

The ADDINGTON

Quarterly Magazine 2024 - Issue 1



Matthew on Remembrance Sunday

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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

I am delighted to share a recap of the significant endeavours and events that have shaped our community over the past year. It is my hope that this report serves as a source of inspiration and guidance for each of you.

In the spirit of the festive season, why not reminisce about the joyous celebrations of Christmas and the welcoming of the New Year. Many in our community here came together to spread cheer and kindness, exemplifying the true essence of the holiday season.

The year 2023 was a testament to our community's resilience and unity. The use of the various local WhatsApp groups has allowed many residents to sell, give-away or swap a large range of items from garden items to furniture to clothing. I picked up some lovely free plants from Featherbed Lane and bagged a bargain kitchen stool as well! All these freebies throughout the year have helped some of us declutter, helped those struggling with finances and helped the environment by reusing and recycling everyday items. Well done to those involved in these giveaways and long may it continue.

Another successful way to rid your house clutter was taken up by twelve households last year when the ARA Committee organised its very first Boot Fair - or Jumble Trail as it became known. Residents were invited to place tables outside the front of their house and place items for sale on them. Effectively a home Boot Sale, it became a Jumble Trail as many residents walked from one house to the next seeking out bargains. Again, Richard and I managed to pick up some bargains but, more importantly, managed to rid the house of a LOT of unwanted items. Everyone that got involved contributed a small fee to the ARA in exchange for promoting the event and this year I am confident the event will be even bigger as it will be held on Easter Sunday, 31st March 2024. Look out for the leaflet in early March with the information but to participate, please send an email to addingtonresidents@gmail.com.

Challenges last year included what appears to be an increase in crime as more and more of us share incidents caught on CCTV or Ring doorbells. The committee have met with the local police contacts on numerous occasions and discussions are still under way as to how best to tackle this issue. One thing is clear, if you see a crime in action – dial 999 immediately.

Another challenge in 2023 was the planning application the council received for the plot of land the entrance of which is on the corner of Huntingfield and Falconwood Road. As most will know, the land was damaged, and gates put up illegally and without the landowner's permission before the committee were able to take action. Thanks to the efforts of a large number of residents, the council finally rejected the planning application, but an appeal may be lodged. The landowners met with committee members and have expressed an interest in developing the land. This may be a long-term plan, but the Committee will keep the residents informed and consulted at every stage.

Whilst on challenges, the ARA is currently on the lookout for someone to fulfil the role of Secretary. The role is fairly simple and involves attending one meeting a month. Applications – or questions - are invited by email to addingtonresidents@gmail.com. If you want to find

out more of what we do, please visit the ARA website: www.addington-residents.co.uk

Looking ahead, I am filled with anticipation for the opportunities and challenges that the new year will bring. As we navigate through the winter months, let us remain mindful of those in need within our community and extend a helping hand wherever possible.

In this issue, you will find valuable information and resources to help the local community, and a heartwarming story about a Last Post trumpet rendition by Matthew in Falconwood Road. Along with many other residents on that day, I listened to it with joy and was so pleased (though not surprised) to learn that, due to his amazing fundraising efforts, Matthew had been nominated for a Bromley Rotary Club Youth Award. And he won! Well done, Matthew!

There is an article by Sheila Kemble about an idea she has to start a Trading Services group. There are many of us with skills, and time, to help our neighbours if the need arises.

From hints and tips to local events and activities, we want this Magazine to provide content that enriches your daily lives and fosters a sense of belonging, so please do feel free to send in your own contributions. Whether it's a local story, a photo, a new directory contact, a wordsearch, an idea or an article on your hobby, please do send in contributions to: addingtonresidents@gmail.com.

I extend my gratitude to each of you for your support and dedication to our community. Together, let us embark on this new year with optimism and a shared commitment to making our neighbourhood an even better place to call home.

Warm regards, Shabbir Halai, Chair, Addington Residents' Association



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Next Issue - The next issue will be produced in April 2024. 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.

Matthew's Last Post

We recently received this lovely letter from a very proud family in Falconwood Road:

On Remembrance Sunday 2023, Matthew Pollard played the last post on Falconwood Road raising funds for the Poppy Appeal. Matthew has been playing the trumpet since he was 7 years old, he is now working towards his grade 8 exam and plays with the Bromley Youth Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra.

He is also in a Big Band and is now readying himself for a series of concerts playing pieces including Cole Porter's 'Night and Day' and Simon and Garfunkel's 'Bridge over Trouble Water', 'Vltava' by Smetana and Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'. We are incredibly thankful for the support and generosity of the neighbourhood. He raised £334.76 in total and the British Legion has now received the funds raised.

