



# Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents' Association

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Summer 2019

1989 - 2019

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## From the editor

Welcome to our Summer issue, going out to all 2000 homes in the ASPRA neighbourhood. If you haven't picked up a copy of our magazine before, or if you're only a once-a-year reader, a special 'hello', and a hope that we can tempt you into a more permanent relationship with us and with ASPRA, all for the measly sum of £4 a year.

For little more than the price of a pint, you can get the Spring, Summer and Autumn issues of our little book and read all the news and comment that matter about the Addiscombe village and community. Look out for our recruitment info on page 5.

In this issue we're got a exclusive update on the bridge at Blackhorse Lane, our usual Addiscomment and some reminders of 1989. Yes, we are 30 this year!

We believe that issue number one was published in the Autumn of 1989, so we're saving the big celebration for later. Meanwhile, if you have any memories of ASPRA's origins, photographs or copies of very old magazines, we'd love to hear from you. You can write to us about practically anything at [editor@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:editor@theaspra.org.uk).

We have a lot of advertisers now, offering services for just about anything you'll need throughout the year, so keep us to hand and tell your neighbours how useful we are.

Otherwise, it's 'happy reading' and enjoy the summer! *PP*

## In this issue

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We try very hard to be non-political but we do, from time to time, voice what we hope to be objective comments. These comments are solely those of the editorial team and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ASPRA.



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## Your local ASPRA welcomes one and all

A special Addiscombe welcome to the not-so-regular readers of these pages, especially if you're new to the area. If you're not already a subscriber and member of the Addiscombe and Shirley Park Residents' Association (ASPRA), then you've picked up a copy of our Summer issue, distributed to all the homes in our immediate neighbourhood. So, welcome indeed!

ASPRA was formed thirty years ago in response to some bizarre traffic plans for the area. Our grouping, and those of similar local neighbourhoods, demonstrated to politicians both locally and in government that local opinion really counts and they mess with us at their peril. That said, however, we remain resolutely non-political, free to criticise whatever's badly thought out or just plain daft but free too to praise good thinking and quick responses wherever they are manifest.

ASPRA's area takes in thirty-four roads in this part of Addiscombe. If you can imagine a circle with its circumference consisting of Northampton Road, Lower Addiscombe Road, Shirley Road and Addiscombe Road; that's us. And we also include Shirley Park Road, Glenthorne Avenue and Peabody Close. These inclusions get us the benefit of the attention of three more councillors than we were used to, after the recent boundary changes. This is a slight oddity, but we decided ASPRA came first, so it's their problem and not ours!

We like to think that our association promotes a sense of community, not

just among its members but also to our friends in the neighbourhood and to the people running businesses and working in the local shops we all use every day. Every year we fund and supervise the installation of Addiscombe's Christmas lights; our members maintain the recreation ground gardens and we organise the local Jumble Trail in September. The ASPRA Projects Team established and look after the Village Notice Board, which proudly stands under the community's emblem of a black hussar on a black horse where our once historic public house stood, before council and corporate vandalism allowed it stolen away.

ASPRA also produces this little magazine, carrying within itself a wealth of local news and comment. It goes out in the Autumn and in the Spring to more than 800 or so members; in Summer we distribute to 2000 homes in a blatant attempt to sustain and recruit more members.

All of this community spirit and three issues of this booklet are available for the remarkably low price of £4 per year. Yes. Just FOUR pounds!

Contact us through our website page ([www.theaspra.org.uk](http://www.theaspra.org.uk)) or look for us on facebook (Addiscombe and Shirley Park Residents' Association).

Join us by setting up a standing order to ASPRA at Barclays Bank (sort code 20-24-61, account 50802549) or by returning the payment envelope to your Road Rep (see page 63).

Hopefully, we'll see you around.





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## Letters to the editor

### Tell us what you think

Sir,

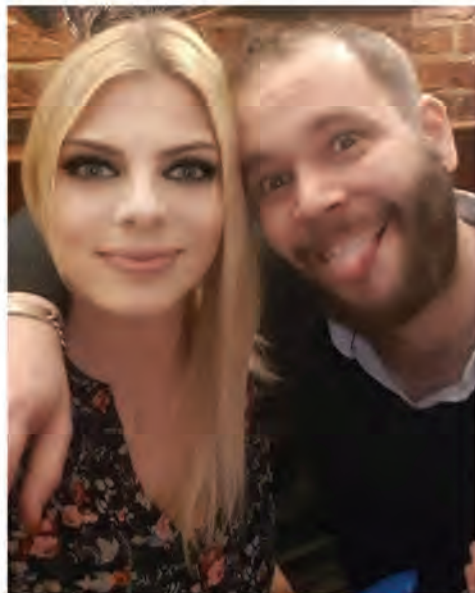
In the last edition an editorial comment was made regarding the wife of James Monckton (who runs the greengrocers). Apparently she is “far too attractive” (Addis’n’dat, p24).

While I agree the reopening of a local family-run business is entirely newsworthy, I am struggling to understand how a comment on a woman’s physical appearance is relevant or necessary. Please could you enlighten me?

Andrea Whitfield  
Sefton Road

*Thanks Andrea. You weren’t the first to complain about us being a bit sexist. We certainly didn’t mean to be, and we’ll try to be more aware next time. Ed.*

*We also apologised to Emma and James, who said that they hadn’t minded in the least, which was gracious of them. They sent our magazine (and its readers) their best wishes!*



Sir,

Reference your piece on pre-Roman history (Spring issue): recent reports from the British Museum indicate Viking influence associated with land west of Addiscombe Farm. It is known that in 852 the Norwegians mustered for revenge and attacked the Danish Fleet in Carlingford, Ireland. Apparently, St Patrick favoured the Danes and a mere handful of Norwegians survived the three-day slaughter.

The Danes, prudently, rewarded the Saint with gold and silver; the Irish, mistakenly, saw piety in the Danes. Legend has it that the Danes long-boated the treasures to their base at Fort Aneef to the south of London. Recent discoveries of Danish drinking vessels dedicated to Carlsberg (King of Denmark) in back gardens all over Croydon seem to confirm their presence.

To assist local residents to continue the search for lost treasure, we understand that the refurbished Co-Op will shortly take delivery of a ton of approved super-plus metal detectors based upon an original design by the great scholar and inventor A.B. Lackhorse-Bridge.

So there you are. A chance for a fortune beckons.

Happy detecting.  
Michael Cronin  
Fryston Avenue

Sir,

Margarita Kassianou-Hannan’s long letter about veganism made for interesting reading. My attention was particularly drawn toward her statement that ‘vegans avoid exploiting animals for any purpose’.

Does she extend that view to keeping animals as pets, in cages, pens or just indoors?

If so, how does she square that view with the fact that (on page 52 of the last issue of the magazine) she advertises herself as a qualified professional dog walker, presumably a paid occupation?

Su Norwood  
Northampton Road

*(We invited Margarita to reply to Su’s letter but had no reply at time of printing)*

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## Addiscomment

### Big toys on the track

Living toward the bottom of Northampton Road, it's an undeniable nuisance to

thanks to Graham Cluer for the photograph) is supposed to do (apart from close Bingham Road for an evening), but doesn't it look perfectly splendid? PP



have to slog up to Sandilands for a tram, if they've closed the lines down to Elmer's End or Beckenham. Still, if it means progress on the Blackhorse Lane bridge repairs, we'll take it in our stride. What's good to learn is that, apparently, there's been some joined-up thinking going on in TFL and, while the line is closed for the bridge work, they are using the closed time for other necessary maintenance. Or so our spies tell us.

Over one Sunday in March locals were treated to the spectacle of some splendid pieces of kit travelling down the tram track, looking for all the world as if they had come out of a *Thunderbirds* movie.

Heaven knows what the beast in our picture (many

### Closing the gate or opening the pathway

Once upon a time there was apparently a network of country pathways surrounding what's now the Shirley Oaks Hospital and the Shirley Oaks Village. The very mention of a walk from Chaffinch Brook to the Wickham Road evokes the sense of a bygone place and time, doesn't it?

