.00 pm

All members are welcome to attend meetings. You do not need to be a Road Rep to able to attend.

ASPRA NEEDS YOUR HELP! WE NEED:

ROAD REPS

Shirley Road (57 - 196) Lower Addiscombe Road (194 - 362)

VOLUNTEERS

Editorial Team Local Issues Planning Group and Gardeners, please!

We are an enthusiastic and committed Committee and will give you all the help and support you need. Without volunteers to fill these roles the Association will not be able to continue. If the Association is important to you, please think about getting involved.

Please contact the secretary for more information.



Quality care and Companionship in the comfort of your own home



Our local team of Caregivers provide:

- Companionship
- Meal preparation
- Light housekeeping
- Medication reminders
- Help with washing, dressing and personal care
- Transportation and errands
- Post-operative support
- Holiday and respite cover
- Specialist dementia care
- Managed live in 24hour care as an alternative to a Care Home

To find out how we can help care for you and your family, contact us



0208 656 6921 www.rightathomeuk.co.uk/croydon

Areas coverad: Selecton, Purley, Sanderstead, Coulscien, Shirley, Addiscombe, South Croydon and surrounding areas. Commission RATING GOOD

guryel & co

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors





We'll be there every step of the way

- Accounts preparation
- Self-Assessment
- **Corporation Tax**
- VAT & PAYE
- **Company Secretarial**
- **Company Formation**
- Auditing
- Tax Planning
- **Business Plans**
- Tax Enquiries
- Book-Keeping
 - Start-up Specialists

First 30 minute consultation free of charge with our compliments Discounts for local residents, please quote 214AD



020 8090 2183

info@guryel.co.uk www.guryel.co.uk 214 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 7AB





Established 1974

Addiscombe Dry Cleaners

195 Lower Addiscombe Road, Addiscombe, CR0 6RA Telephone 0208 654 2269

> We also offer Clothing Repairs & Alterations and Shoe Repairs all on the premises

20% Off your next Curtain Cleaning order with this advert.

Open Mon. to Sat. 8.30 am – 5.30 pm Wed. 1.00 pm

Advertising in ASPRA magazine

Addiscombe & Spring Park Residents' Association is always happy to welcome new advertisers to our magazine.

The magazine is published at least twice a year. Our Spring issue is delivered by hand to over 900 households. Our Autumn issue goes to more than 1800 households and businesses.

Our advertising rates for 2017 are:

Full page	£55	Trim size	148mm x 210mm
		Type area	128mm x 185mm
Half page	£28	Vertical	62mm x 185mm
		Horizontal	128mm x 90mm
Quarter page	£15	Vertical	62mm x 90mm
		Horizontal	128mm x 43mm
Bleed page (+4mm on bleed edges)			152mm x 218mm

All measurements give the width first.

For more details on cover rates, acceptable copy formats and all the other bits and pieces you need to know, please contact our advertisement manager, **Bob Sleeman**, on **020 8654 5814**, or by email at adverts@theaspra.org.uk.

Picking Up Trade

From our editorial team

The Blackhorse Lane closure looks to be set for anything up to three years, or more. That will be after TfL have calculated the cost of the bridge repairs, found the funding in their budgets and put it out to tender.

Lower Addiscombe Road traders are already complaining of the effect it's had on their trading. Paul Haddock of Leslie's, the greengrocer, reckons it's costing his business up to £75 a day in lost trade, and it's easy to see why. If we look at a map, we can see that there's a pocket of residential streets on the north side of Morland Road where there are no butchers, bakers or greengrocers, just the odd convenience store or an offlicence. If you live there, you could easily be tempted by a five minute drive over the bridge to the variety of shopping offers on the Lower Addiscombe Road. You're not going to walk over, because of carrying things back and, if you're going to be forced into the car now, you might as well drive to Sainsbury's at Selhurst Park.

Paul felt that he had to do something about it. So he got together with his neighbours; Vic Gibson the butcher, Coughlan's the baker and Mario in the Fish House, a block of four businesses situated next to each other in the run of shops up from the corner of Woodside Court Road. They took a look at what the



supermarkets do to establish loyalty and pick up trade, and decided they could do something for themselves.

The result is a postcard.

