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Claremont Road	Fred Demay	6 Claremont Road
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Sefton Road	Sharon Rees	7 Sefton Road
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The full list of Candidates for Croydon Central

Ralph Atkinson	UK Independence Party	www.ralphatkinson.co.uk
Gavin Barwell	Conservative Party	www.gavin4croydon.com
John Cartwright	Official Monster Raving Loony Party	www.croydonloony.co.uk
Bernice Golberg	Green Party	www.croydongreens.org.uk
Peter Lambell	Liberal Democrats	www.croydonlibdems.org.uk
Cliff le May	BNP	www.bnp.org.uk
Andrew Pelling	Independent	www.andrewpelling.org.uk
Gerry Ryan	Labour Party	www.gerryryan.org.uk

Interviews with Gavin Barwell, Andrew Pelling and Gerry Ryan all conducted by Helen Burch.

Further to points raised in the interviews with Mr Barwell and Mr Pelling, the SPRA would like to point out to our readers that Andy Burnham, Secretary of State for Health, wrote to Malcolm Wicks, MP on 12 March and said “there are no plans to close Mayday’s A&E department”. The letter can be viewed on our website, www.thespra.org.uk in the Documents section.

The SPRA is a non-politically aligned organisation. We are not affiliated with any of the candidates listed above.

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newsfeed@thespra.org.uk

Views published in this magazine are not necessarily those of the association. To advertise with us please contact the Editor. Rates start from £12.50 per quarter page with discounts for annual bookings.

Chairman's letter

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Lindsay Frost, one of our three local councillors. Lindsay put in a great deal of work to help us secure the £50,000 grant for the children's play area in the Addiscombe Recreation Ground. The Association will greatly miss his enthusiasm and his commitment and our thoughts are with his family.

This is our first one theme magazine. Our Features Editor, Helen Burch, has worked extremely hard interviewing three of the Prospective Parliamentary Candidates for Croydon Central. We hope members will find the interviews of interest in the run up to the General Election and we hope you will feel free to leave comments on the website.

We have had confirmation from the architects responsible for the plans for the Sefton Road archdeacon's house that planning permission had been granted. The working drawings are near to completion and building will start shortly. Our members will recall that at one time this site was going to be used to build 10 flats.

Members in Fryston Avenue are reminded that the deadline for voicing your opinion on the planning application for Number 15 is looming. The application will be put before the full Planning Committee on 27 May. The application number is 10/00513/P and there is a link on our website to the Croydon site.

We would draw members' attention to the huge amount of local support the Association is receiving from our traders and would once again urge you to support our local businesses. At a time when other areas are seeing empty shops, we are seeing new traders move in.

Both the SPRA Picnic in the Park and the Croydon Lions' Summer Carnival are now annual events so put a note in your diaries to join in both on 27 June and 25 July respectively.

The SPRA needs your help. Following the sudden death of the much missed Betty Tyler, we need a road rep for Ashling Road and we are also looking for volunteers to take over the magazine. It's your association—so please become involved.

Our website www.thespra.org.uk offers up to date information and you can raise any issues of concern by contacting the Committee through it.

James Maloney

Croydon Folk Song Club

Our Club meets at 8.00 pm on Mondays at Ruskin House and we run two types of evening: The **Singers and Musicians night** occurs about once or twice a month and is an informal evening and an ideal situation for someone to perform for the first time in front of a completely sympathetic audience. The other evenings are **Guest Nights** when you will be able to hear some of the most talented singers and musicians from this and other countries.

Singers and Musicians nights

Do you have to sing or perform? Not at all, audience are just as important as performers. Everyone is offered the chance of performing but there is no compulsion. Many who would really like to perform come many times before plucking up enough courage to 'have a go'.

What type of music do people perform? A wide range (vocal and instrumental) including traditional folk song and tunes, ballads, music hall, jazz, blues contemporary songs and poems. There is no particular restriction - anything the performer thinks that other people would like to hear. The club does not use amplification as the venue is quite small.

