



1989-2013

# Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents' Association

[www.theaspra.org.uk](http://www.theaspra.org.uk)

Newsletter  
Summer 2013



D.H. Lawrence who lived in Colworth Road

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

## Road Representatives

Addiscombe Road (2- <del>25</del> 93)	Paul Pinder	28 Sefton Road
Annandale Road	Patricia West	5 Annandale Road
Ashburton Avenue	Kiff Paddon	49 Ashburton Avenue
Ashling Road	Sheila Newbold	3 Baring Road
Ashurst Walk	Contact us for details	
Baring Road	Helen Tilbury	27 Baring Road
Bingham Road (W) (94)	Jenny Crook	29 Bingham Road
Bingham Road (E) (9386)	Jenny & Richard Tighe	139 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	Ruth Rassou	26 Cheyne Walk
Claremont Road	Fred Demay	6 Claremont Road
Colworth Road	Sheila Newbold	3 Baring Road
Compton Road	Shila & Shashi Kotecha	21 Compton Road
Craigen Avenue	Trevor Bowden	37 Craigen Avenue
Craven Road	Sarah & Julian Bishop	13 Craven Road
Elmgrove Road	Nicola Salisbury	36 Kingscote Road
Fernhurst Road	Amy Simmons	36 Fernhurst Road
Fryston Avenue	Sharon Rees	7 Sefton Road
Glenthorne Avenue	Crys & Mike Rothern	33 Glenthorne Avenue
Greencourt Avenue	Paul Pinder	28 Sefton Road
Greencourt Gardens	Christine Kempton	23 Greencourt Gardens
Harriet Gardens	Bill Callow	3 Harriet Gardens
Kingscote Road	Nicola Salisbury	36 Kingscote Road
Northampton Road	Paul Pinder	28 Sefton Road
Parkview Road	Gerry Wade	26 Parkview Road
Sefton Road	Sharon Rees	7 Sefton Road
Selwood Road	Volunteer needed	
Sherwood Road	Volunteer needed	
Shirley Road (N) (52)	Margaret Grimsley	22 Shirley Road
Shirley Road (S) (57196)	Ann & Bill Jameson	138 Shirley Road
Shirley Park Road	Volunteer needed	
Whitethorn Gardens	Contact us for details	

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The need for car speed reduction

## Chairman's Letter

Dear Neighbours

It's that time of year again; the AGM is coming up soon and will be held on 26th September. The Association is looking for nominations for the following committee members: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. You will be supported by a vibrant, committed and well established committee who will help you. Without these roles filled the organisation will not be able to continue. Some roads also have vacancies for road reps. Please forward your nominations to the Secretary who can give you more information. Where there are more than two applications, nominees will be given the opportunity to make presentations to the meeting.

A great deal of hard work has gone into our website [www.theaspra.org.uk](http://www.theaspra.org.uk) and it now contains relevant and regularly updated information. The hits on the site are encouraging and it's becoming a valuable community resource so please have a visit.

Addiscombe Recreation Ground. The Association is going to formally request from Croydon Council a schedule of maintenance as well as indications of any plans that it may have for developments or changes to the area. The apparent lack of any coherent strategy for the Recreation Ground is very worrying.

I know that I have mentioned before that we should support our local traders; I am now extending that appeal to our advertisers. My personal experience of using various services advertised in our magazine has been extremely good. Personal recommendation is hard to beat and you can be absolutely certain if we receive any adverse reports about our advertisers we will take action.

We would like to welcome Eddy Arram back as one of our local Councillors after an eventful year as Mayor. I would also like to make a special mention of the sterling work that Adam Kellett has been putting in; Lindsay Frost was a difficult act to follow and Adam had to hit the ground running. A recent presentation made by him to the Planning Committee on a local issue was well thought out, well researched and well presented. Thank you, Adam.