UPDATE 24th December 2023:

“As a result of Matthew’s fundraising he was nominated for a Bromley Rotary Club Youth Award... and he won it! He will be attending a ceremony held by the Mayor of Bromley in January to collect his award for charity work.

The ARA Committee join with the rest of the neighbours in sending out our heartfelt “Well done and Congratulations” to Matthew on his amazing achievement.



The Vine Foodbank

An Interview with Emma Spencer of the Salvation Army

When did The Vine Foodbank start and why?

The Salvation Army in New Addington has always supported people in need, and that often required food parcels. Initially we worked out of a small room at the back of the church building but as need increased, we felt a more formal expression of food support was needed. In short, I approached the council to ask if they had a building we could use to open as a foodbank. They offered us the building now known as The Vine. It was initially a scout hut and the building was in bad shape, but we rallied some volunteers and approached local groups and businesses for help. With a new kitchen, some new toilets and a fresh coat of paint we opened The Vine in 2014. We chose the strapline 'More than a foodbank' with the intention of supporting those referred to us with more than a food parcel; signposting clients to other helpful services so that any issues behind the food poverty could be addressed.

Why did the Salvation Army choose New Addington for a Foodbank?

The Salvation Army in New Addington has a heart to serve the community within which it resides and so the foodbank is an expression of the love the church has for the community.

How has the Foodbank changed over the years?

Very little has changed other than some small tweaks in the way we work. We are always trying to work more effectively and are constantly reflecting our practices, ensuring we are meeting needs but also being good stewards of the food and financial donations we receive.

Who qualifies for this service?

The foodbank operates using a referral system. This allows for those who know the clients and their circumstances to verify that they are genuinely in need. If someone does turn up without a referral, we give them an emergency one day bag of food and encourage them to get a referral so we can help them further. Our referral partners have expanded to include many different organisations and professionals and include schools, churches, childrens' centres, social services, DWP, Croydon Council, GP surgeries, health visitors etc. We ask partners to give a brief reason for referral and reasons tend to be low income, loss of income, physical illness, mental health illness, awaiting benefits, etc.

We stress that this is emergency help, so parcels are given either as a one off or for four weeks of consecutive weekly support for those whose needs are greater. For

those who have No Recourse to Public Funds we offer weekly support until such time as their circumstances change.

How many does the Foodbank help?

Our numbers fluctuate but we currently help around 24-30 families a week. Numbers usually increase in the weeks running up to Christmas and into the New Year.

Where do donations come from?

We have three collection points for the foodbank. These are Sainsburys in West Wickham and Selsdon and Lidl in New Addington. We also have churches in the community and further afield who give regularly and individuals who also donate. At certain times of the year, such as Harvest and Christmas, we have donations from schools and churches. We also receive regular support from Purley Food Hub.

How much food do you get through?

Each client is given several bags of food and a bag of toiletries and cleaning products. Large families get extra bags. On average a family will leave with three bags of food and a bag of toiletries. So currently in a week where we have served 30 people we would have given out approximately 80-100 bags of food and 30 bags of toiletries. We also have children's clothes, coats for men, women and children and household items.

How many volunteers and hours?

We have about 30 volunteers on the rota. Some help each week, some help once a month and some help us when we are really short of manpower! The foodbank is open for an hour on Tuesday evenings for food sorting, dating and shelving. Wednesday and Saturday's the foodbank serves clients for two hours from 10am -12 noon. We also have volunteers who pick up from the supermarket every week. At Christmas we run a large program supplying food and gifts for 200 families and then many volunteers and many hours are needed!

Plans and hopes for the future?

In an ideal world it would be lovely if we no longer needed the foodbank but sadly,

we don't anticipate that happening. So our hope is that we can continue to support those who need help and that we can play a part in helping people to move from living in a place of need to living in a more comfortable position. Ultimately we want people to leave feeling loved and cared for!



Interview by Richard Fanthome

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Can we be more neighbourly?

I recently received a thankyou letter from a Charity I have long supported, which among other work in developing countries helps to provide resilience, disaster prevention and support towards self sufficiency. There was a little leaflet included 'Would you know what to do in an emergency' with the suggestion to fill in the card with numbers of home insurance, doctor, energy supplier etc. and to pin it on the fridge. However, the final line gave me pause for thought; the number of a trusted neighbour who might I call on, not only in an emergency but for issues not appropriate for professional help.

We have lived in Falconwood Road for almost 12 years and feel very comfortable here. We enjoy the convenience, with nearby shops and transport and also the proximity to the countryside as we love walking and exploring the footpaths. We do know a few neighbours but it has not been easy to feel a real sense of friendship except for a few. If we were in difficulties I am not sure that I would feel able to ask for help. We are fortunate to have my children not far away but not everyone is in that position and people could feel very alone and at a loss.

