



1989 - 2018

# Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents' Association

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**Bumper Summer 2018 issue**

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



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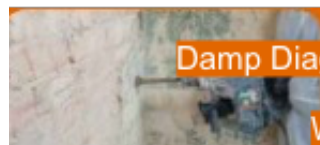
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## From the editor

A warm summer welcome to everyone in the ASPRA area, particularly to those of you who don't normally receive our magazine. If we can prompt you to join our residents' association for the paltry annual sum of £4, you can read about your neighbourhood three times a year, find out a lot about what's going on here, receive emails about crime warnings, details of planning applications and so much more.

One of the guiding principles of the magazine is to avoid taking any political stance, and we try hard to avoid doing that. However, it's sometimes hard to avoid local politics – especially as we're preparing the magazine during the run-up to local elections at the beginning of May. We, like you, are suffering the deluge of pamphlets and publicity persuading us to vote across the range of colours on offer for the complexion of the council until 2022.

Leaflets we've seen so far are raising three main issues: the problems caused by the ongoing closure of Blackhorse Lane (which is about to get worse), the issues facing the high street as businesses (including local bank branches) close, and fly tipping. All issues that this magazine has been banging on about for the last two years!

Isn't it funny that when politicians want something from us, they suddenly start getting interested in the things we've been telling them about?

Do let us know what you think. We are here, we hope, to be your voice among all the other noise around. **PP**

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## Letters to the editor

### Tell us what you think

Sir,  
The newsletter for Spring 2018 is brilliant!!

Doing really well.

I love it!! I actually look forward to receiving the newsletters!

Please don't think I am sad!!

Ha ha!

*Louise*

*Northampton Road*

*(Louise has also triggered a touching, historic, nostalgic article from our THN team. See next issue – Ed)*

Sir,  
In reply to one of the letters in your last issue, I agree with Niggled, Northampton Road.

I live in Northampton Road too and yes the 20mph signs have not made a difference.

Cars, vans and even lorries speed down Northampton Road and there is no enforcement!

Worried about pets/wildlife being run over!

Therefore, if there is no enforcement on these 20mph roads, then yes it's a waste of money!

*Northampton Road resident*

Sir,  
I was disappointed and confused to read the letter from 'Niggled, Northampton Road' (NNR). Personally, I welcome the 20 speed limit in our area, especially as unlike neighbouring boroughs the 30 limit has sensibly been maintained on main roads.

I assume that NNR (it's slightly tricky to engage with an anonymous writer) shares the view that we want our local streets to be safer for all users. Any project designed to change people's behaviour costs money.

We also have to be realistic about the time it takes – think about changes in attitudes and actions in relation to wearing seat-belts, drink-driving etc. The signage is not wasteful as it provides useful reminders and reinforces the new norm of 20mph limit in our residential roads.

Yes, plenty of drivers do break the new limits but my experience is that fewer go at ridiculously fast speeds. I also know that I am reminded by the signs to keep to the limit and I imagine many others are too. Drivers are aware that if they are involved in a serious accident and that it is proved that they had ignored the limit the charges against them will be far more serious – that is the long-term policing involved. Surely, NNR does not want our overstretched police spending time and money checking speeds.

It's so easy when authorities begin to tackle seemingly intractable problems to have a knee-jerk response of being defeatist and cynical. We should welcome the council's attempt to improve safety and support their actions.

*Adrienne Chuer*  
*Bingham Road*



*Colin Gamm replies*

I became 'Niggled, Northampton Road', Adrienne, because there was already more than enough stuff by me in the last issue.

Like you, I welcome the new limits on our streets. In my experience, though, drivers using my road at least, drive as fast as they ever have. Taxis, cars, white vans,

lorries – they all drive like maniacs, completely ignoring the signs.

The changes in law with regard to seatbelts and drink-driving were accompanied by massive publicity campaigns. Everyone of a certain age will remember Jimmy Sovile (*sic*) fronting the *Clunk-click every trip* campaign. There's been no such campaign for our 20mph limits. And, if we're honest, the 20mph signs are quite hard to spot.



And, contrary to what you seem to think, I do want our overstretched police force to spend more time on catching speeding drivers. They spend, we are told, far too much time in the office on bureaucratic tasks these days. They are made to waste time on attempting to investigate dead people, celebrities and ageing politicians, most of whom have been vilified for no reason at all. (Ted Heath, Paul Gambaccini and Lord Brittan all come to mind here.)

A week-long police presence in Northampton Road, for example, would result in dozens and dozens of speeding tickets a day. Word might get round, and people might slow down while they're

there, but as soon as the police were gone my guess is that drivers' speeds would rise again.

Lots of the van drivers are on mobile phones at the same time as roaring up the road at 45mph. Using phones while driving, as we are all aware, is against the law. But it will keep on happening because drivers think they won't get caught. In any ten-minute journey around Croydon you see dozens of drivers talking into or texting on their mobile phones .

I don't think I'm defeatist and cynical, Adrienne; I just think drivers will drive far too fast along our 20mph roads until somebody, and maybe that's the police, does something about it.

Colin Gamm  
Northampton Road

Sir,  
"If it ain't broke don't fix it".

That's what they say, and they are wise words.

Unfortunately Croydon Council (or is it TFL – or both?) seem unfamiliar with this idea.

I give you two recent examples.

A year or two ago Croydon Council implemented – at a cost of several million pounds (of your money) – a "road improvement scheme" in Wellesley Road. The "improvement" to the road consisted of removing one north-bound traffic lane and planting in its place some trees and shrubs.

The scheme was nothing to do with improving the flow of traffic. This part of Croydon Vision 2020 was almost entirely environmental; the intention was to make the area look more attractive. Here's a computer-generated image of what Wellesley Road was going to look like after improvements were made (from Croydon Vision 2020, published in 2013).

