

The ADDINGTON

Quarterly Magazine 2023 - Issue 1



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To contact any member of the committee by email please send your message to addingtonresidents@gmail.com stating 'For the attention of...'

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Addington Residents' Association

Object of the Association:

To ascertain the opinions of the residents and to lay them before appropriate authorities when desirable

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Chairman's Report

On behalf of the committee I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

I hope you all have had a pleasant holiday with visits from family and friends.

The last three months have been fairly quiet. As we all know the council has no money so not too much is happening with them. We have tried to establish when the new Bus shelters are going to be put in place. Some progress has been made but no firm date has been given.

One positive is that the children's play-area in Addington Park has been refurbished.

The situation at the bottom of Huntingfield/Falconwood Road is the same. No new planning application has been issued and it seems that Devogrove and Stuart Barrs are in dispute over who is going to clear up what.

During the last three months we have attended meetings at the London Green Belt Council and at Croydon Council Planning committee.

We have created a WhatsApp group called ARA community. Please join this group to make it easier to communicate with the committee and use it to report anything you want the committee to look at.

Please note that the committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month, except August, at 8pm in room 4, Addington Methodist Church, Huntingfield. Residents are allowed to attend these meetings as observers. If you have any issues you can raise them at these meetings.

Wiktor M Molleskog, Chairman, ARA

Letter of Thanks

5th November 2022

Mr Wiktor Molleskog
The Addington Residents Association
Addington

Dear Wiktor

Thank you so much for the very generous donation of £200 to the Addington Methodist Lunch Club towards the annual Christmas lunch for the members of our weekly lunch club.. This will be held on 15 December and we will provide a Traditional Christmas dinner and a small gift to 16 local Senior citizens, all of whom live alone.

God bless you

Yours sincerely

Jenny Harma
Convenor

Research and Sir John Leigh

In this edition there are two topics and both are connected.

British Newspaper Archive

I spend a lot of time researching history, mainly local but sometimes relating to events further away. The internet is great, but too often there is very little information or in the case of Public Records and County Libraries, there may be record titles but you then have to book appointments and travel to wherever in order to find out what they actually contain.

On many of my searches I have seen results relating to the British Newspaper Archive. I decided to take a closer look and sure enough it is exactly what the title says, an online archive of British Newspapers that you can search and get the results from immediately. They offer a free trial of three pages of results but after that there are pricing options to choose from. Generally, there are savings to be made by paying annually and this was my favoured option but even so, I stalled initially and then after a few days they contacted me with a discounted on the original annual price and I signed up! I have to say that since then I have been like a kid in a sweet shop.

They currently have over 62 million pages online going back to the 1700s and scan thousands more each week. I was not originally aware of just how many titles Croydon had over the years, the ones I have seen so far are:

Croydon Advertiser and East Surrey Reporter, Croydon Chronicle and East Surrey Advertiser, Croydon Express, Croydon Guardian and Surrey County Gazette, Croydon Observer, Croydon Post, Croydon Times, Croydon's Weekly Standard

Whilst I am still finding my way around, it has already proved valuable in my research. I have noticed that stories that would only be covered locally nowadays were typically reported some distance away in the past. The oldest record I could find for anything to do with Croydon came from a report of a fire in Waddon in April 1719, published in the Irish publication: "Pue's Occurrences".

Sir John Leigh

I have already delved into many Addington references and stories but one of the earliest I could find relates to Sir John Leigh, the last member of the Leigh family who owned the manorial estate of Addington.

The Ipswich Journal dated Saturday 19 May 1733 reports of the recent marriage between Sir John Leigh of Addington in Surrey, aged about 70, and Elizabeth Wade, aged about 18, daughter of Mr Wade, an apothecary from Bromley “who lately cured Sir John of a mortification in his toe”. A few points here. Firstly, note what I said about “local” news – Ipswich is around 90 miles from Addington. Secondly, they refer to Sir John being “about 70” when in reality he was 51/52 but apparently was in very poor health indeed.