Pop in to any one of the four to shop and you'll be given the card. On one side there's a nice picture of all four shops, obviously taken on a sunny day in the high street. On the other side there are four tokens. Each token offers 50p off a specified spend-level in each shop and represents a 5% to 10% saving on small trades. The offer currently runs until the end of March.



It may not look to be much of a 'Business Association', but it's a start: four unique family businesses setting out to promote local trade and do something to counter adverse conditions.

The Co-Op, Boots and Sainsbury's 'lose' poor local trading conditions in

masses of statistics. They can crank up trade through BOGOFs and discounts as directed by algorithms within vast marketing plans. Local traders just have to react on instinct. So we wish them luck with this venture. We all have to support our local high streets, or we will lose them. Butchers, bakers and greengrocers will be replaced by shuttered shops, pop-up businesses and charity outlets. Does it sound familiar?

As for the Blackhorse Lane problem, well, local residents must be cheesed-off and the consequent traffic problems are obvious to anyone attempting to head north in the morning, or come south in the evening. We appreciate that our local Councillors are doing what they can, but is it now time for us to start lobbying our MP to add weight to a protest?

One suggestion we've heard is for the route over the bridge to be restricted to south-bound traffic only, with a heavy-duty width limiter to discourage commercial traffic. Is that something for the local authorities to consider?

If you have some ideas, or some adverse experience you'd like to share, please get in touch with this magazine.

What's Going On

IN AND AROUND ADDISCOMBE there's always a lot going on. Here are a few things that might catch your interest:

Ruskin Chorale Concert

Saturday 25th March 2017 at Shirley Methodist Church, Eldon Avenue, Shirley **7.30pm £7.00** (£6) (Students free). Tickets available on the door.

A Concert of Romantic Classics

Featuring the music of Elgar, Mendelssohn and Dvorak

With

Anthony Goode - Piano Adrian Connell - Conductor

Croydon Bach Choir Spring Concert

Saturday 1 April, 7.30 pm at St Mildred's Church Bingham Road, CR0 7EB

Programme to include Bach's Magnificat in D and Rossini's Stabat Mater, accompanied by the Croydon Bach Orchestra

Tickets £15.00 for adults, £5.00 for children and special offer £45.00 "buy 3 tickets and get fourth free". Tickets and further details available via our website **croydonbachchoir.org**

Croydon Petanque Club French Boules

Croydon Petanque Club has been established in Ashburton Park for nearly twenty years. The Club offers members the opportunity to play either socially or in a more competitive environment. the atmosphere is friendly and relaxed and we would welcome anyone who would like to try a new sport. Our membership covers all ranges of abilities from beginners to experienced players, and there's always someone to offer help and coaching. Please come along to any of the sessions below (equipment is provided):

Wednesdays and Sundays 10.00 am, Fridays and Saturdays 1.00 pm

Please contact: Brian on 8654 6929 or Terry on 8654 2601 or email: teames571@yahoo.co.uk

Easter at St. Mildred's

Bingham Road, Addiscombe

Mothering Sunday Service

26th March 10.00am

Palm Sunday

9th April 10:00am – All age service

Good Friday

14th April 10:00am - Short family service.

12noon - Quiet, reflective service.

2.00pm - Liturgy of the Passion

Easter Sunday

16th April 10:00am - All age Service.

WHAT'S ON AT ASHBURTON LIBRARY

MONDAY TALKS*

Monday 6th February, 11am The History of Croydon High Street to 1901 Monday 27th February, 6.30 - 7.30pm David Young, author of Stasi Child, a crime novel set in East Berlin in the mid-1970s Monday 20th March 11am Booze, Bankrupts and B********! The tale of an 18th century Welsh squire *Admission: Free, booking essential

CRIME READING GROUP

Monday 13th February - The Collini Case by Ferdinand von Schirach **Monday 13th March** – book to be announced This friendly reading group meets at 5.30-6.30pm. *NEW MEMBERS WELCOME*

SOME REGULAR EVENTS

Addiscombe Young Writers, alternate Saturdays 9.30 -10.30am. A friendly, creative writing group for 6–11 year olds. Book Buddies, Thursdays at 4pm, Listen to stories and join in with fun crafts for under 7s Chatterbooks, one Friday a month 4-5pm A fun book based reading group for 7-11 year olds,

Please contact Ashburton Library to receive our monthly email with the latest information about all our events. 020 3700 1001 croydon.ashburtonlibrary@carillionservices.co.uk

Your Park Needs You

"The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world." - Vita Sackville-West, poet and novelist.