Paths and walkways often turn out to be rights of way that landowners and developers can't ignore, and that ramblers and walkers won't let them forget, and the presence of an open gate has unlocked a little story at the end of Glenthorne Avenue.

At the beginning of March a new gate appeared in Glenthorne, looking like it was there to allow pedestrian access to the hospital. Local residents were worried that this would encourage street parking for staff and visitors, walking through. So questions started to be asked.

'No,' said the hospital, 'we have ample on-site parking facilities, so no one should need to come through that way. We're just replacing the gate that used to be there and gives access to the Saffron Way Green Chain walk.'

Well, who knew of such a thing?

And there used to be two gates!

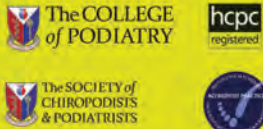
One gate fell into a state of disrepair and



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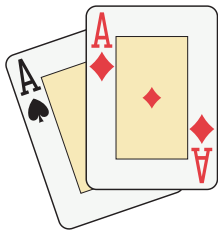
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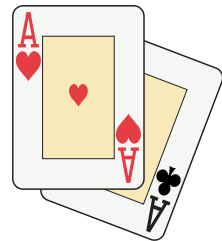


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## Addiscomment (2)

became fixed and fencelike, the other was so difficult to clamber through that some poor soul got roughed up in an attempt to navigate it. So the hospital have now fixed the first one to free up the right of way and prevent any more accidents. *PP*

### They should be band

At the back end of March Trinity School hosted a concert by the *Len Phillips big band*. With musicians whose own CVs held credits back into the 1950s and 60s, this very retro night attracted half of the senior

## THE LEN PHILLIPS **big band**

folk of Addiscombe and Shirley. The sound was fantastic, and they were supported by the school's own big band.

There's going to be another chance to see and hear the *Len Phillips Band* again this year. They're booked to play at the re-opening Ashcroft Playhouse (that's what they said) on 6 December.

Apparently bookings are already being taken and, if their popularity in March was anything to go by, you'll want to get in quick to make sure you don't miss a great night out! *PP*

### There's nothing like a name

You'll note from the foregoing that good old

Dame Peggy Ashcroft has been rescued from the airbrush of progress and her name remains in part of the revamp of the new Fairfield's theatre offer.

A full programme of events is being advertised online for performances in the theatre, and for somewhere called the Phoenix Concert Hall. Was the old one burnt down, then, that we have to have a name redolent of something rising from the ashes? Oh, and while we're at it, what new level of asininity was reached to even consider calling the old Arnhem Gallery the 'Croydon Wreck'? *PP*

### Group ambition

Back in February the Croydon Guardian was reporting the proposed residency of the Talawa Theatre Company within the new Fairfield operation.

The ambition is for the group to be 'a hub for black artists' allowing 'the company to create, develop and show new work'. Croydon councillor Oliver Lewis is quoted as being 'absolutely delighted to welcome Talawa...their vision and ambition...attracting diverse audiences...is renowned.' *PP*

### Cornering the market

We shall miss the old car showroom at Bingham corner, there were often some very interesting motors up for sale in there. And why bring up old suspicions that they used to park their 'stock' in the

surrounding streets? We must all move on!

Which brings us neatly to the Oaks Estate Agents taking pride of place on the old corner location.

How many estate agents do we need in our part of the Lower Addiscombe Road? With these new additions, we count four all within a half-mile stretch.

Does a plethora of estate agencies reflect a growing confidence in our area?

Certainly, from what our advertisers tell us, there is an influx of younger professionals moving into some of the older properties around here. You can also pick this up on the chatter and comment on the *Nextdoor* website. There is a particular East Addiscombe filter which, if you haven't yet seen, we recommend.

Your editor's particular comparative recollection is of Lordship Lane in East Dulwich which, thirty years ago, was a slightly scruffy adjunct to Dulwich proper, a few streets away. First came the eateries, then the recognition of a good neighbourhood butcher, a fishmonger (sound familiar?), then the estate agents. Up went property prices until little three-bed terraces are exchanging at £800k and above.

Of course it's an area helped by the ambition of its local schools, but hasn't Croydon got some good schools too?

Only time will tell, but why shouldn't we be optimistic? *PP*



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## Addiscomment (3)

### Bromley by bus

Recently we had occasion to creep over the border into Kent and meet some friends in Bromley.

It was on a day that the trams had decided to be unavailable, so we hopped on a 119 bus in Addiscombe Road for a 30 minute ride to our neighbouring borough.

We hadn't been over there for a while and needed to be reminded that there are some quite nice pubs over there, a decent range of shops and a pleasant enough place to sit and eat in the so-called restaurant quarter.

Now, we're the first to accept that parking is a nightmare over there, the high street is being dug up and the restaurant quarter is cluttered with those eatery chains that dominate shopping malls everywhere.

But, let's face it, the Glades is going to have it all over the Whitgift this summer, this Christmas, and for several more years to come! Poor old Croydon!  
*PP*

### Wither Westfield (chapter 94)

According to a recent edition of the Croydon Guardian, our MP Sarah Jones has met with representatives from the Westfield developers and has been reassured that the project will go ahead, despite being 'under review' because of the uncertainties caused by Brexit.

Plans for the new shopping centre were announced in 2013 and the most recent optimistic announcements say that work might begin next year.

Sarah says "We know that they're having a look at the scheme...but what I heard [is] that they remain absolutely committed to Croydon, which is really good."

Well, it is good isn't it?  
*PP*

### Streets and circuses

The Emperor Augustus governed Rome for more than thirteen years. Any time he felt the populous were getting a bit twitchy, he gave them 'bread and circuses'. It's been the chosen panacea for politicians ever since.

The circus has arrived in Croydon High Street with the now permanent establishment of a pedestrian zone on Croydon High Street, between the junction of Park Street and Katharine Street. Street art is encouraged along with performances of music, dance and theatre. These, we are told, are 'entertaining scores of people'.

Sorry. Was that 'scores'?

Hmm. That's about twenty at a time then. *PP*

### Fox pop?

We can't think of anyone who's too fond of foxes. As scavengers and vermin they get a lot of bad publicity, most of it probably deserved.

However, putting down poison to pop the little

devils off is probably not the best idea in the world, but it's what some exasperated citizens of Shirley have taken to doing.



As far as we know, there's now a count of six redundant reynards found in the woodlands up toward the Shirley heights. This, as any dog walker will know, is a very popular area for letting Fido go unleashed and, indeed for young children to explore. A poison that will snuff out a pup will probably kill a puppy and it won't do much good to a kid getting any of it on their skin.

We have no better idea than anyone else for dealing with this increasingly urban problem, but common sense must dictate that poison isn't the best solution. *PP*

### Selective skulduggery

Local thieving is apparently becoming more creative and selective.

Tales are reaching us of car thefts from the drives of private houses, where sophisticated villains are 'scoping' the locking signals of newer, bigger and more expensive cars. If they can capture the locking and ignition signals, they can



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## Addiscomment (4)

clone them and come back (presumably at night) and, with the copy electronic key, simply get in and drive away.

And if outright car theft wasn't enough, your environmentally kind catalytic converter is at risk, so watch out!

Even as scrap, the metals inside the converters' honeycombs are worth anything up to £200, with the platinum alone being worth £50.

How we protect against this sort of thing, we can't imagine, but do please ask the police for advice. *PP*

### No one watching?

With all this chicanery in our midst you would think that we would all be a little more watchful, looking after each other.



Well, yes. And no.

Our Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) scheme lacks volunteer representatives for some roads (and it need not be your ASPRA Road Rep).

We all need to take care of ourselves, but we all also need to take care in assuming things are okay. If you declare, on your Home Insurance policy, that your street is covered by a NHW scheme, and it isn't, a future claim could be invalidated!

Watch out!

For more information, or if you're interested in becoming a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, contact [nhw@cbnwa.com](mailto:nhw@cbnwa.com)

### Coombe over

There is a patch of land opposite Lloyd Park, on the west side of Coombe Road, that was given over to some sports fields. The grounds themselves looked like a good facility, including a shower and toilet block. It was so good, we think, that for some years it would get invaded by travellers who'd rest there in some style, until they were inevitably moved on.