Sir John was dependent upon Mr Wade and his surgeon partner Mr Douglas, to take care of his health needs (in particular his feet). Mr Wade and Mr Douglas thought that through the union of Elizabeth and Sir John there would be an opportunity to inherit part of the Leigh family’s Addington estate. However, Elizabeth died in 1736. Sir John then updated his will and died in November 1737 and is buried in St Mary’s Churchyard.

With no heirs there was a period of legal challenges lasting several years before Barlow Trecothick bought the estate in January 1768. This ended the 300 year ownership of the Addington estate by the Leigh family.

The Church of England purchased Addington Manor in 1808, changing Addington Place to Addington Palace and carrying out major improvements to the house. It is well worth a visit to St Mary’s Church in Addington Village as there are references to the estate owners and the Archbishops of Canterbury who resided at Addington Palace, all around the church.

I am delighted to add the British Newspaper Archive to my set of resources, it really helps to colour the journey back in time and uncover more details about those who lived in our area long before us.

As always, please feel free to contact me via my mobile: 07884 435112 or email on philswallow63@gmail.com if you have anything relating to local history to share.

Next Issue - The next issue will be produced in April 2023. 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.

The Shetland Bus



When Germany launched <Operation Weserubung>, the invasion of Norway in April 1940, French and British troops and ships were sent to help the Norwegians.

Several coastal towns were bombed and destroyed by the Germans, and during April and May the British ships had to retreat from mid-Norway. At the end of April, HMS Glasgow left the devastated City of Molde with King Haakon VII, Crown Prince Olav, members of the Norwegian Government, and most of the gold from the Norwegian National Bank onboard, bound for Britain.

In northern Norway the fighting lasted for another month. A few weeks after the occupation the first boats of an armada of fishing vessels and other boats began to arrive in Shetland. Some boats made several journeys across the North Sea carrying refugees.

Many of the boats were Hardanger Cutters, with straight bow and long stern from the Bergen area, others the more rounded Møre Cutters from the area around Ålesund. The Møre Cutter was the strongest and best-fitted for the weather of the North Sea. The boats were of many kinds and shapes, but most of those used as a “Shetland Bus” were from 50-70 feet (15–21m) long, with two masts and equipped

with a 30 to 70 hp single-cylinder semi-diesel engine, which made the characteristic “tonk-tonk”.

In late 1940, both the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) and the Special Operations Executive (SOE) established a base in Lerwick. SIS later moved to Peterhead. They asked some of the Skippers of the boats coming from Norway if they would return to deliver agents and bring others back to Shetland. This went on throughout the winter 1940-41. In early 1941 it was decided formally to establish a group of men and Boats to assist the SIS and the SOE.

The main purpose of the group was to transfer agents in and out of Norway and provide them with weapons, radios and other supplies. They would also bring out Norwegians who feared arrest by the Germans. Sometime the group was involved in special operations, like the failed attack on the battleship Tirpitz, Operation Archery, the raids on Måløy and Operation Claymore in the Lofoten Islands.

The men put in charge of organising the group were a British Army officer, Major Leslie Mitchell and his assistant Lieutenant David Howarth. For their headquarters they found a perfect location in Lunna Ness north of Lerwick.

Lunna Ness had a sheltered harbour from which the boats could operate and a small population that were not too curious about what was going on and Lunna House was used as accommodation for the boat crews.

At first there were fourteen fishing boats of various sizes. The original Shetland Bus boat, the Aksel, skippered by August Nærøy, departed for Bergen from Hamna Voe, on the west side of Lunna Ness, on 30 August 1941. This was the first Shetland Bus. The fishing boats were used until the middle October 1943, but after some losses and the Germans became wiser to what was going on, it was decided faster vessels were necessary. In October 1943 the US Navy officially transferred three submarine chasers to the Shetland Bus operation.