This reminded me of a group that we belonged to in the past called LETS (Local Exchange Trading System). The idea is that those who belong to the group do so on the understanding that they will trade either goods, their time or skills freely. This could take the form of babysitting, offering spare garden plants, lending tools, feeding pets when owners are away, IT advice etc. The possibilities are endless and sometimes those less mobile or active can offer in other ways such as knitting, or advice about repairs etc. The point is that everyone feels able to ask for help if they need it because the system is for mutual support and not dependent on money.

One example from our former LETS group was of one member, a single man who broke his leg. For a couple of weeks he really needed help as he had no family nearby, but his skill was IT. The system is not quite like bartering, where the exchanges are immediate, but go towards a balance within the group, as people do not necessarily want something in return at that point, but feel able to call when they do.

The spirit of neighbourliness was apparent during the Covid lockdown when those more vulnerable were dependent on help, but by being able to offer something in exchange feels much more independent and life enhancing. I would hate to think that someone nearby needed help but I didn't know about it. This is the way resilient communities have operated in the past. As human beings we do need each other.

I wonder how other local residents feel about reviving this idea? For those who belonged to babysitting groups it is along the same lines but with broader offerings. I think in order to develop the trust that is at the heart of being good neighbours we need to know each other personally and start with a smallish group (about a dozen) who sign up to the scheme with a list of what they can offer as a start and to discuss how it might work in practice. Maybe then it can be widened to include more people from our neighbourhood

A happy new year to everyone and I hope to get to know you better.

Sheila Kemble

Please email addingtonresidents@gmail.com if you are interested in starting/joining a group.

Rotary



Sanderstead & Selsdon

In December, across Selsdon, Sanderstead & Hamsey Green, Santa had the best time switching on Xmas Lights, having breakfast and supper with friends & visiting his young chums. So many 'Shout-Outs', so many young chums to chat with on the way round, Santa had a blast.

Thank you for your generous donations which allow us to provide support & care to those in need throughout the year. On our Facebook page we will run the twelve days of Xmas blog which tells you just how we spend the money you give to us.

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

On behalf of all those who benefit for your kind and generous donations, Thank you so much.

What of 2024?

We will have our Quiz Night on Saturday 2nd March - watch this space for details of the big night. More events to come in the new year.

If you would like to be involved with Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon, do visit our website –

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

or call our Secretary on 07774-186 792.

Rotary & Santa Rock



Geoff does the double

Following the great success of last year's Sponsored Walk, 81 year old Geoff Jordan decided to try for a double.

He once again approached local residents and asked if they would sponsor him again for a walk around Addington Park, this time for the Alzheimer's Society.

The response was tremendous from the Addington Residents' Association.

August the 12th was the chosen date and Geoff started off at the entrance to Addington Park accompanied by his faithful rescue dog Flo, and press photographer Bob Tuthill.

Geoff made his way along the tram line and around the whole perimeter of the park, just stopping for a very short breather half way and finally reaching the finish at the carpark in a very fast time.

An exceptional achievement as only last year Geoff had suffered two strokes and very poor health and is now well on the way to recovery.

Geoff and his companion Flo are especially pleased with their efforts this year, not only for completing the walk for a second time but for doubling the amount raised making a very generous donation of £2,000 to the Alzheimer's Society.

Geoff is a member of Hayes (Kent) Freemason's Lodge, who raise a tremendous amount for Charity. The Lodge Secretary, Naz Cesur, stated that the amount raised by Geoff of £2,000 is a substantial amount for one member of the Lodge to contribute to Alzheimer's and now makes over £10,000 the Lodge has contributed this year to well deserving charities. Well done Geoff for achieving the double and the residents of Addington for their generous donations.

Will Geoff keep on walking for Charity....watch this space!



Geoff at the start, by the Tram and at the finish.



PUZZLE PAGES



Work Safety Wordsearch

W	E	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	I	O	N
M	A	S	K	A	C	R	T	P	X	A	S
Q	W	D	A	B	T	I	M	L	C	N	H
F	F	N	D	F	Y	C	S	A	G	H	A
I	R	V	H	T	E	W	U	J	L	T	Z
R	H	E	L	M	E	T	S	D	B	R	A
E	A	S	U	Y	I	G	Y	H	M	A	R
E	X	T	W	O	Y	I	P	J	G	I	D
X	F	S	N	H	P	W	T	S	M	N	S
I	G	O	G	G	L	E	S	J	V	I	D
T	I	Y	A	R	E	D	D	A	L	N	R
L	K	V	D	S	S	E	V	O	L	G	H

Find the following words and mark them.