The men and women who form the Bingham Park gardening group hope that they have started something for the good of the local community – with the emphasis on **started**.

In the months leading up to Christmas, the gardeners tidied up the beds, planting bulbs, digging up pelargoniums for over-wintering and cutting back shrubs. But perhaps the most visible change was the creation of a low level fence around one of the beds.

A small working party of gardeners received instruction on how to create a woven willow fence from Meike Weiser of Croydon's Parks Department. They learnt how to grade the lengths of willow and then determine those most suitable to bend to form the curved border. The final task was to weave thin strips of willow through the frame.

It was a fun session and the group enjoyed learning a new skill. It is hoped park users feel it enhances the appearance of the bed. Another aim was to create a deterrent to inquisitive dogs.

As Spring arrives, and carpets of crocuses appear in the park to delight local residents, thoughts turn to maintaining and improving the flower beds.

2016 was the start, but plans for 2017 can only progress if we 'grow' the gardening group and increase the pool of volunteers. To find out more, or to express an interest, please email the secretary@theaspra.org.uk

Here are just some of the ways you could get involved:

- Join working parties for planting and weeding.
- Assist with completing the willow fences.
- Donate seeds, bulbs and plants.
- Organise refreshments for weekend working parties.

Addiscombe Festive Lights - Christmas 2016

by Hilary Chelminski

Thanks are due once again to all our members for their sponsorship and organisation of the festive lights in over the Christmas period – and very splendid and cheering they looked.

We are so grateful to our Councillor Andrew Rendle for the donation of \pounds 1,000 from his own Ward Fund budget. Additional donations came in from our neighbours in Blackhorse Residents' Association, St Mildred's Church and the Stovell House Doctors' Surgery, and the Tram Stop Cafe. Many thanks to all.

In spite of repeated appeals to the other shops and the big businesses, no other donations were received. Better luck in 2017 perhaps! It would be good if we could encourage a Trade Association or Forum.



The Lights cost £2,500 in total each year, so ASPRA Members' own overall contribution for 2016 was \pounds 1,070.

Members voted for their choice of two designs, opting for the particularly attractive 'Holly & Berries' and 'Snowflake' patterns, which were much admired.

It is difficult to do justice to their overall effect along the stretch of the Addiscombe 'Village' shopping area in a digital photograph, but Sheila Newbold, managed to capture something of their beauty and atmosphere in this shot – even on a rainy evening.

Thanks again everyone, and please let your friends and neighbours know. Not everyone in the area seems to be aware of the difference that our local Residents' Associations make locally.

Don't forget that all work is done by volunteers, entirely for the benefit & well-being of our local community.



OVEN CLEANING SERVICE

NON CAUSTIC - NON CORROSIVE - NON TOXIC AGENTS ALL ECO FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Repairs to Cookers, Ovens, Washing Machines, Dryers and Dishwashers

Leave the Dirty Work to us... CALL MONDAY TO FRIDAY (5.00 - 7.00 pm) SATURDAY (3.00 - 6.00 pm)

Tel: 020 8916 9277 Mobile: 07960 272493

desresblinds

Customer service and quality guaranteed by established local family business. We have a dedicated specialist (each of whom has worked for us for years) for each of the products below:



All types of window blinds Conservatory roof blinds Shutters Awnings/Canopies Curtains Window Film

Call or email us for a brochure or appointment. We also invite you to look at our website tel/fax 020 8651 3569. Mobile 07961 827 917 email: info@desresblinds.co.uk web: www.desresblinds.co.uk

ASPRA Road Representatives

All our road reps have volunteered to be the first point of contact for our members. They distribute our magazine, the occasional notice and collect the annual subs. There are road reps'/members' meetings to share information. We currently have a vacancies for parts of Lower Addiscombe Road and Shirley Road. If you fancy volunteering please contact Dave Lee, contact@theaspra.org.uk or at 38 Northampton Road.