Have a look at this "Vision of Croydon" next time you are passing. You will notice that, far from a leafy paradise, what we've

got, unfortunately, is a litter-strewn line of dead shrubs and trees. It looks awful!



Then there is the 20mph limit.

A fine idea – traffic slows down and fewer people are killed or injured. I don't know what this little scheme cost to implement, but I do know that traffic has *not* slowed down – in the least – and I have no idea whether or not lives have been saved...

When I worked (at Croydon Council as it happens) we had an annual job evaluation scheme. The idea was that you told your boss where you were under-performing; what you intended to do about it; and how you would measure success.

*“How you would measure success.”*

I don't have any problem with the powers-that-be spending my tax-pounds on worthwhile improvements.

When they do though, is it not unreasonable to ask that they define some empirical measure of success to determine if the money has been well spent, or not?

I can't help thinking that in these two examples, at least, our money has gone down the drain.

*Kiff Paddon  
Ashburton Avenue*

(In 2013 Wellesley Road was the eighth slowest 'rush-hour' road in London – Ed)



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## Addiscomment

### Dying to go faster

If you drive a car in Croydon, we wonder if you ever think that the urban speed limits have been set out of a sense of mischief, or as way of just getting at passing motorists? Would you think that there's some science gone into determining differences between say 20, 30 or even 40mph?

Did you know, for instance, that if you're an averagely fit adult and you were hit by an average size car at 30mph, you've got something like a 60% chance of just suffering a few broken bones and some cuts and bruise? If you're that same adult, hit by a bigger car or a van at 40mph, those odds go down to about 10%. A 15cwt van hitting you at 50mph is probably going to kill you.

For children and old people you can assume the worst is going to happen at 30mph and upwards.

In over-parked and narrow residential streets, looking out for the traffic gets harder and harder, let alone being seen by on-coming vehicles. The very act of peering out from a line of parked cars could get your head knocked clean off, especially if you're a carefree kid or a hesitant OAP.

So it turns out that our

local 20mph limit appears to be a good idea, if only it were enforceable.

Unfortunately, every day we witness the callous disregard of limits all across the local rat-runs, with Bingham Road and Northampton Road seemingly attracting the worst offenders. Sooner or later someone is going to be killed by an early morning racer, five minutes late for work.



Maybe then the council might be persuaded to invest in speed limiters, or the police might start some enforcement. Sadly, we'll probably have to wait and see.

### Bagged out

It's not much fun being on the receiving end of street crime, as your editor and his wife can now attest.

Walking home from the tramstop, after a very pleasant evening in

London, we were a few feet from our own front door when a young lad ran out from a dark front garden and snatched our bag.

The first you thing feel is disbelief, then unthinking anger. It's the anger that makes you think that (at 68) you can catch a fairly fit teenager; and the anger that wipes out all sense of sensible consequence if you were to catch him.

After that it's just a feeling of stupidity and frustration as you try to deal with inconvenience of losses.

We were lucky, he just tipped out the contents of the bag, rifled a purse and snatched cash; quite a lot of cash because we were carrying a lot more than we needed. Another lesson learned.

We think we were 'spotted' on the tram and he got ahead of us while we dawdled on up the road, reflecting on our evening. We're apparently the third such incident in recent weeks; all involving snatched bags, later dumped with just cash taken.

The police aren't very effective in such instances, so it's up to all of us to 'be careful out there'.

### The Croydon cut-off

Wasn't Easter fun? With no trams running beyond Sandilands and the 312 unable to use Cherry



Orchard Road, anyone wanting to get to East Croydon had to scramble onto a 119 or a 194 and go through a swinging diversion through parts of Park Hill, or go to West Croydon on the so-called replacement bus service. Or walk. Walking was usually quicker.

To top it all, over Easter itself there were no South West trains running through Clapham Junction. You'd be forgiven for thinking that people employed to manage transport systems don't manage very well; but the people who want to subvert the efficiency of the systems are doing splendidly.

It's just as well the weather was rubbish!

### **Regular movements**

At the end of February TfL changed their tram service pattern and introduced new timetables to 'make the service more reliable and [offer] more even intervals between trams'. Funny then that you can wander down to the Addiscombe stop, narrowly miss a Wimbledon bound tram and be advised that the next service is 12 minutes away — although the next is 2 minutes after that, and the next another 8. Our interpretation of 'more even' would have had three services over 22 minutes turning up at 7

minute intervals. but we guess maths isn't an exact science any more; well, not as understood by TfL anyway.

### **Morning glory?**

Your editorial team is rarely up and about before the crack of dawn, but have family members who stumble off toward the tram stops at very ungodly hours. One of these unfortunates catches Croydon bound trams as the sun is hardly up and reports in of an unmistakable pungent smoking mixture incredibly noticeable as he boards at Addiscombe each morning.

Apparently it's anybody's guess as to whom among the half-awake travellers are facing the dawning day in an entirely different way to all the rest.

### **Addiscombe Road, planning application: thin end of the wedge?**

Gerry Meredith-Smith, Chairman of the Whitgift Estate Residents' Association, has been in touch to warn us about a planning application that had just gone in (at the time of writing) to demolish number 114 Addiscombe Road and replace it with a block of nine flats. He warned that the nine parking places provided would probably not be enough for the one-

two- and three-bedroom flats, pointing out that overspill parking would undoubtedly fall on Cheyne Walk, Annandale Road, Carlyle Road and Fryston Avenue.

His concern, he said, was that if it is approved we could expect a flood of further applications as owners in Addiscombe Road cash in and developers have a field day. "We might end up," he wrote, "with 20+ such blocks on the south side of Addiscombe Road quite soon. Lots more cars wanting somewhere to park! This application and the trend that will most likely follow its approval will impact on your residents as well as ours..."

You can see details on Croydon Council's Planning portal [sic].



114 Addiscombe Road is south-west of Cheyne Walk; it's a particularly wide plot, the one with the woody/bushy frontage, loads of trees on the kerb and a coach-house garage and drive to the left (east). The developer paid £600,000 for it nearly a year ago.

