



H.O.M.E

H.O.M.E RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Residents' Association



YOUR Residents' Association



WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

WWW.HOME.ADDISCOMBE.NET

FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/HOMERA

Welcome to our H.O.M.E Newsletter! Let us not mention Covid-19 but in passing. We will not say much about our own Council being bankrupt either.

You will find a crossword puzzle as well as some possible giveaways and useful information about our H.O.M.E patch. In any given year we would normally have two social events, where we would meet, chat, share food, have a drink, a raffle and discuss our concerns. This year we have managed only to see each other at Elgin Road Exercise Street outdoor events or as we went for walks. As we are determined to meet for our traditional New Year's Quiz, it has to be virtual this time so we'll see you on screen. Send an email to Ellen to put your names down asap (page 3). As always, our goal is to connect neighbours and keep our community together. If you need help or you can offer help, please get in touch, you will find contacts on page 8.

Let us not forget that H.O.M.E RA's mission, since 2014, has been to enhance and improve our environment through fighting bad planning applications and demanding better services. The biggest threat to our environment now is the ever-increasing traffic. There are more and more accidents and damage to vehicles and some near misses to people getting injured. You will find a personal experience of the impact of this change and where we are with our efforts to get the Council to do something for our roads (pages 4 and 5). The street trees have suffered too, though traffic damage, pollution, bad management and untimely pollarding. If you are keen to make our



streets and gardens greener and a wildlife haven, get in touch with me (see more on page 6). The gardens in our roads are spacious and are described as an asset in an important document called 'EIECA Appraisal and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document' (read more on page 7). This document is full of history of our area and is used to determine the planning applications.

Stay in touch, share your stories and experiences via our new Facebook page, or by signing-on to receive our e-newsletters. For those without internet we have given some phone numbers.

Let us, together, make our H.O.M.E a lovely home and an open community to all.

We wish everyone a much happier and healthier New Year 2021.

Merry Christmas!

Stay safe, keep in touch.

Mira Armour, Havelock Road - Chair

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H.O.M.E New Year's Quiz

Friday 8th January 2021 at 7:30 pm

Ellen has offered to do another H.O.M.E RA quiz night. Online, of course, from her new home in Cardiff. If you would like to join in, please email Ellen: ellen.forrester@outlook.com

Last year's quiz was held in the Builders' Arms and was a great success - we even had to turn people away.

Get your drinks and snacks ready, and join us for a virtual quiz. Invites will be sent via Ellen.