*James Maloney*

# All Gardening Services

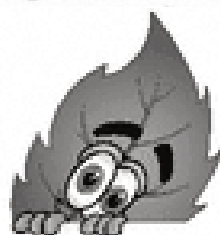
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[www.allgardeningervices.co.uk](http://www.allgardeningervices.co.uk)



## **FC Predators Football Club by Mike Savage**



[www.fcpredators.com](http://www.fcpredators.com)

F.C. Predators is a locally run football club who are affiliated to Surrey F.A. and compete in the Tandridge League. The club was formed in 2012 by Andy Boyes who is the club chairman. Andy has been involved with coaching youth football for over six years as both his sons are keen footballers and it was always his intention to create a club where children would have a good experience in youth football, making sure they have fun in a safe environment. All the managers and coaches at the club share the same philosophy on the type of football we want to play: teaching players to be comfortable on the ball through good technique, looking for and to receive a pass, build their confidence to run with the ball and not be afraid to use skills.

The club has just completed their first season and are already preparing for the 2013/2014 season. All our coaches/managers have full enhanced CRB checks and hold qualifications at F.A. Level 1 coaching or higher.

We will be running teams for U10s, U13s, U15s & U16s next season. We are also looking for people to join the club who would like to manage/coach or run a team, as the club are very keen to expand and run teams for other age groups. If you would like more information about the club check out our website.

Mick Savage  
Club Secretary

## **ACTIVITIES AT ASHBURTON LIBRARY**

### **CHILDREN**

Look out for extra children's activities during the holidays.

#### **Rhyme time/Wiggle and Jiggle**

Tuesdays & Saturdays at 11am & Thursdays at 10.30am. Join in the singing fun with your under 5's in the spacious children's library.

#### **Story time**

Thursdays at 4pm, for under 7's. Listen to a story, followed by a craft.

#### **Chatterbooks**

This is a fun and exciting reading group for 8-11 year olds held monthly on a Friday.

#### **Read+**

An opportunity for 11 -19 year olds to plan and participate in monthly creative activities: reading & writing groups, author visits and craft activities.

#### **Homework Help Club**

Tuesdays & Thursdays 4-6pm & Saturdays 2-5pm. Homework help for children 9 - 16. Extra sessions during 1/2 term and holidays.

### **ADULTS**

#### **Natty Knitters**

Fridays 9.30-11.30 fortnightly. All abilities welcome.

#### **Computer sessions for beginners**

Learn to set up an email account, use Facebook, do online shopping, use Word, Excel & PowerPoint or improve your typing skills. Monday afternoons, Tuesday & Thursday mornings.

Please contact the library for further details :

Phone: 020 8726 6900 or

Email: [ashburton@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:ashburton@croydon.gov.uk)



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[info@croydon-it.co.uk](mailto:info@croydon-it.co.uk)



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Friday - 9am to 6.30pm

✂ Saturday – 8.30am to 5pm



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Opposite Baring Road

# Blue Plaque Scheme

By Bob Sleeman

In January 2013 English Heritage announced that it was going to stop the blue plaque scheme due to government cuts. ASPRA hosts one for DH Lawrence author, in Colworth Road and in Outram Road the inventor of the teleprinter is celebrated. Others within a few miles include CB Fry, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle author, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Composer, David Lean Film Director, WFR Stanley, Emile Zola, Alfred Russell Wallace, John & Frederick Horniman, Ira Aldridge, Marie Stopes scientist Camille Pissarro Artist, Thomas Crapper, Gordon Pirie, Enid Blyton author & Walter De La Mare poet.