However they have reached the decision, Croydon have decided the sports fields will be no more, and a little patch of green is to go under. Development proceeds at a pace for the building of a new school on the site, and the travellers' rest is to be no more. *PP*

### Dirty dumping

We're all acutely aware of the problems generated by fly-tippers. From the van loads that can be dumped on paths and walkways, to the fridges and mattresses that are carefully placed against lampposts or left by trees.

That we all generate far too much rubbish is a given, but Croydon are pretty good about collecting stuff if you tell them about it (or they'll give you advice for its disposal). The bin system is a bugbear and the bins are unsightly, but the collection system works, even if it is a bit of a pain to sort it all out for the appropriate pick-ups.

Obviously, some people just can't be bothered. We're thinking in particular of the gentleman who decided his domestic waste was too much for his bins, so the park could have it.

Chucking it into the recreation ground waste bins, he probably figured that 'somebody' would clear it away.

Trouble was, 'somebody' noticed foxes getting to the bags and reported it to the council's clean-up officials. They found post identifying an address in Ashling Road and are following it up.

*PP*

### Not so NHS (1)

They say that Post Office Ltd is in trouble because the volume of advertising delivered is falling. You could have fooled us!

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## Addiscomment (5)

and about fifty-percent of unsolicited 'information'.

Lately we've been in receipt of letters bearing NHS logos advising us to use internet pharmacy services, the wording inside inferring that your local GP is complicit in turning you away from standard local pharmacy services.

All clever stuff, but if internet services push high street chemists out of our reach, where we will go for that bit of instant advice, or for the medicine you might need in an emergency. We carry an advert from Addiscombe Pharmacy supporting all of the local pharmacies and just asking you to think twice before following up on the pot of gold at the end of the internet rainbow.



## NHS (2)

We love surveys. You get a good one and you can sit down with a cup of coffee

and while away half an hour, scoring away between 'extremely poor' and 'excellent' on a breathtaking range of topics. It can be better than a good crossword.

So, we came back from holiday to find one sitting on the mat, inviting us to 'help make our NHS even better'. Personally addressed, with white lettering on a blue background, just like the NHS logo, which actually wasn't there.

Because it wasn't from the NHS.

It was from Mario Creatura, our new Conservative candidate for Croydon Central. Anybody would think there's an election in the offing. *PP*

## Sharing mayoring?

By the time you're reading this, Croydon will have a new Mayor. Many congratulations then to Councillor Humayun Kabir on his appointment.

All of which means that we also have a new Deputy Mayor in the shape of our own Maddie Henson.

Everyone at ASPRA wishes her well, I'm sure, as she's been one of the most enthusiastic and approachable councillors we've had. But the same can be said of her colleague Jeet Bains, last year's election gifting Addiscombe East with one Labour councillor and one Conservative councillor. For twelve months now, we have watched, with interest, as the two of them work together, largely

harmoniously, for the good of the area and seem to put party politics into second place.

Will Jeet be getting to share in the mayoring, especially if the usual 'kick-upstairs' policy works in 2020, and Maddie gets to wear the big gold chain? *PP*

## The people Nextdoor

There's a quirky little website operating across the ASPRA area and Addiscombe East in general. It's called

## Nextdoor

and it's a social network site for local communities.

Although it's becoming a nationwide thing, there does exist a site peculiar to us and it's very simple to get into.

With your email address and a log-in password entered, and your address details verified, you're off.

And then you're straight into conversations about recommending tradespeople, finding babysitters and generally talking about what's going on around here. We found out about traffic jams in the Lower Addiscombe Road last month when we were in the Isle of Wight.

It's free, so why not give it a try? *PP*

## Emission commission

Just as we were prepping up these pages and getting ready for printing, Croydon emitted their new strategy on traffic emissions.

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A photograph showing a person's hands in a light blue shirt holding four white account folders. The folders are lined up on a wooden surface. The text 'Relax. your accounts are in Safe Hands' is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

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## Addiscomment (6)

They've apparently had feedback from 'their communities' (how do they arrive at such phrases?) telling them of concern about air quality and traffic levels. Wouldn't you only have to stick your head out of Bernard Weatherill House on a warm weekday morning to watch the traffic build up on the flyover to be aware of this?

For now though, they are proposing to introduce emission based charges and add them to resident and business parking permits for controlled parking permit zones throughout the borough. We think that's for you folk in Lower Addiscombe, Colworth and Ashling to begin with.

Quite how this deals with 20-year-old white vans lumbering up and down the roads, dirty lorries and the infinite number of delivery drops made from running-engine vehicles we're pushed to think. But hey-ho!

Charging will probably start in October, but for now there's a survey you can take part in. You can find this on [getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk](http://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk) under 'Help shape local policies and services'. Do have your say. *PP*

### Inner workings

A few words to finish about the good works of Inner Wheel.

Set up in the early 1920s to mirror the then men-only societies of the Rotary Clubs, the groups quickly

established a national base and have flourished ever since.

Personal service, friendship and international understanding are the Inner Wheel's driving principles, with fund-raising for a variety of charities a major objective.

The Croydon branch has been meeting since 1943 and today meets at Croydon Masonic Hall at 12.00pm on the second Friday of each month. Anyone interested in joining *this* still vibrant and useful organisation should contact Shirley Vine on 0208 656 9279. *PP*

### Then there were two

Not one new supermarket – FreshCo was the first – but two new supermarkets grace our streets. Well, street, singular, actually. The second, PFC (short for Penge Food Centre), more or less opposite the Co-op, is their fourth shop, the first three being Penge (surprise!), Sydenham and Wallington.

FreshCo offers British, Turkish, Greek, Polish, Romanian, Bulgarian, Asian and Caribbean food. They also have their own

butcher and bakery and – far more important – a delicious coffee and cake shop, with seats for customers. On hot days they open up the bi-fold doors and customers can sit on the pavement under the awning. It's all very smart and always busy, an excellent sign.

PFC's signage lists a more comprehensive stock – the extras are Arabic, Iranian, Balkan, Mediterranean, Italian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Albanian, Romanian and Russian. They also have a butcher and bakery, and a slightly surprising off-licence.

Walking round either shop is like being on holiday – products you've never seen before, brand names you can't begin to pronounce. Welcome, both of you. *CG*





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## Addiscomment (7)

### Corner beef

The old Bingham Corner car dealership premises have been tarted up and there are new occupants in new offices. Trouble is, in the process the integrity of

displayed: Ford, Singer, Hillman and so on.

Where are those fanlights now? Did anyone think to save them or were they whooshed into a skip without a second thought. Who wants this old rubbish anyway?



the building has been compromised, the architectural coherence thrown out the window. Bingham Corner, one of only three landmark buildings in our patch of Lower Addiscombe Road, is a black and white(ish) building, yes? The main view from the west (ie looking east, towards Elmers End) is of black woodwork, leaded diamond-paned, black-framed windows, off-white rendering and a glorious slated clock tower.

The old car dealership had sturdy black window framing with some very nice art deco leaded fanlights, containing panels (cartouches?) where the old car brands were once

Oaks Estate Agents (and I'm not blaming this on them) now have cheap-looking, spindly white window framing. It looks



more domestic than commercial.

Such a shame. Another one bites the dust. CG

### Park life

The flowers in the Rec are looking fab, courtesy of the



ASPRA gardening group volunteers. If you'd like to join, contact [secretary@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@theaspra.org.uk) We are especially looking for help on the following Saturday mornings between 9.30am and 12.00pm: 13 July, 10 August and 7 September.



### Bowl up!

Shirley Park Bowling Club approached us out of the blue about advertising in the magazine. When they realised Ashburton Park

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Our resident optometrists Ketan Jadeja and Anjali Pattani love the new look. "The new look of the practice along with the new equipment is just amazing and the introduction of new spectacle ranges is just what our practice

needed," said Ketan. Ketan along with Anjali have special interest in Croydon's paediatric scheme where they test children's eyes from school nurses' referrals.