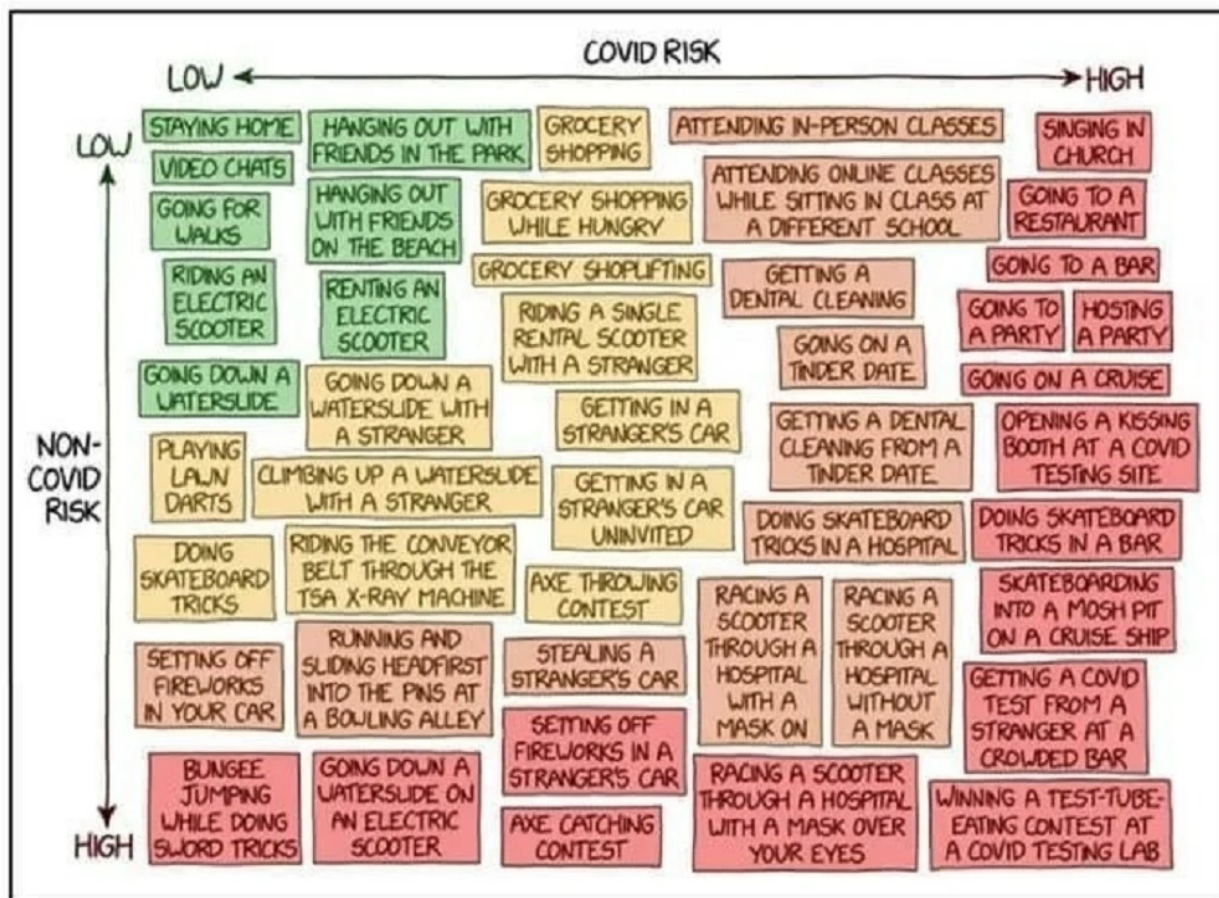
There will be a small prize!



Wales is notorious for rainy weather - this photo shows Ellen ready for cycling in Cardiff

Covid Testing

Need a COVID test? Go to Croydon University Hospital, Woodcroft Road entrance, where there is a drive-through swabbing pod. Follow the blue line round to Woodcroft Wing



The Council is slowly killing Us.

I have been a resident and property owner on Havelock Road for over 15 years. At the time I purchased my property, the H.O.M.E area was a quiet, clean and pleasant leafy neighbourhood with flourishing cherry blossom trees lining my street and birdsong at day break. It was so peaceful that hours could go by and all one could hear was the sound of nature and the odd distant voice.



*Cherry blossoms in bloom, Havelock Road, Spring 2012.
Photo: Courtesy of Max Woodley*

Since the Council's piecemeal changes starting in 2016, all of Croydon's traffic from busy A-roads, the A232 and A222 (Addiscombe and Lower Addiscombe Roads) has been pushed into our neighbourhood, the H.O.M.E area is a shadow of its former self in less than four years of noise pollution, dirt and a severe decline in air quality, not to mention the physical destruction caused by the onslaught of traffic that we are subjected to day and night without any relief.

My peaceful life has been shattered, I am not getting enough quality sleep even though I have tried earplugs, night time teas and meditation because of the traffic noise. The pollution in the air is so bad it has caused a decline in air quality inside, via air-vents, and outside the home. Even with a dehumidifier and ioniser, this is manifesting in headaches, fatigue, irritability. It is no longer possible to enjoy the garden because of the noise, vehicle fumes and dirt in the air. The Council is slowly killing us whether we choose to acknowledge it or not.

The tranquil life of a once healthy and thriving neighbourhood is gone. The cherry trees are dead, the dawn chorus is no more. It's time for each and every single resident of this HOME area to speak up so that enough stories are shared, enough thoughts are expressed and enough is done by the people we pay and vote into power so that the rot that has penetrated our neighbourhood and our lives can be eliminated. I want my street back to what it was when I took this photograph in 2012 and so should you dear Reader.