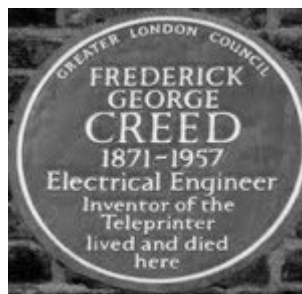


12 Colworth Road

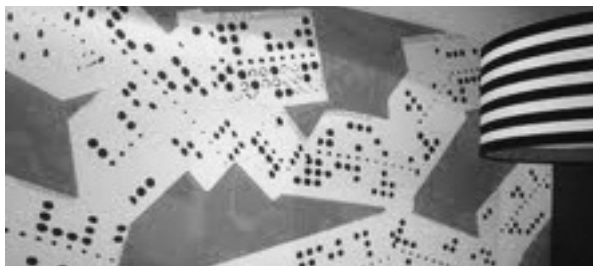
*D.H. Lawrence*



*Theme for Pizza Express  
George Street based on  
one of Creed's inventions.*



*Frederick George Creed  
20 Outram Road*



There are other colours, Maroon (Dietrich Bonhoeffer Theologian & Pastor who died in the holocaust), Red (Danny Dyer for soiling himself on Malibu in a Croydon Police cell), Grey (Dr John Fry devoted family doctor), Green (Cicely Mary Barker artist and creator of the Flower Fairy children's books), Black (Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins designer of the prehistoric 'monsters' in Crystal Palace Park) and Gold (David Bowie rock musician of Beckenham who launched his career in The Three Tuns). You can research these plaques on the web at <http://openplaques.org/> and <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/discover/blue-plaques/>. There will be a page on the ASPRA website to amplify this article. Happy hunting!

# Bingham Hire Centre

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## OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - SATURDAY 8.00am - 5.30pm



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223-225 Lower Addiscombe Road • Croydon • Surrey CR0 6RB  
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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:



**1989-2013**

ASPRA AGM  
26th September 2013 at 8pm  
St Mildred's Pavillion,  
Bingham Road

Refreshments will be served after the meeting

Please look on the regularly updated website for  
more info and dates  
[www.theaspra.org.uk](http://www.theaspra.org.uk)

### Local Clubs and Groups Update

#### Sandilands Sports Club

**Sandilands, Croydon CR0 5DB .**

The address in the previous newsletter needs to be updated as above, where the following clubs meet:

- Tennis
- Hockey
- Cricket
- The Male Voice Choir.

#### Scuba Diving

**Croy-Tech Sub Aqua Club**

**BSAC Branch 187**

**[www.croytech.co.uk](http://www.croytech.co.uk)**

Royal Russell School Swimming Pool

Monday evenings at 8pm

Contact: Shirley Painter 8660 0633

### ASPRA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING ROLES:

- **Treasurer**
- **Secretary**
- **Membership Secretary**
- **Chairman**
- **Road Reps**

You will be supported by a vibrant, committed and well established committee who will help you in any way they can. Without these roles filled the organisation will not be able to continue. We intend to elect these officers at the AGM on 26th September

If you are interested please contact Lee Chester who will give you further information as follows:

Phone: 020 8405 3338

Email: [secretary@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@theaspra.org.uk)

# Your Committee Members

## **Chairman**

James Maloney  
143 Bingham Road  
020 8405 3338  
[chairman@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:chairman@theaspra.org.uk)

## **Vice Chairman**

Frederick Law  
4 Parkview Road  
020 8662 9032  
[vicechairman@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:vicechairman@theaspra.org.uk)

## **Treasurer**

Susan Roberts  
85 Ashburton Avenue  
020 8656 0059  
[treasurer@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@theaspra.org.uk)

## **Secretary**

Lee Chester  
143 Bingham Road  
020 8405 3338  
[secretary@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@theaspra.org.uk)

## **Magazine Team**

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Advertising Manager  
50 Northampton Road  
020 8654 5814  
[advert@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:advert@theaspra.org.uk)

Liz Brereton  
Editor  
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020 8656 7382  
[editor@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:editor@theaspra.org.uk)

## **Webmaster**

Bob Sleeman  
[info@croydon-it.co.uk](mailto:info@croydon-it.co.uk)

## **Email Postmaster**

Vince Hemment  
[contact@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:contact@theaspra.org.uk)

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# HOUSE MARKET OVERVIEW

**By Gary O'Hare of Streets Ahead**

Viewing figures have risen between 15 - 18%, as both prospective purchasers and tenants take advantage of the lighter evenings and warmer weather. House prices increased slightly in all of our areas in April and May in line with 'Hometracks' figures stating that house prices had risen nationally by 0.3% in April and by over 0.7% in London. In London and the South East, asking prices achieved are now at 95%. Since the summer of 2007 house prices have not achieved this rate nor the rate of 4.6 weeks for the time on the market. Richard Donnell, Director of Research at Hometrack said *"Demand for housing nationally continues to rise and buyer demand increased across all regions for a third month in a row which is the same as last year but without the external stimulus of a Stamp Duty holiday."* New instructions were slightly down in April and across our offices our new instructions were up 9% on the same month last year. Valuations rose significantly in April and were up 14% for sales and 16% for lettings on the same month last year.

