

The ADDINGTON

ADDINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Magazine

2022 Issue 1



Concrete blocks placed by the Residents' Association to stop the work

Illegal construction on the corner of Huntingfield/Falconwood Road

About three months ago the green belt between the junction of Huntingfield/Falconwood Road leading to Lodge Lane was stripped bare of its greenery. What was termed as a 'clearing job' to tidy up the overgrowth, transpired into the pathway being cleared of all vegetation & trees to be replaced with an access road with possible intention to be tarmacked. Metal gates were erected to restrict access to the pathway that has been used by local residents for over half a century.

In the process of the work that went on for over 3 week in Oct 2021, significant damage has been done to the council-owned verge. The work carried out breaches the building standards and guidelines. This was clear when no drainage was built around the newly laid roadway further increasing the risk of localised flooding. The newly laid roadway was almost a foot higher than the original pathway as it has been laid above the damp proof course of existing homes.

Continued on page 7



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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

Correspondence for the Association should be addressed to
ARA, 12 Huntingfield, CR0 9BA

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Chairman's report

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year with hope of a better 2022.

I hope you all were able to have as an enjoyable festive season as the circumstances allowed. We are still in the grip of the Corona-19 pandemic with the new variant Omicron, and restrictions on the way we live are still in place, but hope is on the horizon with the lifting of most restrictions in the near future.

The first 9 months of the year was fairly quiet. We had our monthly Zoom Committee meetings and dealt with the day to day business of the Association, then in the middle of October things started to happen.

A gentleman named Stuart Barrs put up a tall gate across the path leading up to New Addington and started laying a road over the small field next to 1 Falconwood Road. Mr Barrs claimed that he owned this piece of land and the path. Croydon planning was contacted and the work was stopped.

The planning inspector from Croydon did first agree with Mr Barrs that he owned the land, even the grass verge. This has since been proved not to be true. The land is owned by Devogrove Ltd. We have been in contact with Mr John Cowling, a director of Devogrove and he was shocked at what had been done to their land. Devogrove want the land to be restored to how it was, but that will probably be a long drawn out battle.

We will keep in close contact with Devogrove and Croydon Planning as the planning inspector in question seems to have accepted the fact that the land, including the grass verge, is not owned by Mr Barrs.

We will try to get the path going from Falconwood Road to Lodge Lane, New Addington, made into a Right of Way. To do this we need statements from residents affirming that the path has been used regularly over the last 20 years by residents. I regularly used it to walk my dog. I ask that all that have used this path over the years to make a written statement and either e-mail or post it to us.

We would like to thank our residents for the support for the fighting fund and the support given to the Committee in the way we have handled this matter so far.

On a personal front I want to thank everyone that helped to make the Christmas lunch for the elderly at Addington Methodist Church so special this year.

I would also like to remind everyone that Addington Methodist Church is collecting food for the Vine Foodbank at New Addington every first Saturday of the month. There is also a Coffee morning at the same time so why not call in for a cup of coffee and a chat at the same time.

Please all stay safe, follow the guide lines and hopefully the infection rate will subside.

Wiktor M Molleskog, Chair ARA

Singing 4 Every 1 is back!!

Good news at last. Singing 4 Every 1 has begun again

Where? St Mary's Church Hall, Addington Village Road CR0 5AS

When? Every Tuesday afternoon at 3.00pm for about 45 minutes

Cost? There is no charge

We're not a formal choir,

just a group of people who enjoy singing

Contact Janet Davies on 020 8656 1732 or just come along on a
Tuesday

Singing is fun, you meet new people and it's good for your
health!

Everyone is welcome and we sing a variety of songs old and new. Some of the folk are local and some come from as far as Shirley, Selsdon or Thornton Heath. Some walk to the hall, some drive (parking is free) or have a lift from a friend or family member - and others come by public transport. We are very near Addington Village Interchange – bus and tram stops.



Illegal construction on the corner of Huntingfield/Falconwood Road *cont...*

Concerns were raised with the workers on site. Multiple attempts were made to have a dialogue with the person who commissioned the works to get a response on how the concerns were being addressed. But to no avail.

Local residents and the ARA raised the matter with the local council, as a result of which planning officers attended the site and instructed the works to be suspended until further notice. That order was flouted as work continued after the planning officer left and they even turned up to carry on with the work the following day. It was only after intervention by local residents to remind them of the council order that the work stopped. However, they came back one morning to intimidate the residents and made a direct threat to the owner of property 1 Falconwood Road.

The ARA was in constant touch with the local council to ensure the matter was being prioritised. In the coming days, it was found that the person who claimed to be the owner of the pathway only really owns a piece of land towards Lodge Lane. It is understood that the person who owns the pathway has been identified and is working closely with the authorities to understand why false claims have been made on ownership.