Just as the astronauts on the space station saw planet Earth begin to heal itself when the entire human race was forced to stop abusing it during the global lockdown this year, our streets can also heal if each of us speaks out and stops allowing the abuse we are experiencing by the ill-judged decisions of a Council that will eventually destroy what is still possible to salvage of our health and our environment with the united help of a strong community.

Max Woodley, Havelock Road

Traffic Matters

Safety on our roads continues to be a problem, we now live within a traffic corridor with rat running concentrated onto our residential streets. Since Covid-19 and the limitations of public transport, the situation has only got worse, with regular accidents (one of the latest involving a resident's car parked on Elgin Road sustaining extensive damage after being hit by a passing vehicle which failed to stop), constant noise and pollution.



Accident on Elgin Road June 2018

Council policy is to clamp down on rat running and promote active travel (walking and cycling), so after a 2 year long campaign for change, HOME RA is working with the Council to develop a scheme to reduce the rat running. The Council has recently committed to applying for national funding for this project under Streetspace (which should be accessible despite Croydon Council's dire financial situation), but we are still waiting for details, so watch this space...

Miriam De Souza, Elgin Road

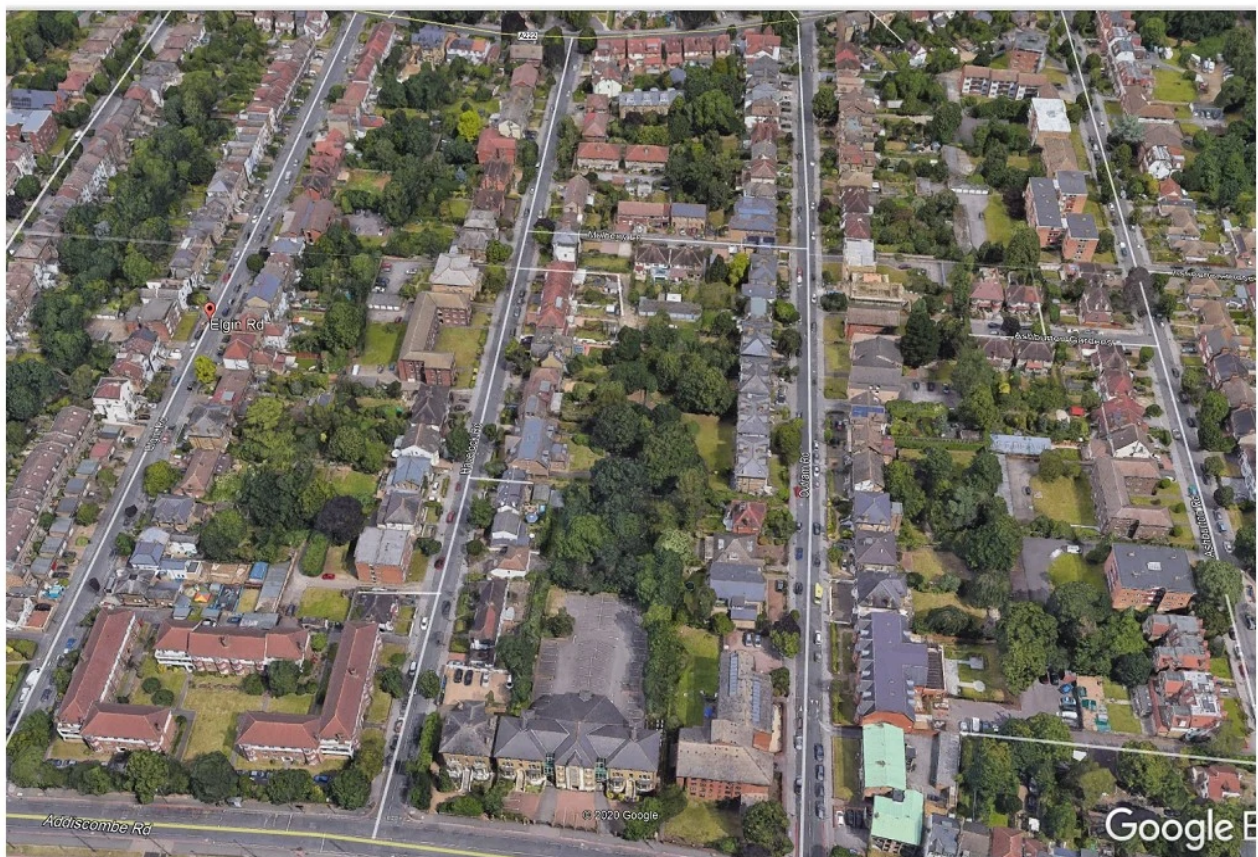
Trees, hedges and nature in our H.O.M.E

According to the Woodland Trust the hedgerows of the UK are invaluable to our wildlife, providing home to many of our native animals and corridors to travel for others. Hedgerows are so teeming with life that one study counted 2070 species in one 85 metre stretch. From the top of our roads to the bottom is around 200 metres. The Woodland Trust is giving away saplings - read on..

“Hedgerows are bejewelled with hawthorn berries, rose hips, sloes and a myriad of other fruits in the autumn, and can be a veritable larder for birds and small mammals preparing for winter. Migratory birds such as fieldfares and redwings that overwinter with us will also seek food from our hedgerows and traditional orchards.”

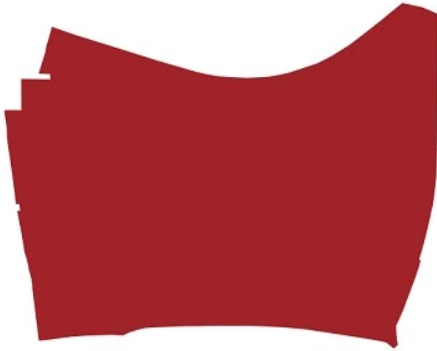
The Woodland Trust is giving away Urban tree packs or Hedge packs. Would you be interested in planting some along the back of your garden or even along the front boundary? We could have a lush and green wildlife haven from the top to the bottom of our H.O.M.E in a few years time. If you are interested do call Mira on 86546437. If we get at least 4 residents interested we can apply for a pack and share it.