At my age will I feel out of place? What ever that age is it is likely that there will be someone older or younger than you - so No!

Guest Nights

There are two sessions with an interval between. Each session begins with two or three local performers who are each given a short 'spot' for songs or instrumental pieces and these are followed by the main Guest performer. The evening is organised by an M.C. The evening ends about 10.30pm.

There are some incredibly talented performers who are rarely heard of in the Media and the only chance you have of hearing them is to go to a Folk Club.

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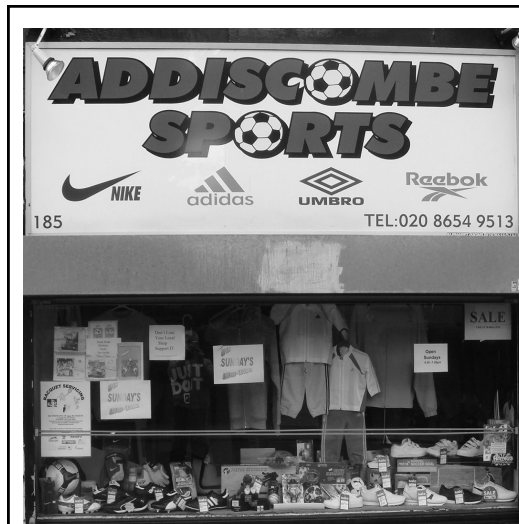
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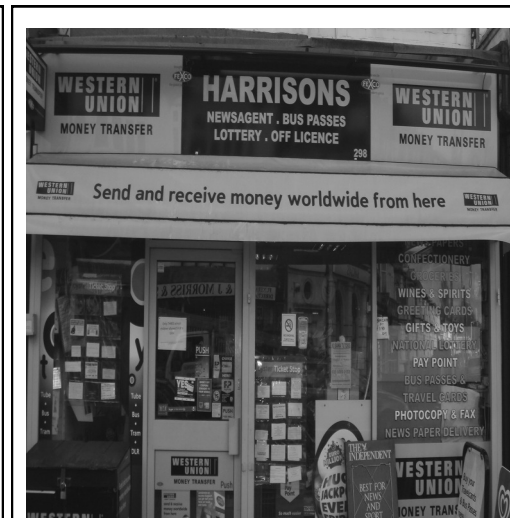
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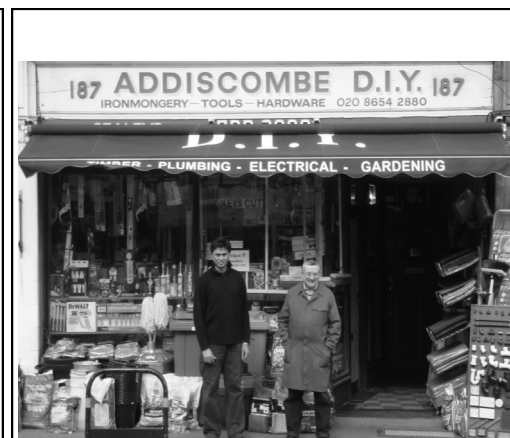
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Councillor Lindsay Frost

On behalf of Councillor Eddy Arram and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our friend and colleague, Councillor Lindsay Frost. Lindsay tragically died on 2nd April, after falling downstairs at his home in Addiscombe. He was 54.

Lindsay had an incredible zest for life. He combined the role of Ward Councillor for Ashburton with the added responsibility of being Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care. Outside politics Lindsay was the director of a holiday and cruise company based in Folkestone.

Born in Hertfordshire, Lindsay spent most of his youth in Hampshire. After studying at Lancaster University and School of Music, he worked for several years as a freelance musician prior to becoming the QE2. In Huddersfield he worked for several years as a Cruise Director on the QE2.



Lindsay was elected to Croydon Council in 2006. His charm, youthful good looks and witty repartee made him an instant hit with the electorate. Relish-thrust of politics, less campaigner; energy and worked hard for others.