Throughout this process, no documents of ownership, or approved planning permission have been shared by Stuart Barrs who commissioned these works. It came to our notice that he raised with the council that the residents were in the wrong by being disruptive. Again he has no credible proof to back his false claims. In all honesty, this would not have transpired into a dispute if he had secured proper planning permission prior to starting any work. Or even ensured he was the legitimate owner of the piece of land he was carrying out work on.

While preserving our green space is a motto adopted across the globe to fight the immediate threat of climate change, this work was commissioned to rob the green belt of its flora and fauna. Several deer have been spotted frequenting the green belt, but now the site lays bare and the green has been replaced by hardcore.

ARA had been the rock solid support in this process and has led the way to fight it, and timely raise and chase matters. The focus now is to be able to restore the green belt to its former glory, and the ARA is in constant touch with the appropriate authorities to get this matter closed.

It's commendable how the local resident stood together and supported each other in these mentally taxing times which many a times caused anxiety and anger. It's truly a blessing to be part of a community which has strong foundations of making the residents feel part of one big family. This ordeal has only strengthened the bonds.

Neha Mathur & Puneet Udasi

Addington Airfield - Milne Park

I'll set the scene. I was carrying out research into local airfields as part of my video series that I share on YouTube. The focus was on the site of the former Hamsey Green Airfield in Kingswood Lane (Gardner's Airfield), but to my surprise I discovered there was another airfield much closer to home so I decided to research it and tell the story.

The 1930s saw a huge growth in aviation. Powered flight was still relatively new and during World War I its development extended much further leading to air combat battles, but the 1930s is where it really took off (sorry, I couldn't resist that).

At that time Sir Alan Cobham ran a touring air show across the country (often referred to as a "Flying Circus") with the aim of showing people how great flying was and to promote the industry in general. His slogan in the show Programme was "Making the Skyways Britain's Highways". The shows had a variety of displays including aerobatics, parachute jumps and wing-walking – they were very popular. There are some photos online showing some of the flights including one in the Addington area – search for "Britain From Above".

The story of Addington Airfield starts with an application being made to use the land at Milne Park. In many ways this was an ideal location, at least before the growth in housing. A long and fairly wide field past the main shopping area, it was deemed perfectly suitable.



The application was initially rejected by Croydon Corporation but later overturned by the Ministry of Health. Now I can guess what some of you may be thinking . . . it turns out that the Ministry of Health Act 1919 had a clause in stating it should “take all such steps as may be desirable to secure the preparation, effective carrying out and co-ordination of measures conducive to the health of the people” – quite a wide brief. It took over the functions of the Local Government Board and some of its key responsibilities were Planning, Housing and Environmental Health.

What this all meant in practice was that they had the sway to turn aside the Croydon Corporation decision and approve the opening of the aerodrome. So Addington Airfield was developed. The Air Ministry officially sanctioned the use of an airfield on the site in 1932.

Aircraft sales agent Henly’s established a flying training and maintenance airfield on the site after the plan was initially refused, but they didn’t stay long, moving to Heston in 1931.

The airfield was used as a landing ground for aircraft from Croydon and in 1933 by British Air Transport for training.

It was however only viewed as temporary and finally closed in 1936 when the whole area was seen as a much-needed housing area, as it remains today albeit retaining the field and play facilities.

When I visited the area to make my short video it was very easy to visualise the existence of an airfield. But with Biggin Hill only 2 miles away and more able to support the growing need to plan for World War II it made sense to shift the focus in the Milne Park area to building housing.

I don’t have any official photographs of the area at the time and if anyone can provide some or any other artefacts, I would be very grateful.

There is a very rich history in this area some of which I continue to investigate for potential short films. I am sure that during the research process many more surprises will come to light!

Phil Swallow

Thefts from vans and cars

We have received reports of a spate of thefts from vans. The vans are followed by a car and when they park, the people leave the van unlocked whilst unloading. The car draws up close, the thieves try the doors and empty as many tools and other items as they can, then drive off. Many incidences of this have happened lately and wallets etc from at least three vans have managed to be returned.

Other incidents have been reported on cameras from houses so lookout for the following.

- look to see if you are being followed when parking
- when removing items from any vehicle lock the doors immediately
- report any suspicious activity to the police
- don't leave items in view ie coats which could contain wallets
- test alarms on any cars
- lock car doors even when leaving for a moment
- report ANY incidences to the police
- Share any information on group apps ie Whatsapp, or with neighbours

Keep a look out for a white estate car with 3 people in it which has been reported to the police on numerous occasions involved with these thefts.

