

The ADDINGTON

ADDINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Magazine

2021 Issue 1



Sun and shades of green in Palace Green and across the golf course

The vaccination programme in Croydon

As the vaccination programme gets under way surgeries and other venues are being set up to offer the Covid-19 vaccination. One organisation, Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA), were asked to find volunteer stewards to help in Purley Hospital, Fairfield Halls, New Addington and Thornton Heath. I signed up in early January and we have been very busy supporting the NHS as they deliver the vaccinations. The government have said that they hope to vaccinate all adults by the end of July and I am sure that more volunteers will be required. Please contact CVA if you are interested in volunteering.

Editor



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Addington Residents' Association

Objects of the Association: To ascertain the opinions of the residents and to lay them before appropriate authorities when desirable.

Please see our website - www.addington-residents.co.uk

Please send any articles of local interest that you would like to see published, as well as any opinions you may have, to
addingtonresidents@gmail.com

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	Robert Ward	robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk
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	Stuart Milsom	stuart.milsom@croydon.gov.uk

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Chairman's Report

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year with hope of a better 2021.

I hope you were all able to have as an enjoyable festive season as the circumstances allowed.

We are still in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic with very stringent restrictions on the way we live but if we are to pull through this pandemic we have to stick with these restrictions. Latest figures are showing an improvement, with infection rates greatly reduced. Luckily the vaccination programme is going extremely well and hopefully by the end of June we will be able to return to some kind of normality.

The financial status of Croydon Council is not good, in fact the Council is bankrupt. The Westfield Shopping Centre is not going to happen and there are rumours that Marks & Spencer and Sainsburys are pulling out of the Centre. If this happens Croydon will become a ghost town.

Well done to Croydon Council for getting into this mess as we, as residents, will have to pay for the mismanagement of the Council for the foreseeable future.

Greenfields Pioneer Place

Our MP Sarah Jones has had a meeting with Mr Datoo and we have learned that pre-planning will not take place for the next 2 years with a formal planning application being submitted in 4 years time. There is not very much we can do at present.

We have to be watchful so that we can be on top of the situation when any application is made.

Please all stay safe and follow the guidelines. If we do, we should come out of this in good shape.

Wiktor, Chairman

Wow what a December we had. Santa had just the best time visiting his chums around the District and we managed to get out on all evenings except the last two due to lockdown. Santa & Rotary were delighted to launch our first ever Virtual Grotto this year which allowed Santa's chums to visit & chat via zoom & not only our weekends but also the three evenings in the week running up to Xmas were completely booked up. Santa had a blast. Your generosity was extraordinary, with gift aid envelopes completed & donations on our Just Giving page (thank you so much), you have raised over £13,000 – a fantastic total in a year when we wondered if we would be able to visit & collect any funds at all. Your kindness will allow us to continue to support the local community in so many different ways. We had so many volunteers helping us – thank you all so much.

On Xmas morning we delivered sixty food hampers to self-isolating elderly folks who would otherwise not see anyone on the big day. We continue to shop, collect prescriptions & make weekly telephone calls to folks who are isolating, shielding or are just in need of a chat, & providing marshalls for the Covid centres.

We are running a virtual Quiz Night on 6th March via zoom in our new virtual world. This event will again help us to raise funds to work within the local community. (see facebook & website for details). Book now.

We are excited to launch our Easter Egg Hunt on Sat 17th April. Open to children under 10, clues will be found in participating shops in Selsdon. Collect a letter from each and make a sentence to win an Easter Egg. This will take place only within safe and legal Government guidelines.

Importantly we remain here to help, our banners are still up around the community & you have only to call for assistance. 'Where there is Need' there is Rotary.

On behalf of President Sue, Santa & all the Members of Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon thank you for all your support & generosity. Rotary & Santa Rock

If you are interested in working with Rotary when please get in touch 07774-186 792

<https://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth>

Yours in Rotary, Wendy A Parr, Club Secretary

Ready, steady, census

census
2021

The census is for everyone, and it has been carried out every ten years since 1801, with the exception of 1941. The census is unique. There's simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society we live in. It helps build the most complete picture, and estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. The whole population has the chance to provide the information that ensures all communities are represented in decisions on funding and services. It tells us what our needs are now, and what they're likely to be in the future. It also gives a snapshot of how we live, for future generations to look back on.