They are both part of the Croydon COS (Community Ophthalmology Service) scheme where patients are referred from GPs and other opticians for a second opinion. Ketan also works at Moorfields Eye Hospital Croydon as a glaucoma specialist and tutors University College London final year medical students.

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## Addiscomment (8)

Bowling Club were already advertising with us they had second thoughts – they didn't want to upset the nice people at Ashburton Park, who they knew well and play against regularly.

Isn't that gentlemanly (if

up as social members of Shirley Park Bowling Club a few years ago because it's a nice place to sit and watch on a summer's afternoon with a cool beverage in your hand.

Out of fairness I'll have to get in touch with Ashburton Park now... CG



I'm allowed such a gender-specific adjective) of them? Genuinely sportsmanlike (oh dear, there it is again.) Sorry about this, Shirley Park.

So there they are, only about a mile away from each other as the crow flies, as different as chalk and cheese in some respects and yet absolutely identical in others.

The Ashburton Park green and clubhouse are in a public park. Shirley Park is on private land at the top of Mapledale Avenue. Both adhere to bowling club dress codes, both will appeal to new members for different reasons. We went to an open day and signed

### Where was this?

Last issue's mystery pic came from Shirley Parade. It's over the doorways to



the upstairs flats. A nice little crown motif and the date the shops were built: 1927.

It's a nice bit of foresight: several ASPRA roads in that neck of the woods, for example, were yet to be built.

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## Bringing in the bridge

We began our round of editing this magazine in the summer of 2016 featuring two big local stories. The first of these was the 20mph speed limits, due to begin within a few weeks of our autumn issue; the second story was the closure of the Blackhorse Lane bridge for investigation into its continuing safety.

Our first points of contact regarding the bridge back then were our local councillors who assured us that any necessary repairs should be sorted within months, and that the bridge would be re-opened 'within a year'.

Fairly quickly this estimate went up to 'between eighteen months and two years' and began to be extended as behind-the-scenes discussions took place determining best value for a considerable spend from the public purse and minimum disruption to the area.

The Blackhorse Lane bridge, it turned out, wasn't one bridge but two. One part of the span went across the old railway line that had once served the Addiscombe to Elmers End train route and is now the Railway Park. The other part now went over the tram line, which was once the Sanderstead to Elmers End railway line. Ownership, and the responsibility for repair was a factor in the ongoing discussions. Although we locals saw this as something of a 'pass-the-parcel' exercise between Croydon Council (having inherited the railway bridge from what's now Network Rail) and Transport for London (managing owners of Tramlink), all parties are at pains to assure us that there has always been a good collaborative relationship in place.

Understandably, no one wants to spend money if they don't have to, and especially if they haven't got it to spend. Again we poor residents were left to form the impression that the it was principally financial discussions creating the inertia that appeared to plague the repair for some considerable time.

If our perception had perhaps been clarified by more and better information we could have been a bit more understanding and local complaining might have been a bit less vociferous.

But now things at last proceed apace. And what repairs are in place!

The original bridge work (which is nothing to do with your dentist) dates back to the turn of the last century, 120 years ago. Forget diggers, cranes and earthmovers, the Victorians just



threw labour at projects like this, so the building work in action would have involved literally hundreds of men with pick axes, shovels and wheelbarrows 'navigating' (the origin



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## Blackhorse bridge (2)

of the word ‘navvy’) the new approach slopes to the carved out tracks beneath them. They built huge brick stanchions to support steel girders to carry the road over the top of the train lines, envisaging mainly horse and cart traffic using the road, the brand new gimmick of the motorised carriage being a rarity that probably wouldn’t catch on.

The fact that the original Victorian engineering has done its intended job and then carried the mass of 20th century traffic across the bridge, before finally showing signs of wear and tear more than a hundred years later, shows just how inspired, courageous and far-sighted those bewhiskered boffins were.

In an effort to find out what was going on now, your ever-intrepid editorial team took note of the fact that even the pedestrian access to the bridge was closing in April, not to re-open until June. Bemused by this, we contacted a name published on the notice for someone advertising himself as the liaison office for Morgan Sindall, whose orange-coated personnel looked to be getting on with the work.

In truth, we expected a press handout or a telephone interview full of promises with a handful of fairy-dust so that we could go away and write an article promising the bridge re-opening by the end of the year. What we didn’t expect was a very considered reply to our enquiry that ended with ‘why don’t you come along and see for yourselves?’

So, on a rather iffy wet morning in May, your ancient editorial team (me and Colin) found ourselves being kitted out in orange safety uniforms, big boots, hard-hats and glasses, so we could follow Site Agent Jack Cox

around and underneath the work in progress that constitutes the new Blackhorse bridge.

The first thing that struck us both, going into the Site Office, is the amount of meticulous planning that has to be gone into before anything gets underway. And, not only is everything planned in great detail, but each step is considered and reconsidered as it’s done. These new engineers are in no way the navvies of yesteryear (although, arguably, they are their inheritors), but everyone on the team is a skilled professional enacting each step in the reconstruction with precision and care. Safety and structural integrity are undoubtedly the prime objectives,



although I wasn’t sure that my orange trousers should have kept falling down.

Prior to the beginning of this year, much of the work that had been going on had involved putting in the necessary supports and scaffolding to



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### Blackhorse bridge (3)

facilitate the work and, at the same time, carry out detailed examination of the old bridge structures and the environment in which it now sits. For instance, nobody knew that there is an active Victorian sewer a few metres below the tram and railway lines, which in itself has had to be surveyed for its future capability and safety. Fences, property lines and even the sides of houses are having to be looked at, strengthened or replaced and new drainage systems are going into Dallmally Road and into the linear park, all as a part of the project.

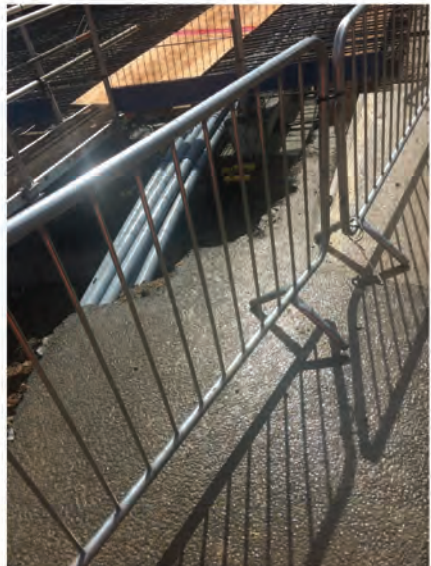


Absolute demolition of the old bridge was still in slow progress when we were shown around. Visible reconstruction is scheduled to begin in June (Jack has a deadline date that he's working to), but before it all comes down and gets rebuilt all of the services that run across it have had to be identified and re-piped to run over in the new structure. Who would have guessed that, over decades, the gas, the

electricity and the phone lines were routed over the bridge? Seeing their



rusting ancient pipe work revealed you have to wonder if they weren't



themselves an accident waiting to happen, and there's a considerable sense of reassurance in the gleaming



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## Blackhorse bridge (4)

new stainless steel and plastic containers literally hung in mid-air in anticipation of carrying the utilities for decades to come.

Jack took us underneath the old railway span, where the Victorian brick abutments will, in part, remain as part of the new bridge. These old



edifices have already been strengthened by twelve (six each side) steel cables each going an incredible 30 metres into the ground below. The top half of the old brick walls will be cut away but, over years, neighbouring houses have tacked fences to them, sycamores have wound their way through long-attached wire netting, and it's all got to go.

The contractors have tried hard to keep locals on board, hence their willingness to let us have a look. There are projects going on, involving the bridge and the work force, in neighbouring Woodside School, so it was with reluctance that a total ban on pedestrian crossing access had to be imposed. By the time your ASPRA magazine has arrived, however, a two-

way walkway should be up and running (sorry; that's a lousy pun).

And there is even better news.

Jack's forward project targets aim to have as much of the construction complete by December to allow a 'soft opening' — one lane of traffic across the bridge. It won't be up to him or Morgan Sindall to specify how this is managed, but we'd all hope for a traffic-light control allowing two-way travel. But a massive improvement on total closure, I'm sure we'd all agree.