The block of flats doesn't

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really look out of keeping, as it happens (their architects have been in discussions with Croydon's Planning Dept for months), but Gerry's warning holds. It could be the thin end of the wedge, and some of our roads are at risk too.

### Planning panning

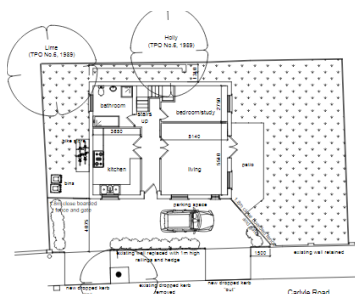
When planning permission for a two-storey, three-bedroom house on the plot of land on Carlyle Road, officially known as rear of 30 Northampton Road, was turned down by Croydon's occasionally excellent Planning Department, the owner appealed against the decision.

The Planning Inspectorate noted that "there are four trees within or near to the site which are covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). The trees make an important contribution to the leafy suburban character of this area, and are particularly prominent on the edge of the area of trees extending to the south and which are readily visible from the public realm of Carlyle Road".

The Inspector concluded that "the proposal would place unacceptable long-term pressure for the removal of trees which are the subject of a TPO, in particular the holly and

lime," which would be contrary to several specific planning policies and the London Plan. He dismissed the appeal.

The owner has now submitted another planning application, which shows the back of the new house would be further from the neighbour's fence (and the holly tree), together with an in-and-out drive.



Will the trees still be at risk? We await the decision(s) with interest.

### Problematic property

We can spot a property developer at fifty feet; so when we saw a tall gentleman drive up in a grey Mercedes Sports saloon, wearing sun glasses in March, our warning bells began to sound. He was quite open about talking to two neighbours we know are interested in selling up, and he told us he was particularly interested in the big houses around here 'to turn them into flats.'

Well, we're told that we live in a market economy, and we guess there's little we can do to combat so-called market forces, especially with the housing market in the state of short supply that it's in.

We have to ask, however, if it's really what we want to be happening to our local area, once defined by its pattern of pleasant streets formed of residential single family homes.

Flats are built to satisfy the demand for lower cost accommodation. The flats that are going on sale throughout Croydon are largely being bought up in the buy-to-rent market. They attract short-term tenants to satisfy the get-rich-quick ideals of their investor owners.

Maintenance isn't always thorough or aesthetic. The tenants often have no local buy-in to the area or the community and care little about rubbish, inconvenience or noise.

More flats will inevitably mean more cars and more parking in area already saturated. So, as the requests for planning permissions go in, we'll be opposing them.

As always, however, we'll be keen to hear your views.

### Willow, tit willow, tit willow

When a house owner in Northampton Road

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applied for planning permission for alterations to the house, they included felling the huge willow tree in the front garden.

The tree was planted in the late 70s and is now more than 2ft thick. The trunk and roots are clearly distorting the brick paviers laid so carefully ten years ago.

But it's dafter than that. As anyone with a brain in their head knows, willows should be planted at least 80 feet away from any buildings.

And because weeping willow roots aggressively seek water, trees should be planted a minimum of 105ft feet from underground sources of water, such as drains and sewers.

(The owners of the house at the time planted two trees originally; fortunately one of them died fairly early on. That's the trees, not the owners.)

The remaining tree is 21ft from the house, 15ft from the gutter and surface water drains, and 16ft from the neighbour's drains.

Willows live to suck up water, which is why you find them thriving next to rivers. The root system grows and probes and finds water. That's what they do. And the bigger the tree, the bigger the roots. And a mature willow tree may gollop up (technical expression) 100 gallons of

water *per day* during summer months.

They grow upwards and outwards, and take down telephone lines when it gets a bit breezy. BT love them.

Their leaves, when they fall, spread for miles. Thousands and thousands of leaves, everywhere.

But the real willow-whisperers, the heroes of this tale, have been Thames Water. If Thames Water have been out once, as the saying goes, they've been out a dozen times.

They've dug up and repaired a neighbour's drain run, installed new manholes, endlessly investigated gutter drain blockages, cleared by drilling (100yds?), through surface water drains, and even had to sort out the main drains deep in the middle of the road.

And all because of this one tree. I am not making this up. It should be Public Enemy No1.

Croydon's Planning Dept, however, won't allow it to be chopped down. Oh no. It is, apparently, a Landmark Tree.

So bad luck house owner. Bad luck BT. Bad luck Thames Water and bad luck neighbours. You are a bunch of know-nothings. It is a Landmark Tree.

So, is it a clear-cut result then? Planning Dept 1: Common Sense 0?



### **Where is it?** (last issue)

The shops on Lower Addiscombe Road between Inglis Road and the tramline were built originally as shops, next to Croydon's original tram terminus. And very fine buildings they are, a mix of brick and pebbledash, with those attractive lead cupolas nestling high up above each corner shop.

Most of the rest of the shops in Lower Addiscombe Road, between the tramline and Sherwood Road, were built originally as houses. (Look at the roofs, the first floor windows.) As such, they had front gardens.

The stainless steel studs are boundary markers. They demarcate an area defined by the deeds of a building, showing where the front gardens originally ended; the owner of the building also owns the land up to the stud boundary.

Some gardens were much bigger than others: in places along Lower Addiscombe Road the studs are 12 or 15 feet from

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the shops, with an original pavement of only a few feet. Elsewhere they are within a few feet of the shopfront.

Finch Hardware & DIY store, for example, uses the full extent of the original garden for its pavement displays, and yet the original pavement is almost the same depth again.

Some studs are missing! Warren Hall, of Aurum (opposite Blackhorse Lane), told me he was promised studs but they were never installed. Croydon can be so cruel.

And the studs in front of the former Barclay's Bank, built in 1914, clearly mark only the boundary of the original plot: there can't possibly have been a garden area outside the bank.