Let's Get Croydon Counted

Census 2021 is drawing close and every household will soon receive a postcard, explaining what the census is, and in early March letters will arrive in the post inviting people to take part in the first digital census. Don't worry if you can't complete it online, if you need any help or to request a paper copy, then a Central Support Line will be available on **0800 1412021**.

Census 2021 will be key to making sure the big decisions on the future of our hospitals, schools, transport and other public services (following the pandemic and EU exit) are based on the best information possible. In light of the coronavirus pandemic, this up-to-date information is vital to help shape services for the years to come more urgently than ever before. Running the census in times of a pandemic has naturally thrown up some challenges and the ONS' focus ensuring the safety of the public.

Census field officers will follow up with households after Census Day on March 21 only if householders have not yet completed their questionnaire. They will never enter a household, they will always be socially distanced, be equipped with PPE and work in line with all government guidance. Some questions also have updated guidance to reflect our changed living and working circumstances. For those on furlough, there is updated guidance on how to answer questions on work, along with guidance on where students should be counted and included.

Once you get your letter and access code (and if your circumstances aren't going to change prior to the 21st March), then you can fill it in straight away.

The UK population on Census Day 2011 was 56,075,912, with Croydon recording 363,378. The split in Croydon was 52% female and 48% male. Currently the population stands at about 66 million, up 10 million from ten years ago with Croydon's population roughly the same as 2011.

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The View from the Donkey

“At this point”, the interviewer said, and paused as if deep in thought, and then continued, “We are all aware that this is the time of the year, in churches all over the world, when believers practise what is known as ‘Lent’. What does it mean? And I understand, you give up something for ‘Lent’, what are you giving up?”

I wasn’t sure how to respond. How do you explain something as deeply personal as ‘Lent’? As to ‘what was I giving up?’ That’s not such an easy answer either.

Lent is an important season in the year for Christians – a time of self-reflection and self-examination where we confess our failings and resolve to live a godlier life based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. It lasts for just over six weeks leading up to Easter. I grew up in a church where we practised what was called ‘Self Denial’ and you were supposed to put aside the monetary value of what you’d given up so that you could make a ‘gift’ on Easter Sunday. Years later, we were taught to give to the OWSOMS Appeal (which means One Week’s Salary On Missionary Service) and the money was used for developing the work of the church in places where they weren’t as affluent as we were. Moreover, the practise of OWSOMS was also carried out in poorer countries and places as well.

I was glad that I was one of a group of people being interviewed and somebody else continued to answer the questions. I did breathe a sigh of relief. But it didn’t stop me thinking about ‘the giving up’ bit. I must admit to feeling quite challenged by the practise of ‘giving up something’. It would be very easy for me to glibly say I’ve given up chocolates, or canned drinks or something similar and not be practising any form of self-denial. I have a friend, from my early days in ministry, who used to talk about “Brother Ass”. He was referring to St Francis who in his practise of asceticism used to refer to his body as ‘Brother Ass’ – with particular reference to encompassing everything he wanted for himself and undertook because of love of self rather than love of God and his fellow human beings. St Francis’ belief was that of a life aimed at total spiritual transformation, with a threefold vow enabling one to be open to God, humble before God, and ready to be used by God. This vow could therefore only be kept through abstinence, discipline and self-mortification at various levels. But I am not St Francis, even if I could emulate his beliefs in my life and daily practise.

So, I enter into this time of ‘Lent’ in many ways like a donkey or resembling a donkey. I must recognize that God is requesting of me, my presence, so that I might be used of Him. His plan for me is that I would let Him be Lord of my life. And just as they laid their cloaks on the donkey used by Jesus on Palm Sunday, so I too need to clothe myself in the fullness of Christ. Allowing the Spirit to lead me and to follow obediently. Be humbled in such a way, that as I lift Jesus up (and let Him ride on my back, as it were) others will see Him more clearly and...I need to serve Christ faithfully that He might be glorified...for He alone is worthy!

Jesus wants to make a triumphal entry into the lives of those around you ...will you take Him there?