Following on from that will be a full reopening in the Spring of next year. A stronger, wider bridge in place, with a three-metre wide pedestrian-and-cycle path at each side. Strong enough and future-proofed to allow heavy good vehicle access, which will enable buses and coaches. All of which should take some of the pressure off our saturated main routes.

Good news all round, and a happier new year for our local, beleaguered high street traders.

There's no doubt that it's a multi-million pound project. A lot of public money in anyone's book but, judging by the sheer



amount of effort involved, the kit in use and the materials going in at all levels, it seems like we're getting good value, at least to laymen like us.

If Jack gets to read this, many thanks from Colin and me for the time you spent with us. It's nice to be able to put a positive spin on what's been a negative span (that's terrible!) for such a long time. *PP*



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## Thirty is a dangerous age...

A character in Alan Bennett's *History Boys* talks about history as being 'just one thing after another', and there really is no better way to describe the experience of change. A look back from today to a point thirty years ago will demonstrate significant changes, but to analyse how change occurred will inevitably just reveal the 'drip, drip' of events and decisions landing one by one.

To say that Croydon was a different place in 1989 is a geographical oxymoron. Croydon hasn't moved! It's still abutted to Norbury and South Norwood, it's still a London borough and it's still a 'gateway to the south' for many hopping on the train at East Croydon (and, yes, we know it was Balham on the old posters).

But the feel of Croydon has definitely changed in thirty years. Once a popular and thriving shopping destination for much of south east London, it's now a half-empty shell echoing with closures and second-rate clearance sales. Its one-time flagship department store is now no more than a rambling collection of disposal outlets huddling under one roof. Years of stagnation and poor planning decisions (from every administration) have taken their toll. Like a patient suffering bad medical treatment the skeleton of Croydon's centre gasps on, desperately awaiting a miracle cure or facing the inevitable.

Along with the exodus of retail fascias from the shopping precincts, also gone are businesses that had landmark offices in the borough. The Philips and Nestle buildings provided hundreds of jobs. The wonderful old art-deco London Electricity Board office and showroom is now a hulk

with its wide window bays providing shelter for some homeless folk. As old buildings come down, up go high-rise apartment towers which, on completion, remain half-empty, the flats inside unsold or let to corporate renters. An empty town with no sense of permanence or purpose.

Addiscombe remains okay. Our high street has suffered from the collapse of some businesses, and the retrenchment of the banks away from personal service, automating nearly every aspect of customer interaction behind machines hiding in bigger branch offices. In 1989 the Lower Addiscombe Road boasted a Woolworths, a Seven-Eleven and an Alldays. The Threshers shop represented a great little off-licence chain, offering good value wines and beers and Blockbusters have since come and gone. By the late 80s, the Black Horse was a neglected shadow of its former self, but it was still a landmark pub on an historic site. That re-development remains little short of criminal.

Now we have a Sainsbury's back, albeit a few doors along from where it used to be. We have Freshco and Penge Foods newly opened and any number of eateries, plus hairdressers, smart-phone repairers and even a vape shop. The butchers, bakers and fruiterers survive throughout.

The funny record shop (Musictown) with its ever enthusiastic owner (was it Richard?) has gone for the tram line, and even those who campaigned for Tram-Stop (remember that?) can't deny the convenience of the beasts as they trundle up and down and through our back gardens.

We have survived the promise of the sale of the old railway line to adjoining landowners, the threat of high-rise development along the line and the planning of a feeder motorway, along



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## Thirty is a dangerous age (2)

its route, to join the M25 at Coulsdon. Let's face it, Tramlink was a positive boon after that!

However, we mustn't rest. There's always someone in Croydon's arcane planning university with a beady eye on sleepy little Addiscombe. Only two years ago the rail-relief project seriously considered re-opening the railway, to take pressure off East Croydon. That would have meant re-routing the trams up and down Northampton Road, against a background of 60 mph trains belting across the Lower Addiscombe Road on a brand new railway bridge. And the planners aren't satisfied with just the grandiose schemes rerouting roads and railways. When they're not thinking them up, they're busy

allowing all forms of renovation, destruction and demolition to squeeze out the single family household. You have to wonder where it'll be going over the next thirty years.

For now just relax and hope to enjoy the same sort of summer we had back then. Imagine sitting outside the Black Horse with a pint of beer (about £1.00), twenty cigarettes (£1.60) and the day's paper (30p). Bliss, for less than £3.00. And, if it rained you could go inside and carry on smoking!

Now you can shelter under the awning outside the Claret, coughing your way around £9.00 for the cigarettes, a reasonable £3.80 for the beer and £2.00 for the paper.

Are things better? Are things worse? Or is it all just change, and change is inevitable? We all have to decide for ourselves, don't we? *PP*



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Addiscombe Village Jumble Trail 2019





## A bigger and better beating of the jumble trail

We came up with the idea of Addiscombe's Jumble Trail in the summer of 2015. It was first suggested at a Road Reps' meeting, around that time, as a way of encouraging recycling. By motivating ourselves and our neighbours to declutter houses and garages, we would also get an opportunity to bring our local community together. Which is exactly what happened when our very first Jumble Trail came into being, with fifty stalls, in April 2016

We came up with the idea of Addiscombe's Jumble Trail in the summer of 2015. It was first suggested at a Road Reps' meeting, around that time, as a way of encouraging recycling. By motivating ourselves and our neighbours to declutter houses and garages, we would also get an opportunity to bring our local community together. Which is exactly what happened when our very first Jumble Trail came into being, with fifty stalls, in April 2016

Following the success of that event, together with the very positive feedback we enjoyed from the stallholders and visitors, we set Saturday 1 July as a date for a repeat of effort in 2017. Sixty Jumble Trail stalls opened on that day, and we raised £310 for ASPRA funds.

Requests from our friends in the Residents' Associations just outside of the ASPRA boundaries led to the 2018 event being branded the 'Addiscombe Village Jumble Trail'. We in ASPRA joined forces with the Black Horse area, CHASE and HOME Residents' Associations and managed to get seventy-three stalls set up for Sunday 30 September. At the same time local businesses became more involved. LMB, based in Shirley Road, kindly sponsored the booking forms, while the Addiscombe Security Centre and Café Adagio volunteered to manage their receipt, and many traders were happy to display posters publicising the event. This splendid local effort raised £365.

While the money raised goes to ASPRA, it is always put toward the funding of the Christmas lights along Lower Addiscombe Road.

The Addiscombe Village Jumble Trail has continued to grow with each event and the 2019 Jumble Trail will be taking place on Sunday 15 September. Booking forms will be delivered to every householder in the 'village' or will be available to download from the ASPRA website soon. Our thanks go again to LMB for sponsoring the forms. News and updates about the event are being hosted on the *I Love Addiscombe* Facebook page.

Do join *I Love Addiscombe* if you have not already done so.

The charge for having a stall on the day remains at £5.00, and this year completed booking forms can be returned to the Addiscombe Security Centre or to Bargain Booze, both located in the Lower Addiscombe Road shopping area.

There is a new initiative for 2019: ASPRA plans to host its own stall, promoting the work of the association, and to raise additional funds for the much loved and appreciated Christmas lights.

Local estate agents Hyde and Rowe have kindly agreed to provide advertising boards. These will be available to the first 30 stallholders requesting a board.

The organising team would like to acknowledge the support of local councillor Maddie Henson, via her community budget, for the Jumble Trail initiative past, present and hopefully in the future.

We look forward to seeing you all in September! *Lyn Simmons*

Feeling **B**ored?

**O**n your own?

**W**ant something new?

**L**ike being outdoors?

**S**ociable?

## Bowling may well be the answer

and you will be warmly welcomed by the bowlers in the park, at our green and clubhouse close to the recently refurbished ASHBURTON HALL - no experience or equipment is required, just flat-soled shoes (trainers are fine) and this year's season runs from 27 April to 29 September.