So next time you're out shopping, take a look at the pavement. And if you're wondering how to entertain the kids this summer, how about a competition to count them?

### **New GDPR Regulations**

In May a new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) replaces the old Data Protection Act (DPA), and you may wonder what that's got to do with ASPRA. Well, we hold data on you, even if it is only your name, address and email address so we can

deliver your magazines and send emails. Now the new GDPR requires us to provide you with the opportunity of telling us you no longer want your details retained.

If you want us to delete your name, address or email details (where we have them) from our files (and you no longer want us to send you these magazines), please contact the Membership Secretary, Dave Lee at [contact@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:contact@theaspra.org.uk)

### **Tidying the tramstop**

Lyn Simmons has been telling us about the efforts of Vicky Strzelczyk, a local resident concerned about the mess behind the platforms at Addiscombe Tramstop.

One March Sunday it took only 35 minutes to create 7 large bucket loads of dirty glass and plastic bottles, and one for recycling.

Other finds included a wallet and a knuckle duster.

Separately Lyn, who is a volunteer gardener in our park, was concerned about the state of landscaping at the tramstop. Shrubs had been hacked back, bindweed and brambles were everywhere. What had been an asset to the Addiscombe Village was becoming an unkempt eyesore. Not to mention the litter!

Emails to TfL who own and manage the land, were unanswered, but a one-to-one complaint to their 'interface manager' brought the promise of bringing in volunteers to clear the rubbish, but no action yet.

Local councillor Stephen Mann helpfully suggested contacting Stuart Collins who agreed it would be good to get TfL to work with the Council around a landscaping project. All still to happen.

Vicky's first efforts, meanwhile, had developed to a second attempt and an ad on Facebook for more help. At this point Lyn decided to do a bit of 'guerilla' gardening and they joined forces on Saturday 22 April.

The nearby Café Adagio, posted more information on Facebook and supplied a growing number of volunteers with water on a thirsty but eventful afternoon.

As well as unearthing bottles, cans and lots of plastic, several items of footwear, DVDs, Oyster cards and a whole pile of anti-depressant tablets were found. A rucksack containing a gun and a torch even captured the interest of the police!

While this was going on, local MP Sarah Jones came by and spoke to the police and to the litter pickers. She promised to help at a

future litter pick and we'll try to keep her to that. As Stuart Collins was with Sarah, Lyn seized the opportunity of showing him a the fly-tipping at the in Colworth Road. He undertook to collect this and the bulky items unearthed at the tramstop. This included a leather chair and a duvet and pillows, and they were removed the next day.

There is still lots more to do. Failing any action from TfL, Vicky and Lyn will continue to clear the site and plant some seeds to brighten up the street scene. Vicky's solitary start in March has started a volunteer movement keen to get more people involved.

If you're interested in helping please check out the ASPRA Facebook page for future 'litterpick' and gardening dates.

### **Let at last**

We will all be overjoyed to learn that after two years of scruffy dereliction, complete with broken windows, fly posting and even the occasional homeless sleeper, the eyesore that was the old Discount Store site on Lower Addiscombe Road has finally been let.

(Older residents will remember that this was the original Sainsbury's store, complete with beautifully

tiled walls and long mahogany counters.)

Estate agents GPCCommercial were delighted to tell us that this large unit was finally let. Their spokesman couldn't tell us who the client was but was allowed to say that it would be a convenience store/local supermarket and that shopfitting would be starting 'immediately'.

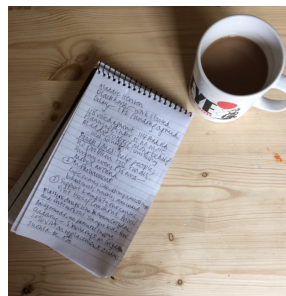
This will bring our count of local grocers, in the High Street, to six ,and seven when Penge Foods open up later in the year. Let's hope they all do well.

### **Our AGM**

ASPRA held its Annual General Meeting at the end of April. Well attended by the Road Reps, we were also pleased to welcome our 'new' MP, Sarah Jones, to her first ASPRA meeting.

Although it's difficult to keep politicians off politics, she did listen to a lot of local concerns and gave what answers and reassurances she could. Violent crime, housing policy, planning and the Westfield farce aren't off our agenda, or hers, but the presence of two opposing councillors trying to score the occasional point didn't help anyone. A reminder to them all to leave their agendas at home next time they visit might not go amiss.

We took copious notes, as you can see, but we're following our brief and staying non-political.



### **Voxpop on Boxpark**

Croydon contributed more than £3m of our money on establishing Boxpark in East Croydon.

It is not a place for the elderly or faint-hearted at night. The noise level in the eat-o-torium is horrendous to anyone over 50, unless you like being reminded of school dinner halls. Combine mindless chatter with a disco soundscape and you get the vibe.

Hip 30-somethings appear to love it, but OAPs beware. And isn't it a bit of a narrow demographic for all our council tax money?

How on Earth can we possibly bore each other to death if we can't hear ourselves speak?

### **Maps (part 2)**

...will follow in our next exciting issue — there simply wasn't enough room for it in this one.



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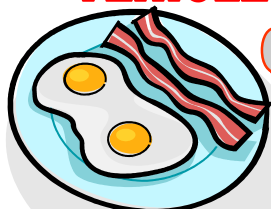
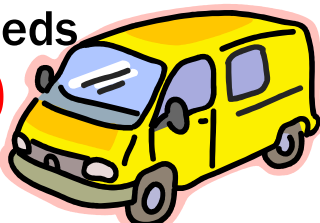
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## All about ASPRA and how to subscribe

Addiscombe and Shirley Park Residents' Association (ASPRA) began in 1989 and has grown significantly since. Anyone who lives within our defined area can join and we encourage membership from all of you who care about this neighbourhood. ASPRA covers thirty-four roads in Addiscombe in a circle bound by the Lower Addiscombe Road, Northampton Road, Addiscombe Road and Shirley Road (we also include Shirley Park Road, Glenthorne Avenue and Peabody Close).