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We had a fantastic December, Santa had a blast visiting his young chums, and the street visits provided over £11,500 so kindly donated by you. Thank you so much.

Visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth/> to find out what we have been doing in 2021.

What's going on in 2022 ?

We kick off with our annual Quiz Night on Saturday 5th March at All Saints Church Hall in Sanderstead. This is a fun evening, so please contact me to enter a team.

Next up, our Reachout day on Saturday 19th March. This exciting event features over one hundred elderly folk who will be transported to the hall ahead of a three-course meal being served, followed by entertainment. We look forward to this event, great fun & our guests always have a great time.

April will see our Easter Egg hunt in conjunction with the local shops across our patches.

There's much more to come. If you are interested in joining us or finding out more about Rotary please get in touch

Rotary Rocks

If you would like to know more about Rotary please visit
facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth/>
Website - <https://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com/>
or ring 07774 186 792 to speak to Wendy Parr

It's Gold and Platinum time!

This year I will become a golden septuagenarian. Why? How come? Well, I'll be 70 years old in April 2022 (hence my retiring) and Jen and I will be married for 50 years in July. Yes, I did get married young and in those days in South Africa, if you were under 21 years of age, you had to get your fathers permission to get married. He signed the papers willingly! So, it's 'Gold and Platinum time!' Two of the most expensive metals known to man and only eclipsed in value by diamonds.

I did a little digging on the Internet the other day. I leave the digging in the garden to others more equipped or talented in that field than myself. Apparently, the approximate moment when grumpiness kicks in for men, is around age 70. Now as much as I might vehemently disagree with this notion, my family would most certainly nod their heads in agreement. Yes, it would be very embarrassing for me, but there's a saying *Tell the truth and shame the devil.* Although the 1993 movie, 'Grumpy Old Men', starring Jack Lemon and Walter Mathau, was quite funny to watch. There is an upside to being 70, the same study shows that grumpiness it's not always a bad thing. Grumpy men actually live longer! (*Now who in their right minds would want to inflict that on society?*) Plus, it is a proven fact that 70-year-old men get fewer colds. Not only do our brains get wiser from age but our immune system can remember more viruses that we have experienced over the years. Thus, the cumulative protection translates into fewer colds. AND there is a decline in being affected by allergies, because as you age the production of an antibody called Immunoglobulin E also diminishes with age. If you want to know more about it look it up on the Internet and become dazzled by science and the wonder of knowledge. Even if it may not be quite so useful.



There are other exciting things to look forward to in becoming 70. I will need to renew my driver's license. Exciting, yes? I can even change my photograph and show all and sundry how relaxed and amazing I look now. I bought a new T-shirt on holiday, and this is a picture of the front, 'I'm a **'Genuine Antique Person'**. My grandchildren looked at it and simply agreed. Admittedly I was a little hurt at first, but then I remembered all the valuable things I've seen on the 'Antique Road Show' and I felt a lot better.

My research on the Internet also included looking up the Biblical meaning of the number 70. And this is what I read –

Seventy has a sacred meaning in the Bible that is made up of the factors of two perfect numbers, seven (representing perfection) and ten (representing completeness and God's law). As such, it symbolizes perfect spiritual order carried out with all power. It can also represent a period of judgment.

70 represents COMPLETION, WHOLENESS, THE REAL THING.

70 is OPPORTUNITY, POTENTIAL

That encouraged me even more. I can only thank God for his gracious favour towards me over the past nearly 70 years of my life. He has watched over me and protected me all these years. He has truly been my strength and shield. That deals with the *Platinum*.

As for the *GOLD* – I have an absolutely, fantastic wife. She has stood by me and looked after me for nearly 50 years. We have worked together in ministry for almost as long as we've been married (she's a Minister in her own right!) and she has encouraged, equipped and empowered people, young and old. She is truly my soulmate and my strongest supporter.

My testimony is found in the words of Romans 12 vs 1-3. I get great encouragement from these words, especially as they are found in The Message translation. It's my prayer that you may be encouraged as you read them, especially at the beginning of the New Year 2022.

May God Bless you,

Bennie Harms (Lay Pastor)

Place Your Life Before God - Romans Chapter 12

1-2 So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

3 I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

Next Issue - The next issue will be produced in April 2022. 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.

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Panoramic Windows	11 Hamsey Green, Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 9BX Telephone 020 8651 2461
Paul Sinden Tree Surgery	Paul Sinden, Hillside House, Glossop Road South Croydon, CR2 CR2 0PW (Mail Only) Telephone 020 8686 9207 (24 hours) This contractor is on Croydon Council's 'approved' list
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Should you come across a tradesperson you could recommend please email the editor.



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Timeout Magazine

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Hardens

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