© 1st 2019

### **CONTACTS**

Phone: JAZZ (020-8656 1767) or BOB (020-8654 3211) or

Email: [ashburtonparkbowlingclub@gmail.com](mailto:ashburtonparkbowlingclub@gmail.com)

Ashburton Park Bowling Clubs, Addiscombe, CR0 6NN



## Your ASPRA committee

### **Chairman**

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chairman@theaspra.org.uk

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vicechairman@theaspra.org.uk

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www.facebook.com/TheASPRA/

## The lost gardens of Addiscombe

No one could say that Addiscombe is not a green district, it's full of trees and shrubs. But it's not as green as it used to be. We all walk along roads with hardly a plant in sight as front gardens are paved over for the convenience of somewhere to park. I would like to share some recent reading about why we need more greenery and in particular more hedges.

Ten years ago, ten per cent of UK front gardens were paved over. Now it's 33 per cent. In London, gardens the size of seven Hyde Parks have been paved over in this same period.

So before they disappear, you need to know why hedges are good for you and our community.

It's not just that they counter the risk of flooding. We have all had to dodge the huge puddles surging from overwhelmed drains after rain. Unpaved front gardens don't just absorb water, they also absorb the dust and the minute solid and liquid particles in the air we breathe known as Particulate Matter (PM), usually recognised as 'pollution'. The PM we breath in can get trapped in our lungs but its ultrafine particles (UFP) can actually pass through our lungs into the blood stream and affect our health.

The largest contributor to PM in urban areas in London is road traffic, and it shouldn't be a surprise that soot from diesel — not petrol — is categorised by the World Health Organisation as carcinogenic. PM affects our health together with other gaseous pollutants — nitrogen oxides, ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulphur dioxide. Fifty per cent of nitrogen oxide emissions come from the roads and nitrogen dioxide levels around schools are often higher than legal limits.

It is documented that in London around 9000 premature deaths annually are attributable to air

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### Group Aims

Promote co-operation between the practice and the patients to the benefit of both

Raise awareness of and improve access to other support agencies

Encourage communication of public health messages

Promote improvements for all patients and the community

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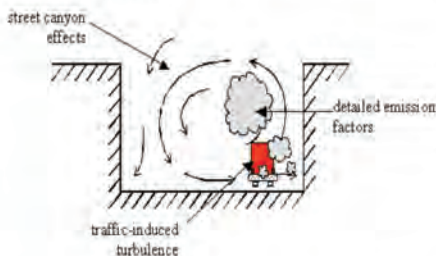
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pollution, expanding to 40,000 deaths across UK every year. These pollution-associated deaths, usually adults, surface as illnesses of the respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological systems. But our children are also affected. Expectant mums exposed to PM even at levels below EU recommendations increase the risk of a baby with low birth weight.

Particulates and nitrogen dioxide can suppress lung development and function in school children, increasing their susceptibility to common respiratory conditions such as bronchiolitis and asthma. There is emerging scientific evidence that pollutant exposure is also associated with reduced IQ, cognitive ability, memory, delayed maturation of the brain and autism. Even the endocrine system with increased insulin resistance leading to diabetes is thought to be affected.



Alarming as it is, there are things we as residents can do to help ourselves and reduce these effects. Studies show that paving over gardens creates a 'street canyon' where particulates are repeatedly stirred up by traffic and wind. As they are recirculated into the air we breathe them in, or they even get blown into our homes. But the simple hedge offers us protection that is under-appreciated. Hedging about one to two metres high reduces our exposure to PM by up to 60 per cent, trapping it, with maximum effect at breathing height along the footpath.

# **The Claret & Ale**

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



# SHIRLEY PARK BOWLING CLUB

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Shirley CR0 5TG



# OPEN DAY

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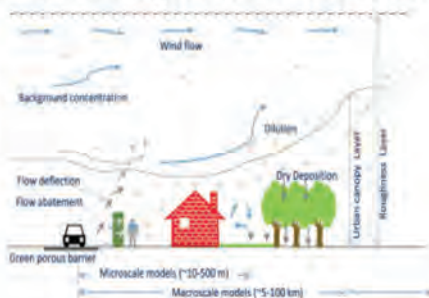
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bowlers" for only

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JACKIE: 07906 359051

Green walls, where plants are grown on vertical surfaces, remove 95 per cent of PM and green roofs up to 50 per cent. Trees can intercept PM and gaseous pollutants such as ozone but on their own are too high and can keep particulates within the street. So a combination of hedges and trees is recommended for high and low protection. There is a City Hall recommendation and money for tall hedge planting around schools, which clearly is not yet implemented in many of Addiscombe's schools, but even if it was it cannot protect children on their



walk through our streets.

Recommended hedging has sticky leaves and a filtering nature to trap dust and particulates. These might include privet, boxleaf honeysuckle, yew and Portuguese laurel.

So what can we as residents do now? Here's some suggestions. Put in a hedge instead of a fence or brick wall between our houses. Ask the council to include green infrastructure in planning applications: maybe 20 per cent of every front garden should be hedging.

Encourage the council to support residents in planting hedges. Ask for green walls on our public buildings and schools. Find solutions to residential parking that encourage us to keep our front gardens. The next time you step out of your front door take a deep breath.

Is that air good enough for you?

*Laura Mulligan*

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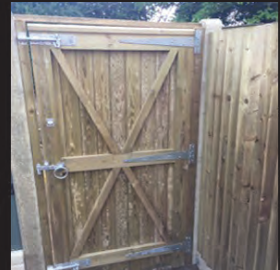
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# Postcard from the past

It's an old postcard. Turn it over and the postmark is clear: it was posted on 25 August 1905. We can see a railway bridge, a tram, and a huge oak tree. Behind the big old tree there's a big old house.

And then there's the detail.

The clarity of the original postcard is amazing, considering the printing processes of the time. With a decent magnifying glass you can read the route display easily:

**CROWN-HILL &  
ADDISCOMBE**

- VIA -

**EAST-CROYDON STATION**

complete with peculiar (to our eyes) hiphens.

The driver, in a double-breasted overcoat, is open to the elements. He has two handles, one in each hand. Accelerator and brake, possibly. Are there two women in big hats on the open top deck? There might be.

There's what look like a horse and cart, going in the opposite direction, tucked behind the tram. There is also some evidence of a passing horse between the tram tracks. Good for the roses.

This is semi-rural Addiscombe four years after King Edward VII came to the throne.

The name of the unmade-up street is easily read: Bingham Road. And underneath it, almost impossible to read, is another sign, looking a little like an old raised-letter railway line notice. You can just read **PRIVATE ROAD** at the top. Well, I can.

The Woodside to Selsdon railway line was opened in 1896 and the 100ft-long wooden platforms at Bingham Halt (behind Northampton Road) were introduced in 1906. It all fits. Guesswork is such a wonderful tool.

In 1901 Croydon Corporation introduced the first fully operational electric tram services in the Greater London area, using power delivered from overhead wires. The combination of tram terminus and railway made Addiscombe a desirable place to live. The last of the old trams ran in 1951. The railway bridges were taken down in 1990.

1905. Fast forward 114 years and we're looking at Bingham Corner, like this, just before the recent refit and windows.

Progress.  
Hmm. CG



*Our thanks to Des Farrow, lately of this Parish, for the postcard*

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Saturday: 9am–1pm



331 Lower Addiscombe Road  
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## Local pharmacies

Here are the opening hours of our local chemists. Purley Way Sainsbury's opens 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





## Your local pharmacy

If you have received a leaflet through the post from an internet pharmacy, even if the letter carries the NHS logo you are under no obligation to receive your NHS medicines from them.

It's easy to think that your GP surgery is advising you to use internet pharmacy services. This is not the case.

As a family-run pharmacy, we are proud to serve our community. Without your support, though, high street pharmacies will not be there for you in an emergency.

Have your prescriptions dispensed locally and benefit from the additional services closer to home.

Addiscombe Pharmacy 331 Lower Addiscombe Road 020 8654 1542



# What's on!

There's a lot going on in and around Addiscombe

## Concerts and recitals

### Croydon Bach Choir

Summer Concert on **Saturday 29**

**June 7.30pm**

at **St Mildred's Church, Bingham Road, Croydon, CR0 7EB**

Ralph Vaughan Williams — *Five Mystical Songs*, Gabriel Faure — *Requiem, Messe Basse*

Tickets £12 (children £5)

[www.croydonbachchoir.org](http://www.croydonbachchoir.org)

## Theatre workshops

### CYTO (Croydon Youth Theatre Org)

is a real theatre experience for the 13 -21 age group. We always welcome new members. There are Friday night drama workshops for all abilities & levels of confidence and tech workshops on Monday evenings plus regular productions.