We are a non-political organisation, although we hopefully succeed in getting local politicians, whether they're our councillors or our MPs, to listen to our

We also produce this magazine. It carries a wealth of local news and comment, together with articles specific to the area and to local interests. We aim to issue it to our 800 or so members in the Autumn and Spring, and we go out to the whole community (almost 2000 households) in the summer.

ASPRA prides itself on acting within our community. We secure the funding and see to the installation of Addiscombe's Christmas lights, our members keep the recreation ground gardens looking nice and we run the popular Jumble Trail in the summer. Last year, our Projects Team established the Village Notice Board outside of the building where the old Black Horse pub used to stand.

We think that we are remarkably good value for the £4 price of an annual membership.

Without you there is no Association. If you are already a member, please don't forget to re-subscribe. If you're not, we invite you to join with your neighbours

concerns. Indeed, ASPRA's aims are to protect the interests of its members where local issues are concerned and to continually seek enhancements and improvements to the local community environment.

ASPRA has always been an issues-led organisation and we make ourselves heard in discussions and meetings with developers, council officials, the Planning Inspectorate and other organisations. We are a known and respected community voice.

We work entirely through our volunteers. Each road in the area has its own Road Representative and from the Road Reps we appoint a small co-ordination and liaison committee. Regular meetings are held where members' views are listened to and appropriate actions decided. We help to work to make our community a better place by encouraging a sense of local pride and belonging.

You can contact us through the ASPRA website ([www.theaspra.org.uk](http://www.theaspra.org.uk)), or check out our facebook page (Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents' Association), or talk to your Road Rep.

With this copy of your ASPRA magazine you should find an envelope inviting your subscription for the next twelve months. Please join us and fill in your details, before passing the envelope back to your Road Rep. You can arrange to pay the annual fee (£4) by standing order (much preferred), direct bank payment or by putting cash or a cheque into the envelope upon its return.

Our banking details are as follows: ASPRA at Barclays Bank; sort code 20-24-61; account number 50802549. If you use a standing order or direct bank payment, please remember to use your house number and road name as the reference, so we can track your payment.

## Your ASPRA committee

### **Chairman**

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chairman@theaspra.org.uk

### **Vice-Chairman**

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vicechairman@theaspra.org.uk

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Hilary Chelminski  
projects@theaspra.org.uk



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# Summer Fun!

## My favourite cocktail

Remember your first gin and tonic, and the way it went straight to your knees? Well, this is even better than that: it goes straight to your lips! Three of these and you won't be able to speak, so be very, very careful.

It's really straightforward. You need equal quantities of gin, Cointreau and lemon juice. The best way to get the proportions right is to squeeze a whole lemon, check how much juice there is and match it with the other two. You don't need a cocktail shaker, but if you've got one and feel like showing off, feel free.

You also need crushed ice. I made this once with a tea-towel, ice cubes and a wooden rolling pin. It dented the rolling pin, dented the chopping board and made the tea-towel wet.

Undaunted, I put the magic ingredients together.

Bliss! It's called a White Lady, and it will change your life.



*Of course, it goes without saying that, in this namby-pamby nanny-state England we call a democracy, you're not supposed to enjoy drinking any more. It is bad for you, unless you've read just this morning that it's good for you again. So just to make this completely clear, it's not clever and it's not funny and you really shouldn't ever drink alcohol unless you are old enough to be sensible about it. Or failing that, old enough will do. Cheers!*

## Uncle Bruce's abso-fabbo barbie tips!

It's taken me altogether too many ruined meals over too many years to realise there are only three things you really need to know about cooking on a barbecue.

### 1 The seven-second rule

If you're using charcoal, it must be really hot before you start cooking. And when it's really hot it's a lovely grey colour and there aren't any flames.

I'm the first person to stick my hand up and admit to starting to cook when it's not grey all over. Daft. The food's not at its best because it takes too long to cook and you invariably finish cooking just as your barbie comes up to heat.

The best test, and my pal Pete taught me this 40 years ago, is to put the back of your hand over the grill (ie palm upwards) and count. If you can hold it there for more than seven seconds it's not hot enough. If it sings all the hairs on the backs of your fingers and smells horrid it's just the right temperature.

### 2 Rest that steak!

Barbecues are just perfect for cooking a big juicy steak. It's a fact: kitchen grills aren't really hot enough. Griddling is better (as long as the pan is smoking hot), but barbies are best.

The golden rule for cooking steak is to sear it over a really high heat, then cook to

your liking and rest for five or more minutes to let the muscles relax, the juices flow and flavours enhance.

It might seem a bit daft to wait so long before you get stuck into an expensive piece of meat, when all your instincts are telling you to eat it while it's hot, but the difference is astonishing.

Steaks fall into two categories. They either taste great or they are tender. It's rare for both qualities to go together.

Sirloin is well marbled with tasty fat, but hasn't got a true depth of flavour. It's a great steak to cook, though, because it ends up tender and juicy. Cook them for two minutes a side – if you like nice stripes don't move them around – and rest them properly. Leave them for as much as ten minutes and they just melt in the mouth.

Rump is full of flavour but it needs to cook a little longer as it isn't easy to eat too rare – around three minutes each side, depending on size, should do it. Individual steaks are fairly big pieces of meat so if you're cooking for six people, say, buy a really big rump, marinate it in olive oil, cook it whole and slice it up. Delish!

### 3 Do not dehydrate

You know this. One of the most important things to remember when you're ill is to drink plenty of fluids. Especially if you're a bit, you know, erm, loose. (Ever tried flat Coke? Don't.)

Well, the very same thing applies when you're out in the back garden cooking up the most succulent, delicious food known to man. And women, obviously. (PC, me.)