Lindsay was elected to Croydon Council in 2006. His charm, youthful good looks and witty repartee made him an instant hit with the electorate. Relish-thrust of politics, less campaigner; energy and worked hard for others.

As a form of relaxation he maintained his love of all kinds of music and was delighted recently to see his idol Peter Gabriel in concert at the O2 Arena. Lindsay was a happy family man and our thoughts are with his wife, Kerri Ann, and their two young children, Holly aged 12 and Dominic aged three, at this sad time.

Councillor Avril Slipper



S.P.R.A. NEWS

1989-2010

Committee meetings were held in November and March when we discussed planning applications for Fryston Avenue and Sefton Road. Also discussed was the unlicensed dumping at 8 Bingham Road. Our councillors gave us an update on the old library in Ashburton Park and the site of the old Blackhorse pub. All members are always welcome to join in the discussions. Our next meeting is on 18 May, in the Small Hall at St Mildred's starting at 8pm. The full minutes can be found on our website: www.thespra.org.uk

We need a road rep for Ashling Road and a volunteer to edit the magazine—please contact the Chairman if you want to help make a difference.

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Interview with Andrew Pelling, MP Independent



Andrew Pelling, the MP for Central Croydon, has certainly courted controversy during his time in office. He began his term in 2005 as a Conservative and is now a fervent independent, known as “Mr Croydon” because of his concern for his constituents, instead of party issues. I meet the man behind the headlines to discuss his time in office, what Croydon needs, and being nicknamed the “smiling assassin”. The setting is the Town Hall, centre of council debates. Mr Pelling is polite and welcoming, apologising profusely for running a little behind schedule with his surgery and ready to answer

Andrew Pelling is clearly a man who knows Croydon well. “It brings me a great deal of pleasure to represent my home town”. Some MPs have never lived in their constituencies but Andrew grew up here and attended Trinity School before scooting off to New College, Oxford, alongside political contemporaries including William Hague. He feels that he can serve Croydon’s needs better as an independent than as part of a party machine because “ I am not trapped (*by party policy*) so I can do what will be good for people.” His favourite aspect of the job is meeting his constituents and “being invited round for tea.”

He obviously enjoys the nitty gritty of “delivering practical change” for Croydon. He is pleased at having recently had large potholes littering the roads of New Addington fixed. “It is most satisfying dealing with my constituents concerns”. However, he does not provide a similar example of such work in Addiscombe.

I explain that one of the issues which most worries Addiscombe residents is planning. Residents are outraged that they have very little control over whether a block of flats is built next door to them in an already overcrowded area. Andrew agrees that the planning system should be “radically changed”.

He is angry that central Croydon is required to provide 10,000 extra housing units (the population size of Redhill). “The stresses and strains will be very severe”, and believes that such over development should be moved out of South East London.

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However, Andrew is interested in developing the town centre to improve its facilities. He introduces the idea of a new Mayday Hospital on the Gateway site at East Croydon as a mark of “achievement”, the total opposite of alleged plans to down grade Mayday's status and remove the A and E. At first, I am unsure of the point of this suggestion, but after consideration this does seem a more accessible and spacious location than the present site at West Croydon.

Safety is another issue about which Andrew is very vocal. He understands that many passengers don't feel particularly safe on public transport and suggests a Washington DC style shake up to introduce casually dressed support officers-when people “see lots of police, they expect trouble”. He campaigned for the ‘passenger safety officers’ who have recently appeared on the trams.

Unsurprisingly, Andrew makes clear his unhappiness at the recent Government move that sends all the asylum seekers in the country to Lunar House. “It is very unfair that the government has not listened!” and calls it “leaving space for the BNP”. Two of the constituents that he has met tonight came to complain that they are unable find jobs, blaming the large population of new immigrants.

I asked Andrew if it is a disadvantage for him to be an independent MP, working with a council that is led by Conservative Councillors. He emphatically disagrees: “I have a good relationship with the council officers”- he has known many of them for years- and that this is what counts. He believes that being independent gives him the opportunity to be “more objective” because he does not have to act cautiously to stay within party lines.