For more information, visit the Woodland Trust website: <https://bit.ly/372iBVP>



An aerial view of H.O.M.E RA showing our gardens (via Google Earth)

EAST INDIA ESTATE
CONSERVATION AREA
APPRAISAL AND
MANAGEMENT PLAN



SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

CROYDON COUNCIL

This very interesting document about our area and its history can be found with this link: <https://bit.ly/2Kanraw>

Here is an extract:

4.4 GREENERY AND TREES

4.4.1 Street trees generally form avenues along either side of the streets. These, along with trees and planting in private front gardens makes a positive contribution to the area's attractive streetscape character.....

Where trees and soft landscaping have been removed from front gardens this has had a negative impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area.

4.4.2 Where street trees are established and well maintained, for example on Clyde Road (see section 6.2), the quality of the streetscape is higher. Distinctive tree species, for example the cherry trees on Havelock Road, also contribute to the quality of the area (see *Cherry Blossom photo taken in 2012 on page 4*).

Refuse Bins

Although Veolia are supposed to put your bins back over your home boundary, they don't, so please would you take your bins off the pavements as soon as possible after they've been emptied?

It is a hazard and illegal to clutter pavements.

Photos courtesy of Jenny Worstall, Simon Thompson, Mira Armour and Stan Goron





Croydon Covid-19 Mutual Aid

This organisation has mostly been helping the vulnerable and self-isolating with deliveries of food, but volunteers are also available to pick up prescriptions, walk dogs or just have a friendly chat. If you would like to get involved or you need help, please reach out by joining the Facebook Group (<https://bit.ly/39poluE>) or local WhatsApp group <https://bit.ly/3fiUYV0>

A Helping Hand or a Helping Ear

Would you either be able to help or would need help? Please let us know and if we have people willing we will put people in touch and help out. Since the first lockdown we have had some residents helping with shopping, dropping off post, picking up prescriptions, having a quick chat....

Do get in touch by email to Nick or Mira via athome@addiscombe.net or call Carol on 0203 441 1322

Carol Singing this Christmas?

Do you have a neighbour who would appreciate having a Carol sung for them outside their door? (no donations expected!)