It's a well-known fact that when you stand there in your blue and white striped apron, cooking on a roasting-hot barbecue for any length of time, your stomach/belly/tummy will start to cook too. It is astonishingly uncomfortable. It goes all red and, well, hot and uncomfy. Wrinkly too, if you really overdo it.

Anyway, to stop worrying about this – and medical science\* is united on this one

– the only known cure is to drink a lot of fluids. (And mainly to stand further away, but that's not always possible.)

Unfortunately, fluids like water or fizzy drinks don't quite cut the mustard.

What you need, apart from the most unctuous moisturising lotion and a couple of paracetamol caplets – and this has been tried and tested over more years than I can remember – is beer (the traditional Aussie accompaniment), wine (Malbec is brilliant with steak), gin and tonic or a White Lady, instructions for which you may already have noticed on the previous page of this Summer Spectacular issue. That's either, by the way, and not necessarily all, or in that order.

Any of those drinks will have an analgesic effect, especially over a period of time. Some slightly more so than others, obviously, and it follows, surely, that two drinks will be twice as effective as one. (That said, and it can never be stressed too much, we feel we should warn against the truly appalling consequences of over-indulgence, but then everyone who reads this magazine will know that.)

So there we have it. Summer is upon us, and the barbie season starts, if it hasn't already, with the first warmish dryish occasion we choose to leap on.

So. Eat well, drink sensibly, and try not to singe the hairs on the back of your fingers.

*\*I lied. Medical science, in this context, is strictly the old ackaramackus.*

PS: Just tried a Malbec rosé. Just right! CG



# What's on!

There's a lot going on in and around Addiscombe

## Concerts

**Saturday 30 June 7.30pm**  
**Croydon Bach Choir**

*Anthology for Armistice*

A choral concert to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I.

Elgar: *Spirit of England*, Boden:

*Homo Sum*

**St John the Evangelist, Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR0 5EF**

Tickets £12.00 children £5 available on the door

www.croydonbachchoir.org or phone 0208 405 2172

**Saturday 7 July 7.30pm**  
**Ruskin Chorale** presents *Music for the fun of it*

A selection of popular choral works from classical to TV themes and jazz

**Shirley Methodist Church, Eldon Avenue, Shirley**

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Students free

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**Saturday 13 October 7.30pm**  
**St Mildred's Choir** presents  
*An autumn concert*

## Special services

**At St Mildred's Church, Bingham Road, Addiscombe, CR0 7EB**

An *Opening of the Church* service on **Saturday 22 September 2.30pm** attended by the Bishop of Croydon  
A Parish Communion on **Sunday 23 September 10.00am.**

## Addiscombe festival

**Sunday 27 May in Ashburton Park, CR0 6RX** — a **Family Fun Day** with the **Croydon Lions** and **John Coneley's Fun Fair.**

*Food, arts and crafts and more, with all proceeds to the Lions Presidents chosen charity.*

For more information contact [croydon.lions@gmail.com](mailto:croydon.lions@gmail.com) or telephone the bookings secretary on **0208 681 2306.**

## Clubs and societies

**Addiscombe and Shirley Rotary** meets at **the Chateau, Coombe Lane** on **Tuesday** evenings at **7.30pm.** Part of Rotary International, a worldwide organisation of men and women who volunteer to serve their communities, we focus on community projects helping the young, the elderly and the disadvantaged.

To find out more check out [www.aandsrotary.org](http://www.aandsrotary.org) or phone **0844 884 9743.**

**Croydon Petanque Club**  
Meet in **Ashburton Park**, Lower Addiscombe Road, CR0 6NN





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## Local pharmacies

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#### **Opening hours**

Mon - Sat 9am - 5.30pm

### **Larchwood Pharmacy**

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#### **Opening hours**

Mon - Fri 9am - 7pm  
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### **Shirley Pharmacy**

175 Shirley Road  
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#### **Opening hours**

Mon - Fri 9am - 7pm  
Saturday 9am - 5pm

### **For longer opening hours (and Sundays):**

### **Sainsbury's Superstore**

Trafalgar Way  
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#### **Opening hours**

Mon - Fri 7am - 11pm  
Saturday 7am - 10pm  
Sunday 11am - 5pm

ADDISCOMBE VILLAGE JUMBLE TRAIL 2018

# JUMBLE TRAIL

Sunday 30th September 11am-3pm



## Jumble Trails is back — but bigger and better!

After last July's successful Jumble Trail, enthusiasm for a 2018 event has permeated the whole of Addiscombe, with three other local residents' associations asking if they can join forces with us. Following consultation with ASPRA residents and the other associations, we're happy to report that we are all combining to hold the 2018 event on **Sunday 30 September**.

With the involvement of HOME (Havelock, Outram, Mulberry and Elgin Roads), CHASE (Capri, Highbarrow, Ashburton Avenue, Sundridge and Everton Roads) and the Blackhorse Residents' Association the event will cover a wide area and will be branded as the **Addiscombe Village Jumble Trail**.

Representatives from all of the associations will be meeting soon to progress arrangements. One key issue is to discuss the administration of stall bookings. We previously used [www.jumbletrail.com](http://www.jumbletrail.com), but this is being disabled as the initiator of the Jumble Trail concept no longer has time to support the website. Agreement also needs to be reached on the disbursement of the income. For example, we either share income proportionately across each participating group, or ring fence it to an Addiscombe-wide project such as the Christmas lights. Last year the ASPRA Jumble Trail generated an income of £310 for the lights.

Following a recent post on the ASPRA Jumble Trail Facebook page advising the 2018 date, many previous stallholders have already confirmed their involvement, together with a local girl guide group participating for the first time. A new Facebook Event page will be set up to promote the Addiscombe Village Jumble

Trail and to allow stallholders to publicise their stalls.