These craft were 110 feet long and powered by two 1200 hp diesel engines, capable of a top speed of 22 knots, with a normal cruising speed of 17 knots.

When the submarine chasers arrived the group became an official part of the Royal Norwegian Navy and was named the Royal Norwegian Naval Special Unit.

The group made 198 trips to Norway during the war with fishing boats and submarine chasers. The Shetland Bus transported 192 agents and 389 tons of weapons and supplies to Norway and brought out 73 agents and 373 refugees, but unfortunately 44 persons were lost during the operation of the Shetland Bus.

To be continued in the next issue of the Magazine



What a busy few weeks it was on the run up to Christmas. Santa switched on the Xmas Lights in both Selsdon & Sanderstead, then visited Sanderstead, Selsdon & Hamsey Green throughout December. On Christmas morning we had breakfast then delivered food parcels to elderly house bound folk across our areas.

We are so very grateful for those who

volunteered to help with the collections. If you are interested in volunteering please get in touch with me directly.

What of the new year ?

We will be holding our Annual Quiz on Saturday 4th March 2023 at St Antony's Church Hall in Hamsey Green.

Our annual Ramble will be held on Sat 20th May. It starts & ends at St Mary's Church Hall in Farleigh. You gather sponsorship for the charity of your choice, retain 60%, with the remaining 40% supporting our Rotary charities.

Our annual Reachout day for the elderly will be held on 17th June at All Saints Church Hall in Sanderstead. More details will follow but do please put these dates in your diary now.

There are many more events in 2023 & all details will follow.

We are very excited about the defib units which will be launched at All Saints Church Hall in Sanderstead in January, plus Sanderstead Library, the new Totsstar Nursery in Selsdon & St Johns Church Hall, Selsdon. All will be installed & launched in early 2023.

Wendy Parr, 07774186792 <https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth>



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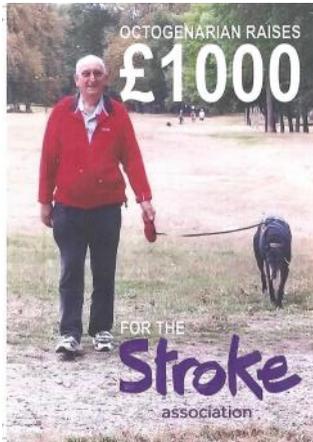
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The information above is provided in good faith from recommendations received by us. We cannot however, take any responsibility for any of the traders listed and you should always be prepared to ask for references from the traders themselves.

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

Charity walk for The Stroke Association



Dear Geoff,

I would like to thank you for the kind donation of £1000 to the Stroke Association which you raised by doing a charity walk with your dog Flo and help from your neighbour Andy. This is an amazing achievement and we really appreciate your support.

The donation will support stroke survivors on their journey of recovery, and help them find hope after stroke. It means we can provide specialist support, fund critical research and campaign to make sure people affected by stroke get the very best care and support to rebuild their lives. Please pass on our thanks to everyone who contributed.

We are dedicated to rebuilding lives after stroke but we cannot do it alone, so thank you again for being part of this team effort.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Boon
Supporter Relations Officer

Stroke
association

80 years young Geoff Jordan, an Addington Residents' Association member, thought it would be nice to give something back to the Stroke Association who had supported him after suffering two strokes and four heart attacks in recent years.

He approached local residents asking if they would support him doing a sponsored walk around the perimeter of Addington Park to raise funds for the charity. The response from members of the Residents' Association was very positive with over £775 being pledged.

Geoff is a very independent person having lived on his own for the last 17 years after the death of his beloved wife of 43 years, his only companion now being his greyhound Flo who was one of only six surviving dogs from the 27 that had been abandoned by travellers on wasteland.