For more info check out our website, or email [admin@cyto.org.uk](mailto:admin@cyto.org.uk) or call **020 8655 1098**.

## Clubs and societies

### Addiscombe and Shirley Rotary

would like to thank everyone in ASPRA who opened their doors and gave so generously to our Christmas collection for Local Charities. The total raised on the doorstep was more than £4700 to which Gift Aid can be added.

**Addiscombe and Shirley Rotary** meet at The Chateau, Coombe Lane, on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm.

Part of Rotary International, a worldwide organisation of women and

men 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.

To find out more about your local Rotary, please see our website [www.aandsrotary.org](http://www.aandsrotary.org) or freephone: **08448 849743**. You will be made most welcome as our varied Tuesday evening activities are sprinkled with fun and laughter!

### Shirley & District Probus Club

Probus is a fellowship group for retired professional and businessmen. The **Shirley & District** branch meet for a monthly lunch on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the **Shirley Park Golf Course**.

This is a friendly group and new members feel welcome from day one. Cost of membership and meals is modest.

If you would like to find out more and widen your circle of friends please contact Barry Copeman on **0208 777 2889**, or e-mail [barry.probus@gmail.com](mailto:barry.probus@gmail.com).

### The Croydon Sketch & Painting Group

are a local art group seeking to recruit new members of all abilities. They meet on **Wednesday mornings** between **10.00am** and **12.00pm** in the large hall at Christ Church Methodist, 114 Lower Addiscombe Road, CR0 6AD.

If you've ever fancied trying your hand at painting or drawing among like-minded friendly people; give us a



try! Your initial visit is free, but an annual subscription costs just £22.00 (then £1.00 attendance fee per visit). Tea and coffee are provided.

You will need to bring your own materials.

For more information contact Gill on **0208 662 0378** or just pop along!

**Purley Bury Croquet Club** is looking for new members.

We would love you to come and try croquet which is a game of strategy and skill. It is competitive yet sociable, enjoyable, active and healthy. Our season runs from April to September. We offer taster sessions and free coaching so complete beginners are most welcome. Please see our website for more information; [www.purleyburycroquet.org.uk](http://www.purleyburycroquet.org.uk) or email us at [info@purleyburycroquet.org.uk](mailto:info@purleyburycroquet.org.uk) Or ring Penny on **0208 660 8239**

**Croydon Inner Wheel**

Set up in the early 1920s to mirror the then men-only societies of the Rotary Clubs, these women-only groups have flourished nationally ever since.

The Croydon branch has been meeting since 1943 and today meets at Croydon Masonic Hall at **12.00pm** on the second Friday of each month. Anyone interested should contact Shirley Vine on 0208 656 9279.

**Party!**

Watch out for our super **30 Golden Years Party** on **Saturday 14 September** at Ashburton Hall.

Bring your own food and drink and join in the merriment. Further details on the ASPRA website and on the community facebook page.

## Addis-tralia!



**Spot the difference!** There may not be another Addiscombe in the whole wide world but this is Addiscombe Road in Manly Vale, New South Wales, Australia. There's even a lake on one side further down the road.



(There's also an Addiscombe Road in Watford. Alas, no lake further down the road – and no Addiscombe down the road, either.



And here's a house called Addiscombe in Ascot Vale, Melbourne, in the late 1800s. No lake, no Addiscombe, nothing. And there's an Addiscombe Place in glamorous sounding Unley Park, an Adelaide suburb, in South Australia... And an Addiscombe Road in Margate, Kent. Why? *CG*

# PK

*Paul Kentfield*

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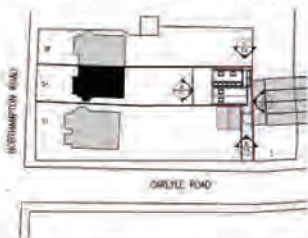
Please visit our website [magdaleneschool.com](http://magdaleneschool.com)  
E-mail us at [magdaleneschool@hotmail.com](mailto:magdaleneschool@hotmail.com)  
Or call us on 07769 115981 for enquiries for places  
in September 2019/2020



## Planning stuff

This is interesting. A planning application has gone in for a one-bedroom house to be built in the back garden of 34 Northampton Road.

Number 32 Northampton Road is on the corner of Carlyle Road and has a pair of garages at the bottom of its garden, with access to Carlyle Road. Number 34 also has a garage at the bottom of its garden, with access to Carlyle Road behind and next to Number 32's. The



plan is to build a two-storey house where the garage is, using the existing access to Carlyle Road.

It's not a large house, with one bedroom and a bathroom upstairs and a large open-plan area downstairs. Effort has been made to minimise the impact on its surroundings as the interesting profile (*right*) shows. It mostly affects 1 Carlyle Road (note outline of higher, double pitched roof), but apparently meets planning guidelines.

If built, it will be almost exactly opposite the two-storey house, if built, in the back garden of 30 Northampton Road, which will also have access to Carlyle Road.

Phil and I spent an enjoyable morning recently being shown round the Blackhorse Lane bridge site. One of the things that struck me the most was the level of sheer professionalism. Endless fencing, signs everywhere, all to keep the public safe. You can see a similar (but

scaled down) level of professionalism (and personal safety) at 24 Northampton Road, where conversion work has started. Smart, tall, galvanised mesh fencing, covered in a finer net to stop any flying debris from escaping. Lots of signs, a galvanised steel cage round the willow tree to stop accidental damage. Slick.

Compare and contrast the mess in the gutter further down the road. When builders at number \*\* finished for the day, they simply splashed water on their spare mortar mix with a hosepipe and pretended it had gone away. To this day the sand and cement goes all the way down to Bingham Road. Leastways it did when I wrote this, at least a month after it happened.



And then there's the persistent problem of houses split into flats with no proper maintenance arrangements in place. 40 Northampton Road (there it is again) is as good an example of this as any.

For a long time the front garden was just an excrescence. Bins everywhere, rubbish all over the place, unkempt, unloved, untidy. A crude shed was built to accommodate the bins. It was dreadful, out of place, achieved nothing. It was then pulled out of the ground and currently leans against the fence to the park entrance path, pushing it over.

Why don't planning and building regs cover this sort of thing? Why do residents have to put up with it? Grrrrr.

\*\* Number withheld to avoid embarrassment CG



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Weekends	09:00-18:00

	<b>Swimming Pool</b>
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Tuesday	07:15-08:15 Early morning swim 20:00-22:00 General swimming
Wednesday	07:15-08:15 Early morning swim 18:00-20:00 General swimming
Thursday	07:15-08:15 Early morning swim
Friday	07:15-08:15 Early morning swim 18:00-20:00 General swimming
Saturday	14:00-18:00 General swimming
Sunday	09:30-14:00 General swimming

For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.trinity-school.org/sports-club](http://www.trinity-school.org/sports-club)





## What's on at Ashburton library

**A Monday Talk** on 17 June from 11.00am to 12.00pm

*Alice in Wonderland and her Lost Boys* – from Oxford and the rabbit hole to the Somme and beyond. For adults. Free admission but advance booking required.

### **Crime reading group**

Meets on the first Monday of the month from **5.30pm - 6.30pm**  
A friendly reading group where we discuss the latest Crime fiction.  
**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!**

### **Knit and stitch sessions**

Every Friday, 9.30am -11.30am.  
Want to learn a new skill? Fancy improving your handiwork? Come along to Ashburton's knitting, sewing and crochet group.  
All abilities welcome!

### **One-to-one IT sessions**

Saturdays 2.00pm - 3.00pm  
Book a free one hour long session with a volunteer, to learn or improve basic IT skills.  
Booking required.