It has been a real privilege” to be part of the house of Commons, he says but does comment on the “clubbish atmosphere”- hardly a surprise to voters of our Johnson/Cameron era. He also dislikes the “Yah! Boo!” style of politics, and what he calls the “You're rubbish! But you were rubbish twelve years ago!” approach. He believes that “politely asking questions is a far more constructive approach. Interestingly he says that this catches other MPs off their guard. “I don't know if I should say this...” he says with a grin, telling me how this attitude led a Labour colleague to dub him the “smiling assassin”.

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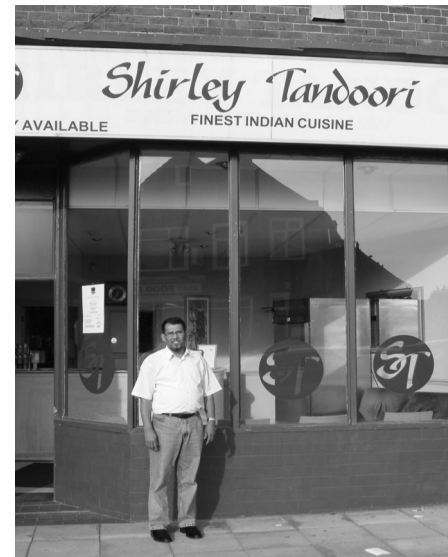
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Interview with Gavin Barwell Conservative

Gavin Barwell, Conservative Candidate for Croydon Central, is a man who comes across well in interview. He is polite, chatty, and does not engage in the strategic avoidance waffling which we all know and love in our politicians. He is also well informed on local issues; for instance, when I mention that our residents have recently opposed the planning permission for a block of flats, he realises without my telling him, that I am referring to a site on Sefton Road.

I ask Gavin for three Croydon if elected. "I'll because the reason that respect is because they deliver," he replies. more police". During has already obtained the officers. Secondly, he day Hospital retains its in danger of being plans. Thirdly, he feels network is so vital and be longer running better disabled access - for example, lifts at East Croydon.



things that he will do for say what I will try to do, politicians aren't held in promise what they can't First, he will "fight to get his work as a Councillor, he funds for 25 new full time will try to ensure that May-A and E, which is allegedly scrapped under current that as our public transport heavily used, there needs to times, greater capacity and

"However," he says, "these are things which I absolutely promise: I will not have a second home. I will have a weekly surgery. I will publish every expense claim which I make and publish my diary online." He will also return to "grass roots" politics, doing voluntary work in places such as schools.

Gavin believes that older residents will benefit by voting for him, because David Cameron has said that he will "increase the basic state pension in line with earnings," ensuring that pensioners will become a little better off each year, rather than a little poorer, as is the case when pensions are increased in line with prices. The Freedom pass will also be protected and a council tax discount is being considered for pensioner households.

He believes that it is hugely important for young people to vote. Interestingly, he says emphatically, "Of course, I'd rather they voted for us but what is important is that they do vote! It's difficult to talk to young people – if they answer the door to us, they always go and find their

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Addiscombe Quiz

Here are the answers to the quiz in our Christmas edition:

1. Two local parks are Addiscombe Recreation Ground and Ashburton Park.
2. D H Lawrence wrote Sons and Lovers at Numbers 12 and 16 Colworth Road.
3. East India Station Way and Addiscombe Railway Park now stand on the site of the old Addiscombe railway station.
4. There are four bakers shops on the Lower Addiscombe Road.
5. Kate Moss is our local girl turned famous supermodel.
6. Generals Outram and Havelock of the East India Company Army gave their names to local roads.
7. The number 119 bus will take you from Addiscombe Road to Bromley.
8. ANCA stands for the Addiscombe Neighbourhood Care Association.
9. SPRA has been operating for 20 years.
10. Dr Crippen's girlfriend is said to have lived in Parkview Road.