This sums up Geoff's attitude to life, he is one of life's survivors. He has not only survived his strokes but in the 80s was a survivor when armed robbers attacked the Unigate dairy he was the manager of, hoping to snatch the weekly takings. Despite being shot at numerous times with pump action shotguns, his quick thinking not only resulted in preventing the loss of a large amount of money, but undoubtedly saved the lives of his colleagues, and resulted in him receiving commendation letters for his actions.

Geoff completed the walk on his own with his dog Flo (obviously with observers along the route) and duly completed the distance and received the pledged amount. However when he mentioned to members of his masonic lodge that he had hoped to raise £1000, the members immediately put their hands in their pockets and made up the shortfall to enable a very nice donation to be made to a worthwhile charity.

Geoff is over the moon and he is so grateful for the generosity of the Addington Residents' Association and the Hayes Kent Lodge for their support to make his goals achievable, so much so he is contemplating a further charity walk this spring..... WATCH THIS SPACE!!

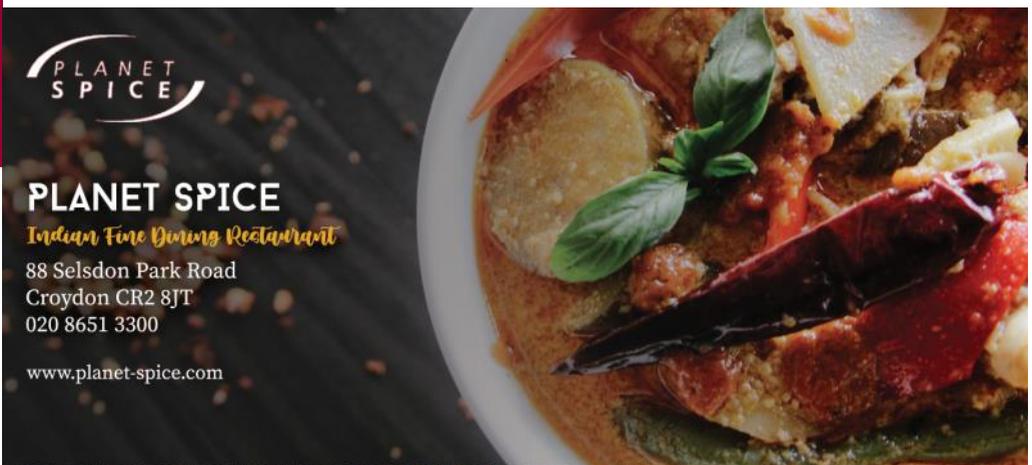
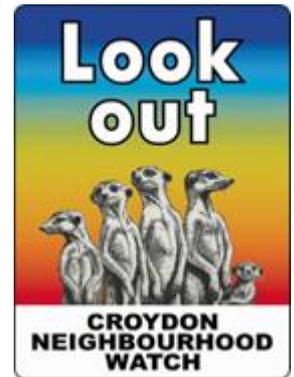
Croydon Trading Standards - Community Alert

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute has issued a stark warning in regards to the number of scams appearing in relation to the cost of living crisis and wants to warn consumers about unwittingly engaging with scammers.

CTSI Lead Officer for Scams and Doorstep Crime, Katherine Hart, said: 'There has been a huge surge in energy-efficiency scams offering rebates and offers to apply for grants. With the rise of costs in fuel bills and the cost-of-living concerns during the upcoming winter months, I urge the public to be on its guard because these types of emails and texts are attempts to scam. I also expect that scammers will target households regarding the £150 Disability Cost of Living payment. Households don't need to apply for the rebate as suppliers are automatically applying it to bills for six months'. If consumers receive emails or texts out of the blue, then report texts to 7726, emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and delete the message.

How to protect yourself

Energy Bill Discount : £400 off energy bills for households in Great Britain from October 2022. You do not need to apply for the scheme and you will not be asked for your bank details. Disability Cost of Living Payment: £150 rebate. You do not need to apply for the scheme and you will not be asked for your bank details.



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