In 2017, there were 60 stalls set up in the neighbourhood (10 more than the previous year) with a fairly even split between stallholders returning for a second year and those trying it for the first time. With the area being widened, it is anticipated there will be lots more stalls and lots more bargains to be had. A leaflet and booking form will shortly be available and delivered to every householder in the Addiscombe area. There will also be posters to be displayed in local shops, libraries and cafes to publicise the event and give information on how to book a stall.



Jumble Trail is a great way to bring communities together and this year we will all be able to walk around a wider area and network with neighbours near and far.

As ever, we would love to hear from anyone who would like to help with assisting the organisers, helping with marketing and publicity, or delivering promotional leaflets. Just email [AddiscombeVillageJT@gmail.com](mailto:AddiscombeVillageJT@gmail.com)  
**Lyn Simmons and Jenny Crook**

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***See Google reviews for extra pub info.***

## The gardening group – a tangible reward

A walk through our small recreation ground is always rewarding, but never more so than on a pleasant summer day. Now that winter has worked its worse and spring has blossomed, the joys of the plants and flowers coming into bloom can finally be appreciated. Thanks then to the efforts of the ASPRA gardening team our little park has its corners of colour looking so



cheerful in the sunshine, able to brighten the dreariest day.

The abundance of plants and shrubs coming into bloom is in itself a reward to all of the gardeners who've worked so hard through the last couple of years, clearing the floral areas, planting the bulbs, seeds and shrubs and looking after them through the harsh winter weather. But more tangible rewards awaited them.

ASPRA members shopping in Tesco learned of their Community Champions projects and thought the work of the ASPRA garden group might qualify for an award in the scheme. With the necessary paperwork completed and ASPRA's details posted in Tesco's Purley store, it wasn't long before we won a shopper preference vote for a worthy cause.

Imagine the delight of everyone involved when news came of a gift from the store group of £1000, in recognition of the contribution to the community the upkeep of the gardens make. A real appreciation of the efforts put in.

Both ASPRA and Tesco wanted to make something of an occasion out of the gift and its receipt, so on a bright and warm April morning we gathered in the park to welcome Stella Nicolaou, Tesco's Community Champions

representative, as she presented ASPRA's garden group with the cheque. Toasting her, and the gardeners, with Tesco soft drinks and cakes a small gathering of neighbours, Road Reps and members cheered on the gift and appreciated still further the pleasantness of our local park.

Also there to appreciate the park, and ASPRA's efforts, was Meike Weiser, Croydon Council's Community



Stella from Tesco said that our parks project was just the sort of thing the group were interested in assisting, and we should keep them informed of everything we're doing, and that they'd be delighted to feature our magazine in their in-store publicity.

With the sun shining down on us, the gardens looking so cheerful and with such positive promises coming from the Council and our new benefactor, we all left the park in an extremely optimistic and cheerful mood and looking forward to summer. **PP**

Conservation Partnership Officer. Very aware of some of the problems and successes of the recreation ground, she promised new interest in smartening up the tennis courts and making them pay, keeping the footpaths clean and promoting positive no-litter policies.



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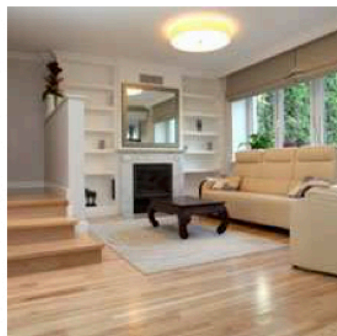
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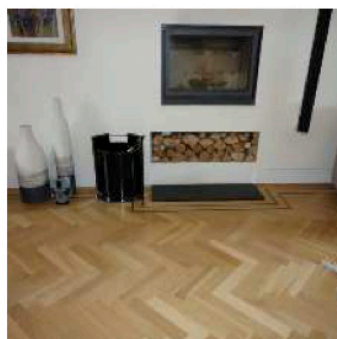
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## Our landmark trust

We're fortunate to have three landmark commercial buildings in our little corner of the world.

The first, and most handsome, is the old Barclays Bank building on the corner of Blackhorse Lane. The mellow, symmetrical three-bay soft red brick façade, with that striking pediment and weathervane (dated 1914) on the top, sits well in the landscape and glows and impresses from afar.



Closer up it's a bit disappointing if you're picky about important buildings. The original deep-set double-hung wooden sash windows have been replaced with almost flush-fitting upright plastic casements – a much cheaper option and a shame in this context. The stonework and windows on the ground floor are nicely detailed. The right hand section is a bit quirky, as it turns the corner slightly. Clearly, and for symmetry, there was a door here originally. The circular window details fit well.

At the time of writing the leasehold interest is up for grabs.

The ground floor consists of (surprise!) a retail banking unit, rear strongroom and staff room, and totals 1,089sqft – equivalent to 30ft by 36ft, by way of an example. The 621sqft (30 by 20ft, ish) basement contains a safe. Which is probably not going to be very easy to remove.

According to CBRE, the agents, the lease expires in August 2028. The rent is £16,200pa, which with rates of £5,941.50pa gives a total of £22,141.50 or £425.80 a week. What does that mean in retail terms? A turnover of £250,000 a year just to cover these basics?

There's doesn't seem to be quite enough room for a restaurant or bar. What can we expect? Let's hope it's just a little dignified and not another fried chicken outlet.

**The most striking** of our landmark buildings is, without a doubt, Bingham Corner. It is one of only three buildings on our patch (the other two are St Mildred's church and the vet's at the top of Northampton Road, which isn't strictly on our manor) that are currently on the Local List of Historic Buildings. Its bold black woodwork and white render, together with those wonderful large gables, diamond-lead glass, slate roof and clocktower are – especially with the sun coming from the south-west – a joy as you walk towards it in mid/late afternoon.

The freehold of numbers 1,2 and 3 Bingham Corner is on the market at the time of writing. To all intents and purposes this means the car showroom on the ground floor; the flats, or self-contained apartments in agentspeak, on the two upper floors are all on long leases.