And I gave up all fizzy drinks AND chocolates AND social media.

From the Treasurer

As we are not able to ask you for your annual subscription via the little brown envelopes and internet banking has allowed many people to pay bills from the comfort of their own homes, if you are able, can you please pay your subscription of £2 by bank transfer or set up a Standing Order to our bank. Thank you to those who have already paid

The bank details are Sort Code 40-35-40 Account number 81491253

Please use your address as the reference, either in full, or an abbreviation eg 36 PG for 36 Palace Green, then email addingtonresidents@gmail.com so I have your email address as well. Thank you.

It is important that we maintain our ability to protect our community assets, so we need your continued support by way of subscriptions and advertising revenue. Without your help we cannot continue our efforts.

Alan Chitty, Hon. Treasurer

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Minutes of Virtual Annual General Meeting held 1st December 2020 at 8.00pm using Video Conferencing

Present :

ARA Committee : Wiktor Molleskog, Mike Bond, Malcolm Graveling, Salli Ransom, Paul Bearman,

Keith James, Terry Belsey, Alan Chitty, Aline Antoine

MP : Sarah Jones (Croydon Central)

Local Residents : Phil Barber, Alice Hicks, Paul Ransom, Geoff Hopper, Jim Nayyar, Joy Ellery, John & Genevieve Glen, Winston Leeks, Dr Kemal

1) Apologies were received from Gina Stoneman and Cllr Helen Pollard.

2) Minutes of the previous year's AGM were approved and adopted (proposed by Keith James, seconded by Malcolm Graveling).

3) Matters arising

The Green Corridor and Pioneer Place issues will be addressed later in the meeting
New unsolicited approaches have been made to some residents in Featherbed Lane and Falconwood Road, this time by CDR Evolution, to buy up back gardens to build more houses. We are not aware that any residents have responded

Still no progress on completing the yellow lines in Huntingfield and Featherbed Lane on the church corner (Cllr Helen Pollard to be asked to follow-up)

The Council's improvement plans for the Addington Park childrens' playground area are unlikely to be completed due to the Council's worsening financial state

4) Chairman's Annual report

We are not able to hold our AGM face to face as we normally do so we are now doing it via ZOOM. From May 2019 until February 2020 all was normal and we carried out the concerns of our Residents. From February things have been very different with Covid19 and all the restrictions so we had to hold Committee meetings by Zoom. I hope that you are all well and that you have been able to stay safe during the pandemic.

During the pandemic we have taken part in the London Green Belt AGM and observed a Planning Committee Meeting at Croydon Council, both via Zoom. From the London Green Belt, we learned that they have made a strong objection to the Government Housing White Paper. We did not learn much from the Planning Committee meeting.

We have also objected to the Government Housing White Paper, and to the new increased Parking Charges for Croydon which are planned to take place from January 2021.

We objected to the Liquor License for Addington Park. This Application has since been withdrawn but a new Application may be launched. We will monitor the situation.

The planned upgrade of the play area in Addington Park has been cancelled due to the Council being bankrupt.

Pioneer Place has been bought by the Shia Muslims. They said they intend to use the existing buildings for worship and were not going to develop the site. The back field will be used for relaxation and meditation by their members.

Their intention was to make Pioneer Place a Hub for community activity.

Since our first contact with the Shia Muslim group we have learned that they are planning a major development on the site. This development is out of character with the area and cannot be accepted. We will call for the BACKFIELD to get SINC status with some form of limited public access, and a sensible development on the rest of the site in character with surrounding area.

We are very sorry to hear that during the lock-down there were people in our area who were unable to get the basic necessities and had to press the emergency button to get help. We do not want anything like this to happen again. We are here to help and we are able to arrange shopping and pick up of medicines etc. It is therefore very important that we get to know of people that may need help. If you are in the group needing help or know of anyone needing help please contact me at wiktor.molleskog@sky.com or phone 07704797673/01689843404 or Salli at editor@addingtonresidents.com so that we can build a data base to work from. I ask all residents in our area to give us their email addresses so we can more easily get in touch with important information. We will not use these addresses to bombard you with all kinds of rubbish. Please be assured that your e-mail addresses will not be misused, given to anybody or sold on. I ask for volunteers to help with shopping and pickup of medicines for housebound residents should it be needed.