Across our group there has been an unprecedented demand for New Homes and for the first time since 2007 buyers have returned to 'buying off plan.' All of our major developments, have experienced a significant upturn in reservations in April. According to the Halifax, house hunters are paying 12% more for new property than they were 5 years ago. With an increase of 40% in the last 10 years nationally to £166,473, the biggest regional rise was Greater London where the cost of a new home is now £415,540 on average.

Mortgage lending has been rising each month, on the back of the government's funding for lending scheme and conditions in the mortgage market continue to show signs of improvement and growth. In April, our new enquiries for mortgage quotes were up 7% on the same month last year.

Lettings continues to grow from strength to strength with a 14% increase in new registrations in April compared with last year and new instructions up 12%. Rents across our group nudged up in April by 1.6%. Tenants are staying longer in accommodation and the renewal of tenancies continues to grow .

# **NICHOLAS HAWKSMOOR METHODICAL IMAGININGS**

**Somerset House  
until 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 2013  
by Bob Sleeman**

Design in architecture places structures in their surroundings, ideally with sympathy for the adjacent neighborhood. Church buildings in the London of Hawksmoor (c.1661-1736) required dominant towers to lift the spirit and prayers of the people. His seven churches were part of a wider scheme to build some 50 new churches across the city. The secular Somerset House is hosting a collection of large format black and white photographs which capture details as well as the context of these churches. Bank junction from above St Mary's Woolnoth with the skyline enhanced by Wren's Cathedral dome and Bow Bells contrasts with the almost invisible Christ Church Spitalfields, dwarfed by the building of the finance sector. Hawksmoor's other designs include St Luke's Old Street, St George's in Bloomsbury, St George's in the East, St Anne's Limehouse and St Alfege's, in Greenwich. The demolished St John's Horselydown is also mentioned.



This set of photographs and resin models were shown in the undecorated curved walls of the Venice Pavilion of the architecture biennale in the autumn of 2012. The five rooms in the Terrace Rooms South Wing of Somerset House provide a more decorative gallery which perhaps detracts from the purity of the images.

This exhibition is curated by Mohsen Mostafavi, Dean of Harvard University Graduate School of Design and is supported by Louis Vuitton. The photographer H el ene Binet has over a period of twenty five years photographed both contemporary and historical architecture. Her work has appeared in a wide range of books. She works exclusively with analogue (film) photography.

An illustrated book will be available from the Somerset House shop from mid June.

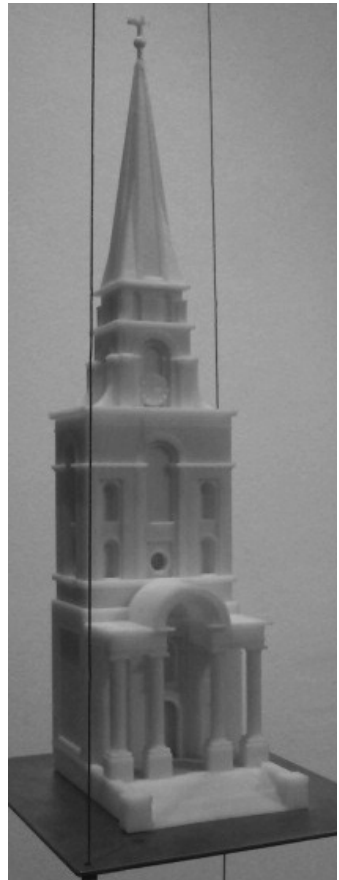
See websites for more information:

Somerset House:

<http://www.somerset-house.org.uk/visual-arts/nicholas-hawksmoor-methodical-imaginings>

Friends of the City Churches :

[www.london-city-churches.org.uk](http://www.london-city-churches.org.uk)





## **CROYDON BACH CHOIR**

**Conductor: Tim Horton**

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

**Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 7.30pm**  
**St Matthew's Church, Chichester Road**

***Faure: Requiem***

***John Rutter: Magnificat***

Tickets: Adults £12, Families (2 adults & up to 3 children) £30 including programmes. Tickets available from: 8405 2172 or on the door.

On Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup> we start a new term and invite you to an open rehearsal at 8pm at St Matthew's, Chichester Road. We will be singing Britten's Rejoice in the lamb, Purcell's Ode to St Cecilia and a piece from Coleridge Taylor's Hiawatha. The concert is on November 16<sup>th</sup> at St Mary Magdalene's Church Canning Road at 7.30pm.

## **CROYDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**Conductor: Darrell Davison**

[www.croyonsymphonyorch.org.uk](http://www.croyonsymphonyorch.org.uk)

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7.30pm**  
**Fairfield Halls**

**Last Night of the Croydon Proms**

Raising funds for 'Youth in Croydon' projects

Croydon Symphony Orchestra

Festival Singers

Croydon Philharmonic Choir

The John Fisher School Choir

East Surrey Choral Society

***Beethoven: Choral Mvt from 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony***

***Vivaldi: Winter from The Four Seasons***

***Wagner: Overture from Mastersinger***

***Verdi: Hebrew Slave & Anvil***

***Lehar: Gold and Silver Waltzes***

***Excerpts from: The Sound of Music, Carousel & Oklahoma***

***Coates: Dambusters March & other 'prom' favourites***

Tickets: £9, £18 & £20 from Fairfield Hall Box Office 8688 9291

Also Concerto competition concert on 22nd June at Trinity School

**Croydon Symphonic Band**  
**10th July 2013**  
**Fairfield Concert Hall**  
**40th anniversary concert**

***John Williams: Star Wars Suite***  
***Louis Prima: Sing Sing Sing'***  
***George Gershwin: Selections***  
***Prokofiev: Romeo & Juliet Suite***  
***Nigel Hess***  
***& other pieces***

Croydon Symphonic Band is an amateur community band with 50 members/players from Croydon and surrounding areas. We are keen to make the concert a big success by inviting as many members of the local community as we can.

Tickets: Adults £10, Concessions £6.

***Special offer for ASPRA members:*** Adults £9, Concessions £5.50.

***This offer is not available at the box office but only by phoning or emailing Derek Reeves as follows:***

Phone: 8657 8591

Email: [d\\_reeves@btopenworld.com](mailto:d_reeves@btopenworld.com)

**BENJAMIN BRITTEN CENTENARY**  
**LOCAL CONCERTS**

In **July** the City of London Festival at Southwark Cathedral stages the three Britten Church Parables, Curlew River, The Burning Fiery Furnace and The Prodigal Son. <http://www.colf.org/whats-on/462-britten-church-parables>. Curlew River (1964) The "Mad Woman" is taken across the River to her child's grave by the Ferryman. Music influenced by Japanese No-play, absorbed into the tradition of English Medieval religious drama. The Burning Fiery furnace (1966) and The Prodigal Son (1968) complete the series. This is a rare chance to see these dramas which are less familiar than Britten's other operas.

On **10th November** Britten's Film Music at Fairfield Halls which is perhaps less demanding than The Church Parables but an interesting work including WH Auden [London to Scotland postal special - a steam train express headed by the mighty "Seaforth Highlander" engine] when Britain was "Great". Night Mail, The Way To The Sea, Men Behind the Meters, The Tocher, Coal Face, The King's Stamp, God's Chillun, Peace of Britain, Sixpenny Telegram. "A celebration of the composer's craft and filmmaker's technique, and a remarkably vivid insight into 1930s Britain." <http://fairfield123.tripod.com/classicalmusic/home.html>

# John Ruskin Choral Society



follow us on twitter @johnruskinchoral  
or find us on facebook



## Summer 2013

### Gilbert & Sullivan Evening

Songs and Choruses from  
**Pirates of Penzance, Princess  
Ida, Ruddigore, Mikado &  
HMS Pinafore**



Clara Murnig – Piano  
Adrian Connell – Conductor



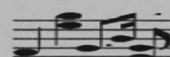
July 6 2013  
Shirley Methodist Church  
Eldon Avenue, Shirley  
7.30pm

Programme Vouchers £7.00/£6.00

Students free



Available on the door, or contact:



Email: [johnruskinchoir@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnruskinchoir@yahoo.co.uk)

## CROYDON RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

We have been in existence since 1945 and are a friendly group who listen to recorded music. There is a wide range of programmes on a variety of composers and musical topics.