The showroom area, which currently includes offices, is massive – just over 2,500 square feet (or if it helps, think of it as 50ft by 50ft). How big is your place?

And the price of all this? Just £700,000,



which seems a bit of a bargain. Streets Ahead are the agents and, by coincidence, happenstance or just good timing, a large three-bedroom flat above the showroom has just sold for £350,000, which also seems a good price.

**Our third important** building is often overlooked by Addiscombers. We tend to take it for granted, but it is a substantial piece of work with some very nice detailing.

It is, of course, that splendid building on the corner of Lower Addiscombe Road and Shirley Road.

The large pedimented gable end, with detailed soffits, and the oriel-like two-storey bay with leaded cupola roof are great. Look at the detail: the little brick ornament above the bay, the diamond-shaped windows with ornamental brickwork surrounds, the courses of tiles in the brickwork on the corners. This is all good stuff.

The original sash windows on the main fascia might all need painting, which will be a lot of work, especially with those small panes, but it's still a glorious bit of building. And the wrought iron balcony

railings aren't going to be easy, either.

The door to the flats above, just to the left of the shopfront, is a piece of work in itself. The circular windows either side, each with four small panes of glass, are an added pleasure. In fact that whole wing, looked at from higher up Shirley Road, is a nice piece of design.

There are new tenants here, too. Estate agents Hyde & Rowe are stretching their wings and moved here, their second office, last January.

The last shop here was Lightfoot Windows, the Crittal window people, and we all remember Ultravac, that wonderful Hoover shop. But was there an industrial kitchen shop here at one time, or am I getting confused with somewhere else?

Back in the late 70s there was a quirky pine and antiques shop there, complete with huge tanks of caustic soda (for stripping the pine) in the back yard. A personable bloke named Rod owned it, and I remember buying several bits and pieces there. Nice shop, nice people.

Google tells me there was a television shop that went bust there in 1964, and that's it.

Have a nice day. **CG**



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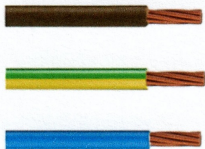
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## What's on at Ashburton library

Ashburton library can be found in the Oasis learning centre, Shirley Road, CR9 7AL



### **This summer there are three Monday Talks**

Admission to talks and events is free but booking is essential

**Monday 21 May, 11.00am** *The Pre-Raphaelites*

**Monday 4 June, 11.00am** *A Miscellany of Old South Norwood*

**Monday 16 July, 11.00am** *Museum of Croydon: Croydon Undiscovered*

### **Author event**

**Monday 18 June, 6.45 – 7.45pm**

Local author, **JP Noel-Cephise**, talks about his book *7 Deadly Dates*, a witty take on the realms of online dating.

**Chair-based fitness classes** are run every other Friday

On Friday **1 and 15 June**,

From **11am – 12 noon**

Please wear loose, comfortable clothing if you're planning to attend.

Our **Crime Reading group**, who are really quite friendly, meet once a month when **new members are very welcome**.

All meetings start at 5.30pm

For further events, please go to [www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries)

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## And finally...

You'll have to forgive me for this, but I've got to thinking that most of the people that actually read our little magazine are about the same vintage as we are. That's verging on the dodder, really.

You're free to write to us to correct this assumption, but I'm guessing that I'm right here, and if I am I can share with you a thing I'm doing that I've begun to notice.

I hear something said to me but don't listen to it properly and get a completely different meaning than was intended.

I do the same thing when I'm being confronted with words on a page.

Just the other day I was looking at the leaflets being popped through the letterbox on behalf of our aspiring counsellors when I noticed what turned out to be part of an email address. It was 'addiscombeast'.

I didn't look twice!

In my mind there it was!

Perfectly formed. Something to write about in next issue.

The Addiscombe Beast. Or better yet; the Beast of Addiscombe.

What a scoop. Imagine, everything that goes wrong around here now has a sinister cause at its root. The Beast gets into the park before closing time and pulls the gates shut early. It romps in the flowerbeds and churns up the ground. It chucks litter about and puts dog poo on to the paths.

The Beast isn't very literate and its attempts at writing are chalked or sprayed on fences and walls. Dogs hear it in the night and start to bark, children are terrified and refuse to sleep. Old men get confused by its subsonic whistling and lose track of time, spending longer in the Claret than they promised. Well, it's my excuse and I'm sticking to it. **PP**

## Advertising in ASPRA magazine

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

The magazine is published three times a year. Our Spring and Autumn issues go to more than 900 households and businesses. The Summer issue is delivered by hand to every household in our area – almost 2000 in all.

### Our very reasonable advertisement rates for 2018 are:

Full page	£60	Trim size	148mm x 210mm
		Type area	128mm x 185mm
Half page	£35	Vertical	62mm x 185mm
		Horizontal	128mm x 90mm
Quarter page	£20	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, series discounts and all the other bits and pieces you need to know, please contact our advertisement manager, Colin Gamm, by email at [adverts@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:adverts@theaspra.org.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 regular road reps'/members' meetings to share information. We would welcome anyone wishing to assist, even in a small way. If you fancy volunteering please contact Dave Lee, [contact@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:contact@theaspra.org.uk) or at 38 Northampton Road.

Addiscombe Road (275-395)	Myra Rand	391 Addiscombe Road
Annandale Road	Patricia West	5 Annandale Road
Ashburton Avenue	Kiff Paddon	49 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	Jeet Bains	17 Cheyne Walk
Claremont Road	George Orlebar	30 Claremont Road
Colworth Road	Lyn Simmons	3 Colworth Road
Compton Road	Shashi & Shila Kotecha	21 Compton Road
Craigen Avenue	Jane Walsh	39 Craigen 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 Rothern	33 Glenthorne Avenue
Greencourt Avenue	Mary Alexander	42 Selwood Road
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Harriet Gardens	Bill Callow	3 Harriet Gardens
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Northampton Road	Bob Sleeman	50 Northampton Road
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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
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