Also there are 2 vacant places on the committee and we ask for volunteers there as well.

I urge you to keep to government guidelines, stay safe and look after yourselves.

5) Treasurer's Report

Once again, we are pleased to report to the members that our finances are in good order. With your support and that of our advertisers we can show a healthy balance sheet.

Our reserves have increased over the year as our expenditure for the year decreased whilst there has been a small increase in our income. Subscriptions increased by £75, Advertising reduced by £220 and Sundries increased by £60, whilst printing costs were reduced by £241, Donations fell by £250, resulting in an overall difference of £376 for the year. This increase in our reserves may come in handy if the need ever arises that we must seek the use of professional services to protect our environment. With the current proposals before Parliament to change the way Planning decisions are to be made, and with our knowledge of how the local authority have recently had a cavalier approach to the current planning regulations, these funds may prove to be crucial in our efforts to resist any detrimental changes.

The problems arising from the Covid -19 pandemic mean that the results for the current year are likely to be very different as we are unable to send out our invoices for advertising due to not being able to publish our magazine. Also, we are not able to ask you for your annual subscription in the usual way so we asked those able to pay directly to our account by means of a Bank transfer. It is important that we maintain our ability to protect our community assets, so we need your continued support by way of subscriptions and advertising revenue. Without your help we cannot continue our efforts. We have some 270 email contacts for residents, out of a possible 750+ households; so that we can communicate more effectively, please let us have your email address.

Note our thanks to Winston Leeks for auditing the Annual Accounts again. Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Keith James and seconded by Mike Bond.

6) Report from Sarah Jones, MP Croydon Central

I have dealt with around 8000 cases of people asking for help or offering their views since the beginning of covid. With only a small support team that is a lot, but I do my best to answer everyone as quickly as possible. If anyone would like to get in touch my email is sarah.jones.mp@parliament.uk and my phoneline is 0208 191 7064. Surgeries are possible on the phone or on zoom – I am not doing face-to-face at the moment.

Covid has taken up most of my time this year as you can imagine – with hundreds of people in Croydon losing their lives. At the start of the pandemic, we were helping people travel home from countries around the world, and I was working with care homes to try and get them enough PPE. We worked with the voluntary sector and the mutual aid groups to ensure people got food and the shielding were able to eat. I had to work with businesses in Croydon to try and get government support schemes in place to enable them to pay their rent and survive. With the arrival of the Dominic Cummings scandal and Black Lives Matter, people suddenly started contacting me with their views again and I received around 2000 emails on those two issues alone. We then moved into the summer when restrictions lifted a bit. Clearly the last few months have been devastating as covid has inevitably risen again, and I have been trying to support businesses who are not getting the same support they had in March. Many self-employment people have not received any support at all and they are now in real trouble in Croydon.

I am Shadow Policing Minister which means I spend a lot of time talking to the police and supporting them through this difficult time. Crime fell dramatically in the first lockdown but rose back fast and is now at pre-covid levels. This means the police are enforcing covid restrictions and having to deal with high crime levels and they need our support.

Clearly everyone will have seen the financial situation of Croydon Council. I am meeting regularly with the new leadership in the Council to discuss changes to processes and decision-making – as well as the decisions themselves – and I can reassure you that fundamental reform is underway. There will be difficult choices ahead which I do not relish and we have to get those decisions right. There are huge lessons to learn, but it is also the case that there are massive financial pressures on the council with 60% cuts since 2010, and Croydon has a particular issue with the cost of unaccompanied asylum seekers which is not reimbursed by government. My priority is to ensure services for our most vulnerable are protected, but that the Council also continue to get the basics right in terms of universal services like the public realm and bin collections.

7) Resignation & Election of Committee Members

All committee members resigned as required by the constitution. Apart from Paul Bearman who has moved away, and Geoff Hopper who stepped down during the year, the remaining committee members all made themselves available and were re-elected.

There remain two vacancies.