How did you do?

parents!" Only 37% of people aged 18-24 are estimated to have voted in the last election, lowest number of any age group. Young people need to vote because they will be affected by current issues to a greater extent, as they will be living with the results for longer, and of course, and paying for them with their taxes.

Gavin has been a councillor for the last twelve years, since the age of twenty six. He grew up in Croydon and is another Trinity School alumni. He says he has "always been interested in politics" and cites his parents as an inspiration. "My mum and dad always said if I wasn't happy, then do something about it." He is currently Head of Governors at Trinity School; "it's nice to give something back."

I explain that residents in our area have been forced to fight against the planning permission for large developments which would overcrowd Addiscombe. "One of the best policies that David Cameron has is the new 'Open Source Planning System'", which will "turn the planning system on its head". Whereas the system is currently top-down, based in Bristol and biased in favour of big business, in these plans, local neighbourhoods would be given more control, with a bottom up approach. There would be the opportunity for residents to suggest positive ideas for their area and the local community could also receive cash incentives to benefit from new developments. He also mentions the idea of more housing in Central Croydon, to take the strain away from the borough's more suburban areas, such as Addiscombe.

Gavin is also extremely concerned by the fact that Lunar House is the only place in the UK where asylum seekers go to claim asylum. "It is wrong that one area deals with a national issue." He will work hard to convince the Government that other areas need to take responsibility for this burden, or that the centre should be moved altogether. Failing this, he will "endeavour to ensure that other areas take a share of the cost".

The only question which throws him (maybe understandably) is on a lighter note: 'Which superhero would you be and why?' "I'd be... Mr Incredible from the Disney film 'The Incredibles'- not because I'm incredible, but because I have a family of Incredibles around me." He moves this along: "Family life is really important to me. My wife and boys give me perspective and first hand experience" of local issues and services, "for example, schools and healthcare". He is vocally in favour of the traditional family and believes "we shouldn't moralise, but undeniably, children born to married couples are healthier, have a more successful childhood and are less likely to commit crime."



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Interview with Gerry Ryan Labour

I meet Gerry Ryan, Labour Candidate for Croydon Central, at the Town Hall. I'm a little surprised that he suggests we conduct our interview on a sofa in the lobby, but then, we have agreed to meet at short notice. Fortunately, a friendly doorman unlocks the door of neighbouring conference room.

Not a man for small talk, Gerry is keen to get down to business. He has lived in Croydon for most of his life and was born in Streatham. He has been Councillor for Selhurst for 12 years (not the nine which is recorded on his slightly out of date website biography). He is married to Jackie, with two grown up sons, has worked for the post office and currently works for B.T. He obviously enjoys his work and is keen to tell me of the technological changes we have lived through.

Gerry is extremely confident that he will win Croydon Central. In fact, certain. "I'm sure I'm gonna win," he tells me. He is a strong supporter of Gordon Brown, calling him "a steady pair of hands", and is fully expecting Mr. Brown to remain Prime Minister for another four years. "He will give us another term".

Gerry tells me the three key changes that he intends to make in Croydon, if elected. He is determined to champion "young people's issues" because Croydon is London's youngest borough" (in terms of population). He has already obtained money from the Crystal Palace Charitable Trust for schemes for children in the school holidays. He would like to introduce "positive activities, such as sport, music and art" with an "anti-crime message," and visited Croydon Judo Club earlier this week, with David Miliband and Tessa Jowell.

He is also keen to help young people and their families in other ways. "I love the idea of offering free school meals" to school children. "Lots of parents say this is a fantastic pledge...it is a life changing idea." He feels that funds spent on schemes such as this, are better spent than on "swish council offices." It is very difficult to not to look around the smart room that we are sitting in, and wonder whether he includes the Town Hall in this.

Thirdly, he is keen to "build on the tram system". He was extremely disappointed to see the planned expansion of the tram link to Crystal Palace scrapped and is "fighting for that to be reinstated." He is also enthusiastic

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