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FIRE EXIT

LADDER

HAZARD

MASK

PROTECTION

TRAINING

SAFETY

CAUTION

GLOVES

GOGGLES

VESTS

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Complete the wordsearch and send it to 2 Palace Green CRO 9AG with your name, address and mobile number. Closing date is midnight Saturday 3rd February. All correct answers will be placed in a hat and a winner drawn at the ARA meeting on 6th February. Winner will be notified on the community WhatsApp group and in person.

Competition sponsored by Safety is the Key Ltd - Specialists in Simple, Sensible, Safety



Valentine's Quiz

1. Which Beatles Song was described by Frank Sinatra as the greatest love song written in the last 50 years.
2. Which fruit is associated with Venus, the Roman Goddess of Love.
3. Who wrote and directed the movie Love Actually.
4. Which famous explorer was killed on St. Valentines Day.
5. In which of Shakespeare's plays is St. Valentine's Day mentioned.
6. Who is the Welsh Patron Saint of Love whose day is celebrated on January 25th each year.
7. Which son of Aphrodite would you associate with Valentine's Day.
8. In the Jane Austin romantic novel Pride and Prejudice what is Mr. Darcy's first name.
9. In which Italian City is Romeo and Juliet set.
10. Which fence on the Grand National Course comes immediately before Valentines Brook.
11. Of which English King was Nell Gwyn the lover.
12. Mimi and Rudolfo were lovers in which of Puccini's operas.
13. In Roman Mythology with whom does Cupid fall in love.
14. About how many roses are sent for Valentine's Day each year.
15. Who invented the first Valentine's Day candy box.

Answers below

Quiz Answers:
1 Something; 2 Apple; 3 Richard Curtis; 4 Captain Cook; 5 Hamlet; 6 St. Dwynwen; 7 Eros; 8 Fitzwilliam; 9 Verona; 10 Canal Turn; 11 King Charles II; 12 La Boheme; 13 Psyche; 14 50 Million; 15 Richard Cadbury

Prize Draw

NEW for 2024:

£100 to be WON in the ARA Magazine Quarterly PRIZE DRAW!

As you know, the ARA Committee meet once a month to discuss local issues and ways to help the local community. We want to thank you for paying your annual magazine contribution as it helps the Association fulfil its objectives and deal with issues.

In 2024, we have decided to introduce a Free Prize Draw where, every 3 months, three local residents will win a total of £100 cash! How we hear you ask! Well, we have kept the rules very simple: every subscriber that has paid their annual subscriptions fee will have their name placed into the prize and so has an equal chance of winning a prize!

We want to raise the profile of the magazine so encourage you to get more involved by sending in ideas, suggestions or contributions. In return, we want to make the magazine more useful and more like an invaluable guide and source of local information.

Rules:

Three winners will be drawn every 3 months at random by at least two committee members.

The winner's name and photo will be published in the next issue of the ARA Magazine (with permission).

1st Prize winner: £50 cash

2nd Prize winner: £30 cash

3rd Prize winner: £20 cash

You must be a resident in the ARA catchment area to be eligible to be entered into the prize draw.

You must have paid your most recent annual subscription (currently £5 a year) to be eligible to be entered into the prize draw.

One entry per year per resident annual subscription paid.

To check that you have paid your most recent subscription, email the Treasurer: Ian 1palace@blueyonder.co.uk

Only one prize per year per person.

In all matters, the majority decision of the ARA Committee is final.

If you have paid your annual subscription fee, you need do nothing – your name will be entered automatically. Every three months, three lucky winners will share £100 cash.

Good luck!

It sounds simple but every small step you take makes your home less attractive to a burglar

LOCK THEM OUT

Burglars get in through windows as well as doors - keep them locked

KEEP THEM GUESSING

Leave a light on when the streetlights come on

HIDE AND KEEP

Keep valuables away from prying eyes, and not in the same place

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DON'T GO INSIDE - DIAL 999

If you see a suspected burglar in your home

DON'T GO INSIDE - DIAL 999

If you've been burgled while you are out

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NEVER CONFRONT A BURGLAR OR RISK YOUR OWN
SAFETY

Be a hero. Stop crime on your doorstep

Roads that are part of ARA



Roads that are part of the ARA (Addington Residents Association):

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
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| Farleigh Dean Crescent | Farnborough Ave (2-20) | Farnborough Crescent |
| Featherbed Lane | Gravel Hill | Huntingfield |
| Kerr Close | Lomond Gardens | Palace Green |
| Rawlins Close | Selsdon Park Road (75-213) | |
| Silverwood Close | Waterworks Cottages | |

If you live in any of these roads, you will receive a quarterly magazine.

Residents are automatically members of the Residents' Association and can attend committee meetings should they wish. These are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm in the Huntingfield Methodist Church. Just email a request to us at: addingtonresidents@gmail.com.

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