8) Any Other Business

i) Alice Hicks enquired whether Thames Water had been notified of the possible Pioneer Place redevelopment adjacent to their waterworks; they have, but are awaiting any formal planning application

ii) Paul Bearman requested the Pioneer Place 'BackField' be 'haycut' to preserve the wild orchid environment; this will be addressed by either this Association or via our MP's office

iii) Joy Ellery enquired about the Council's liquor license application in support of potential large-scale events in Addington Park; this has been withdrawn presently, but a new application may be resubmitted, and we will object again

iv) Fly-tipping on Featherbed Lane has become a problem and the Council will be made aware

v) There has been a spate of catalytic-converter thefts from cars on Falconwood Road and more widely across the borough. The Metropolitan Police have set-up a task force, so please report any incidents to Opbasswood@met.police.uk

9) The AGM closed at 9.08pm



Next Issue - The next issue will be produced in May 2021. Articles should reach the editor by 5th of the month for inclusion in the issue.

Disclaimer - The Addington Residents' Association (ARA) take all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information provided both verbally and in articles and advertisements in this Magazine is accurate. If the need arises, readers should carefully check the information provided to ensure it is satisfactory for their purpose as the ARA will not accept any responsibility for such information which is provided in good faith.



A letter from Steve Bolton regarding Brilliant Butterflies

I am writing to you today regarding updates on Brilliant Butterflies, a London Wildlife Trust project in partnership with Butterfly Conservation and Natural History Museum.

You may already know about us, launched in September 2019 with the then Mayor of Croydon, Cllr Humayun Kabir, Brilliant Butterflies aims to restore and create new sites to benefit a number of rare and uncommon butterflies associated with chalk grassland using innovative and traditional techniques, and make them accessible for people to enjoy.

Our locations are mostly based around sites which London Wildlife Trust have been managing on behalf of the Council for over 30 years, such as Hutchinson's Bank by New Addington. Across the project we have worked to engage with local communities on our volunteering programme, our citizen science training programme, nature based activities and events. We are working with local residents to spread the word of the value of chalk grassland in London, which the borough has a significant amount of this internationally scarce habitat.

With the impacts of Covid -19, some elements of our engagement activities have temporarily been on hold or have moved to online delivery. We have however been progressing on habitat restoration and creation work. Working with Council Officers, Meike Wiser and Xabier Mendez, we have scoped suitable sites and drafted proposals for new chalk grassland habitat providing homes for wildflowers, butterflies and other pollinating insects. To date we have delivered 17 of these sites across Coulsdon, New Addington South, Selsdon & Addington Village and Selsdon Vale & Forestdale ward areas. Local volunteers have helped to seed and plant the new habitats including the one on The Green, Featherbed Lane.

More information and a map of our sites can be viewed [here](#).

We are looking to develop a new habitat at Addington Park which may be of interest to you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions you may have.

If anyone is interested, I'd be happy to arrange to meet on a Zoom or Teams call/webinar and, once lockdown has lifted we could also arrange a meeting at Addington Park and visit a habitat creation site or project nature reserve.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Steve

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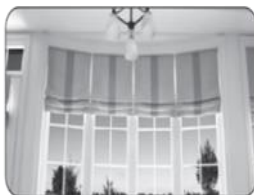
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Should you come across a tradesperson you could recommend please email the editor.

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Award-winning Fish and Chips

The Great Taste of Home

Forget Indian or Chinese tonight. There is nothing like the taste of home – that Great British institution, fish and chips. At McDermott's ***we have built our success*** on consistent quality - using the ***best cuts of fish***, skinning and filleting it on the premises and frying using ground nut oil ***to make the batter crisp and light.***

Take it away or stay and ***enjoy the friendly atmosphere*** and excellent service in our ***fully licenced, family-run restaurant.*** With a great menu, complimentary fresh bread, homemade tartar sauce and pickles, you'll find the welcome you deserve and the taste you love.

So welcome to McDermott's - the home of Great British fish and chips



"Fans reckon it beats famous venues up west on quality and price"

Timeout Magazine

"A really welcoming family restaurant, recommended for... The best fish 'n' chips in South London"

Hardens

McDermott's is open Tuesday - Saturday for lunch - 12-2pm, and dinner 5-9.30pm (9.00pm on Sat)

No need to book



The Forestdale Shopping Centre, Featherbed Lane, Croydon, Surrey CR0 9AS
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