### **Book buddies**

Stories and crafts for children age 7 and under, meeting every Thursday at 4.00pm - 4.30pm



### **Homework Club**

Homework support for children aged 9 - 16 years, meeting every Tuesday and Thursday at 3.30pm - 5.30pm and Saturdays at 2.00pm -5.00pm. Term Time only.

### **Rhymetime**

Songs and rhymes for families and under 5s, every Tuesday and Thursday at 11.00am - 11.30am

**Please contact the Library to book events or to be included in our mailing lists for adult and children's events.**

**0203 700 1001**

[ashburtonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:ashburtonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk)

### **Ashburton Film Club**

Showing a selection of Adult and Children's Films on various dates.  
Cost £1.50 to library members and £3.00 to non members.  
Contact the library for Film listings and dates or contact the library to join our Film Club mailing list.



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[www.deckboard.co.uk](http://www.deckboard.co.uk)





## Addis'n'dat



Good news for **cash machine** (atm) users in Lower Addiscombe Road: **NatWest**

have installed one indoors, so you no longer have to draw money out on the pavement. Saves anxiety, warmer in the winter, less likely to be targeted by a scammer. The old Abbey National/Santander, now long gone, had one indoors – much missed.

Agents' **'To Let'** boards above shops are usually attached to vertical pieces of wood fixed to the building. When the boards are taken down, the bits of wood are invariably left where they are. Add in the nonsense wiring that sprawls above shop fronts and it gets pretty untidy. Have a look sometime. It's really very common.



Her indoors (I know, I know – I can't write things like that any more) says, apropos of nothing at all, but it might have been a news item on the telly, there are **too many beards** around. Whether this applies just to Addiscombe or the rest of the world I didn't think to ask, but if she says there

are too many beards around there are too many beards around. I know my place.

**Aurum**, our only local jewellers, was closing down, we wrote. The second of March, we said. Bargains galore, 50 per cent off, the full monty. Well, we misled you. (That's miss-led, not myzelled.) They're still there, Warren and Robert, Fridays and Saturdays, and have never been busier. The stock has almost all gone now, but there are still one or two outstanding bits and pieces to snap up. 290 LA Road. Tick.



The lease on 283 Lower Addiscombe Road came up for renewal so after 15 years in the property Jill has decided to move her **Addiscombe Card Shop** into husband Steve's (hence **Stephens of Addiscombe**) garden and pet sundries shop next door. 'It's going to be a tight squeeze,' said Jill. 'I'm going to have to reduce the amount of stock I carry.'

'It'll probably take a couple of months to sort it all out,' said Steve, 'but we'll manage.'

I was talking to a friend about the problem of

**upsetting readers**. He told me the best reply he's ever seen to an irritated correspondent was *#getagrip*.

Blimey. You can't talk to people like that.

They'd get upset.

There are five houses on **Bingham Road** between Colworth Road and the tramstop. From the front they're regular two-storey houses, early Edwardian, originally all with sash windows. But there's more to them than that. Next time you're passing, check out the backs of the houses – they're all three storeys tall. And that's the way they were built. Huge. We've never seen the like. Have you?

An interesting new purple sign has appeared along LA Road. It says 'Commercial and Household waste must



**NOT** be left on the highway between 8am and 5pm daily.'

Marko in **The Fish House** tells us there are two collections – early evening and early morning.

Just saying...



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*A Doctor writes...*

## **Sun-related skin cancers**

Ah, the British summer – long evenings, risk of showers and, if it's anything like last year, a long and glorious heatwave. Whatever your thoughts on climate change, we are seeing more sun and warmer conditions. As lovely as that is, with it comes the risk of sun-related cancers.

There are two main types of skin cancers – melanomas and basal and squamous cell carcinomas. Starting with the latter, basal cell carcinomas and squamous cell carcinomas are very slow-growing tumours. Basal cell carcinomas grow down into the skin and almost never metastasize (spread to the blood).

Squamous cell carcinomas have a more aggressive and angry looking appearance (think a raised angry red ulcerated spot that is not healing) and have a higher chance of spreading so they need more urgent attention. They usually appear in skin that has been exposed to the sun. Treatment is normally surgical so do book an appointment with your doctor if you have any concerns.

Malignant melanoma, on the other hand, is a rapidly growing, metastasizing (spreading) cancer. It is the commonest cause of cancer in young people and if spotted and treated early can be completely cured.

To understand the cause of melanoma we need to understand melanin. Melanin is a pigment in the skin which half the world have in plentiful supply, but unfortunately the native European lacks. Melanin protects the skin from the effects of UV light which can cause DNA changes in the skin which lead to skin cancer. Unfortunately you are either born with melanin or not, and if not then you have



no choice but to protect yourself with a good sun protection.

Repeated exposure to the sun can lead to skin changes, and if you are someone with a lot of moles (moles are just a collection of melanocytes – mature melanin-forming cells – which have clumped together rather than being spread) then you have a higher chance of your moles turning cancerous.

I advise a three-pronged approach to protecting yourself from skin cancer:

(1) Avoid long exposure to the sun. The sun is at its peak between 11am and 4pm. Sunbeds are notorious for exposure to UV light. Please try and keep their use to a minimum.

(2) Use a good factor sun block – the paler your skin/the more moles you have, the higher the factor.

(3) Preventative mole surveillance. If you are someone who has a lot of moles, ask your partner to do a monthly mole check. Moles normally slowly grow in size as we get older, but a rapid growth in size, or a mole that is bleeding or ulcerating, or a mole that has changed in colour really needs a review.

Please book an appointment with your GP if this is the case.

*Take care!*

Dr G Sivadhass  
GP Principal – Stovell House Surgery



# THE POINT

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## Poetry Corner!

Dear Editor

I note in the latest issue of the magazine that you ask for contributions to Poetry Corner. Tempted by 'prizes of indescribable magnitude' (and suspecting the reality of a wooden spoon) I humbly offer two poems of a Spring/garden/backyard sort of theme: *Jelly Babies* and *No hurry, maybe tomorrow*.

### No hurry, maybe tomorrow

A silky warm scent coats the air.  
Soft layered rose tutus push  
their blush pale skirts  
to float and dance  
their puckish pirouettes  
upon the mossy darkness of the laurel.

Arching stems with needle claws  
climb to grasp  
the flirty pink geraniums –  
clustered blooms on slender necks,  
reaching out their benison from wall-hung pots  
on peachy, sun-bleached walls.

The gentle breeze of afternoon  
waves purple headed wallflowers –  
their spindly stems  
still fragrant, nodding comfort  
at the tender daisies dotting  
white percussion through the lawn.

Sleeping in the swaying hammock  
slung beneath the silver trees,  
the gardener dreams  
of peonies,  
their velvet heavy heads curved  
with countless dropping petals.

A stack of seed packs waits upon  
the sower's slow indulgence  
his languor stalls the starting –  
sparks of urgent growing are waiting, unbegun.  
And over all, the constant hum of working bees  
stealing gold amongst the blooms.

*Susan O'Neal, Birch Tree Way*

*Alas, Susan, there was room for only one of them. We're checking local charity shops for the very best wooden spoon money can buy. Good guess. And thank you. CG*

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## And finally...

When the sun beats down on the steaming asphalt of the Lower Addiscombe Road, and the only shade to be found is in the shelter of the awning of the Freshco store, school children gasp for chicken 'n' fries 'n' a cola from a fast-food outlet, while adults may be seen creeping into the pub across the road for a pint of ice-cold.

But how sensible is this? Can a can of cold beer, poured so it's frothing deliciously over the top of a glass and tasting like nectar itself, really quench a thirst and rehydrate the body in the extreme warmth of the summer we're about to enjoy?

Simply; no!

A lot of people mistakenly think that as beer is made principally of water, drinking beer will keep the body hydrated. Unfortunately, it isn't the case. It's thought that a 200ml drink of beer won't result in 200ml of water when you pee. You will actually urinate 320ml of water – 120ml of dehydration. Drinking more beer is therefore unlikely to help, sadly.



Psychologically, of course, alcohol may improve your experience temporarily, but over-indulgence will only result in a later feeling of dis-ease, or hangover; the only cure for which is tea and bacon.

### 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:

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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.

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