Addiscombe Road (275-395) Annandale Road	Myra Rand Patricia West	391 Addiscombe Road 5 Annandale Road		
Ashburton Avenue	Hillary Chelminsky for Kiff49 Ashburton Avenue			
Ashling Road	Sheila Newbold 3 Baring Road			
Ashurst Walk	Shirley Vine	11 Ashurst Walk		
Baring Road	Helen Tilbury	27 Baring Road		
Bingham Corner	Jenny Crook	29 Bingham Road		
Bingham Road East (93-186)	Jenny Tighe	139 Bingham Road		
Bingham Road West (1-94)	Jenny Crook	29 Bingham Road		
Birch Tree Way	Sheena D'Souza	6 Birch Tree Way		
Brockenhurst Road	Sheila Newbold	3 Baring Road		
Carlyle Road	Chris Facey	19 Carlyle Road		
Cheyne Walk	Zafir Iqbal	285 Addiscombe Road		
Claremont Road	George Orlebar	30 Claremont Road		
Colworth Road	Lyn Simmons	3 Colworth Road		
Compton Road	Shashi & Shila Kotecha	21 Compton Road		
Craigen Avenue	Jean Carson	13 Ashburton Avenue		
Craven Road	Joy Morrall	7 Craven Road		
Elmgrove Road	Claire & James Binnie	58 Kingscote Road		
Fernhurst Road	Terry Eames	23 Fernhurst Road		
Fryston Avenue	John Dellaway	34 Fryston Avenue		
Glenthorne Avenue	Mike & Crys Rothon	33 Glenthorne Avenue		
Greencourt Avenue	Mary Alexander	42 Selwood Road		
Greencourt Gardens	Mary Alexander	42 Selwood Road		
Harriet Gardens	Bill Callow	3 Harriet Gardens		
Kingscote Road	Claire & James Binnie	58 Kingscote Road		
Lower Addiscombe Road (194-		led		
Northampton Road	Bob Sleeman	50 Northampton Road		
Parkview Road (evens)	Sheilagh Clark	53 Bingham Road		
Parkview Road (odds)	Rinish Shah	37 Parkview Road		
Peabody Close	Lorna Elliott	60 Glenthorne Avenue		
Sefton Road	John Aitken	42 Sefton Road		
Selwood Road (1-44)	Mary Alexander	42 Selwood Road		
Selwood Road (45-87)	Jan Rutter	73 Selwood Road		
Sherwood Road	Tom Wells	45 Sherwood Road		
Shirley Park Road	Sarah Hills	58 Shirley Park Road		
Shirley Road (1-52)	Margaret Grimsley	22 Shirley Road		
Shirley Road (57-196)	Volunteer needed			
Whitethorn Gardens	Mike Foster	4 Whitethorn Gardens		



299-301 Lower Addiscombe Road 020 8654 5147

ADDISCOMBE SECURITY CENTRE

For all your Security needs

8 Bingham Corner

Lower Addiscombe Road CR0 7AA

Next to Addiscombe Tram Stop

Tel: 020 8655 1677

Fax: 020 8662 9677



Email: addiscombesc@aol.com

FRICHTENINOLY (2009 LAWN CARE SERVICE:

- New Lawn Instalation
- Ground work and spoil disposal
- Lawn Mowing and Edging
- Mulch and Soil applications
- Annual Fertilization Programs
- Aeration and Hollow Tine core
- Re Seeding and overseeding
- Soil analysis and correction
- Lawn Scarification
- Moss and weed control
- Top dressing applications
- Lawn sand applications
- Drought management
- Marking out of sports pitches

For more details Call: 0208 654 3986 / 07958 239 656 or visit

All Gardening Services KEEPING ENGLAND GREEN

We maintain the gardens and grounds of both local residents and businesses. Our services include, but are not limited to...

Strimming & edging of borders

MONSTER

- Pruning of plants, shrubs & bushes
- Fencing, decking, hedge cutting & tree work
- Supply & planting of flowers & shrubs
- Application of weed control chemicals
- Japanese Knotweed treatment and removal
- Grounds & garden clearance
- Supply & application of grit for winter

Call us on: 0208 654 3986 / 07958 239 656 or visit: www.allgardeningservices.co.uk