We meet fortnightly at:

St. Mildred's Church Pavillion  
Bingham Road

7:30 to 9:30 including a refreshment break  
Visitors are welcome

Forthcoming meetings include:

28th June	Hadyn, Surprises Beyond The Surprise
12th July	An Evening with Dvorak
26th July	The Life and Music of Mario Lanzo
9th August	The Tales of Hofmann
23rd August	Dietrich Fischer Dieskau
20th September	Andrew Keen (recording producer)

Contact:

Stella Stocker, Hon. Secretary

Phone: 020 8668 3816

Email: [stellastocker@btinternet.com](mailto:stellastocker@btinternet.com)

# CROYDONHEALTH SERVICES

By Bob Sleeman

**Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)** [www.croydonccg.nhs.uk](http://www.croydonccg.nhs.uk)

will manage the NHS GP budget. Public meetings of the Governing Body are held in Fairfield Halls Maple Room on the following dates: 25 June, 30 July, 29 Oct, 28 Jan 2014, 25 Mar 2014. See the website for more information.

**Healthwatch Croydon** [www.healthwatchcroydon.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchcroydon.co.uk) An independent consumer champion seeking new members to strengthen the consumer voice in health and social care. The main work programme points are as follows:

- Enter and View sites at local hospitals, care homes and nursing homes.
- Monitor services at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.
- Set up an equality and diversity advisory group.
- Engage with CCG work on the redesign of pathways and services.
- Promote the involvement of patients and the public in all CCG work streams.
- Maintain a strong overview of national, regional, local health and social care initiatives and changes.
- Develop a more engaged relationship with the Social Services Team.
- Sustain and develop relationships and partnerships and join up resources and networks across all sectors of the community.
- Support a pilot of 'How to make the most of your visit to your GP or Nurse'

**NHS Choices** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) has information and reviews of GPs, Hospitals and Dentists where you can make comments on NHS services and also find advice including a symptoms checker, health encyclopaedia, medication information, healthy living, care and support.

**Gavin Barwell**, our local MP held a public meeting on health on 12<sup>th</sup> May which is available on his website: [www.gavinbarwell.com](http://www.gavinbarwell.com) and there is a recording of the meeting available from Croydon Radio.

4 local GP surgeries were contacted for input to this article, but only one replied.

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### **LONDON BUSES PAYMENTS GO CONTACTLESS**

Commuters travelling on London buses are able to pay for their journey using their bank card after Transport for London (TfL) introduced near field communication (NFC) technology onto buses across the network. The buses' Oyster card readers, which rely on radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, have been upgraded so they are also compatible with NFC technology. The move means that people travelling on TfL buses in London no longer need to use cash or top up their Oyster card to pay for their journeys. Commuters can use the new payment method providing they have a contactless credit or debit card, which is indicated by a symbol printed on the card. Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group (Halifax), MBNA, Newcastle Building Society, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group (NatWest or RBS), have rolled out contactless cards in the UK. Commuters paying for their bus fare with the contactless payment technology, which is supported by Visa payWave and Mastercard PayPass, will be charged the same amount as commuters travelling with an Oyster card, rather than the more expensive cash fare.

TfL warned Oyster card users that they should take care when swiping their wallet against readers if they own more than one NFC enabled card. "If you present two cards together, the reader will normally reject them both," said TfL. "But there is a possibility of payment being taken from a card which you did not intend to use." This will impact any pensioner who carries their Freedom Pass in the same pouch as a credit card using the new technology. Now there is a risk that the Freedom Pass may not work but a payment will be taken on the credit card instead.





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# **THE NEED FOR CAR SPEED REDUCTION**

**by Andy Szebeni**

Speeding occasionally can't be so bad, can it? Well, that is what I always thought before the birth of my two children a few years ago. These days, I am highly sensitised to the reckless disregard some local drivers have for the risks associated with children or parents popping out between parked cars or crossing roads without any designated crossings. So I took the opportunity during recent campaigning by local MP Gavin Barwell's team to moan at an activist about poor driving on Bingham Road. As a result, impressively, our house in Sefton Road hosted a visit by Mike Barton of Croydon Highways department. And a fascinating, myth busting meeting it was too.

Standing at the junction of Sefton and Bingham Roads, I moaned to Mike about the numerous accidents I had seen in recent months on this stretch of road. These included an overturned car at the junction with Compton Road, an abandoned car driven into the wall opposite Sefton Road and an accident that virtually closed Bingham Road at the junction near Craven Road.

As many of you might do, I demanded more 'sleeping policemen', installation of traffic calming, a new crossing, more police intervention and every other action the authorities could undertake. Mike patiently listened – as he must do to dozens of irate local residents each week – and slowly he opened my eyes to the reality of traffic control in situations such as these.

You may be surprised to hear that the effect of the installation of crossings on driver behaviour, since I was keen to see a zebra or pelican crossing on Bingham Road. Mike explained that this feature makes drivers complacent. As a result of their installation, drivers stop being attentive to pedestrians crossing at every point in between the crossings. Consequently, this traffic measure **INCREASES** the risk for those crossing the road at non designated points.

One thing that has apparently helped pedestrians is the installation of double yellow lines at T-junctions. I was always aware that we are not permitted to park within 10m of such junctions (section 243 of the Highway Code). However, other drivers ignore the rule. While they run the risk of getting parking tickets from the police, the police have other priorities and transgressors escape unpunished. Wardens are only interested if the parking regulations are clearly displayed. Double yellow lines mean they can give tickets, which earn them commission, which deters people parking at the points that cause risk to pedestrians.

The accidents on Bingham Road may stick in my mind, but how many such incidents are there in reality? Mike had some data: only 8 in 3 years, mainly concentrated around St Mildred's church (although only those with injuries are reported). Of note is that this is a low number apparently. No 2 incidents are in the same location, suggesting there are no actual accident hotspots. What is more, 3 are due to pedestrian carelessness.

Then we came to my conviction that drivers simply go too fast. Or do they? The "Speedvisor" digital speed readout sign temporarily installed on the road revealed that Bingham Road is actually as safe as most suburban roads. The vast majority of drivers travelled between 30 and 40 and only around 1% registered between 40 and 50. Admittedly only around 10% actually averaged less than the 30mph speed limit but this is apparently normal. In short, the evidence does not suggest the road is a special case which needs additional investment by the Council or London Assembly.

So what can we as residents do? I am keen to canvass support for the idea of a group of local residents using a radar gun periodically, under the Road Watch scheme. Any speeding drivers have their licence plate logged and regular offenders can be contacted by the Council. The mere presence occasionally of high-vis-vest-wearing people aiming a speed gun at drivers sticks in their memories and helps to bring down speeds over time, even if none are actually punished.

So, if you might be interested in sparing some time to help make your local roads a little safer via this scheme, drop me a line at the email address below. In the meantime, let's all be careful out there, as they used to say in the Hill Street Blues cop show!

Email: [andy@szebeni.com](mailto:andy@szebeni.com)

**Email received from the Council regarding speed limits:**

"Croydon Council has no plans to introduce 20mph speed limits to streets in Croydon. We already have numerous 20 mph zones around our Schools. We are very keen to get the Police to enforce the existing 30mph speed limits and hold motorists to account if they break the existing law"



# Foster for Croydon



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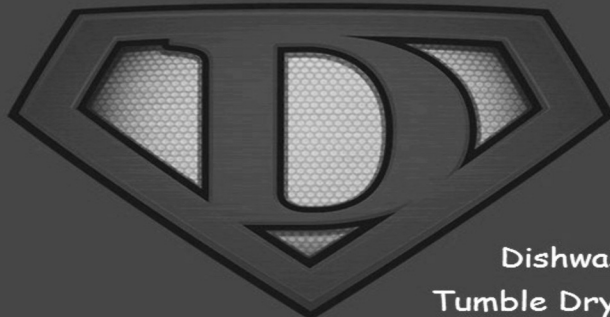
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