Nominate them by ringing Carol on 0203 441 1322 and leaving their address. A few HOME members will come round early evening of 19 December. If you feel like singing carols, contact Carol! 😊

Carol Porter, Havelock Road

Elgin Exercise Street and Band

One of the memories that stood out from the spring lockdown was the Thursday night Clap for Carers

where we showed our joint appreciation for NHS staff and key workers. On Elgin Road, a group of musicians began to add live music to these evenings, as a way of showing our thanks. Music



has the ability to connect and uplift us, and it has been lovely seeing neighbours of all ages coming out to listen, sing along and even have a socially-distanced dance!

Kerry Atchison, Elgin Road

The Elgin Street Band plays for us when Elgin Road is closed as an Exercise Street.

Exercise Street closures can **ONLY** happen if there are enough volunteers to man the barriers. Please offer to help if you possibly can - it is fun. It would only be for half an hour if enough volunteer.

Please join our Facebook Group **'The Elgin Road Marvels'**.

This is the best way to find out about the next Elgin Road Exercise Street



Satellite Dishes

We are fortunate to live in a Conservation Area (mainly due to the distinct road layout and quality of the Victorian houses built after the closure of the East India College). Satellite dishes should not be visible from the road, and any replacement dishes must be repositioned so they are also not visible from the road.

New dishes continue to appear, and at some point the Council will instruct owners to remove them.

Full guidelines can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3m62Cub>

Surely it's better to place them out of sight to start off with?

Installers should be aware of the rules but they still ignore them.

Planning Matters

Go to the H.O.M.E website to find out about planning applications in our roads - it shows you what you can object to if you need to.



Two very unsuitable applications were made (and recently rejected) for land between Havelock and Outram Roads, just south of Mulberry Lane. One was for an ugly block of five flats on the site of the existing garages, which would have overlooked and blighted the outlooks of numerous properties. The other proposal was on an adjacent site, a pair of houses in the back gardens of 45-47 Outram. Thanks to all those who sent in objections. Several applica-

tions to turn houses into flats this year have been forced to reduce the number of flats, and some applications are on-going.

Check the Council's Planning website <https://publicaccess3.croydon.gov.uk/online-applications/> for details about any Planning Applications.



We recommend you register online with the Council so you can receive automatic notices of any Planning Applications in your area. On the webpage, click 'register'

Bob Porter, Havelock Road

Council Bankruptcy

You may be aware from the BBC and other media outlets, that Croydon Council has almost managed to effectively **bankrupt** itself. This is very serious for residents of Croydon, and will result in many services being moth-balled, possibly for at least three years.

Final details are yet to be revealed, but basically, only what are considered 'essential services' will be provided by our Council. Council Tax will need to go up by the maximum allowable, but we will still get little in return for our hard earned contributions.



Norman Young, Elgin Road



Your Committee

Committee members are residents within the H.O.M.E area and are all volunteers. If any other residents would like to get involved, do let us know!



Sue lives in Elgin Road, she is the Treasurer and runs the H.O.M.E in Bloom event. She is very keen to see more trees planted in Elgin Road and is one of the main helpers for the Elgin Road Exercise Street Closure.



Miriam lives in Elgin Road, has worked tirelessly on our traffic matters, and managed to get the Exercise Street set up for us - the ONLY road in Croydon to pursue the concept.



Norman helps in numerous areas on the Committee, lives in Elgin Road, has lived in Croydon nearly all his life (a retired Physics teacher). He is a founder members of H.O.M.E and is joint newsletter editor with Mira.



Bob and Carol live in Havelock Road. Carol is Secretary of our Residents' Association. Bob helps with planning applications and gives useful comments on any issues affecting our area.



Nick lives in Havelock Road, having grown up in Croydon as a boy. His special interest is traffic. He now works in education.



Mira lives in Havelock Road, has been the RA's Chair since it was formed in 2004, and was key to the setting up of the RA. She is Chair, and therefore has input into just about everything we do.



Jenny & Phil live in Ashburton Road. Phil reviews planning applications in Ashburton Rd/Close/Gardens and recommends what position H.O.M.E should take on these (support/object/no comment). Jenny assists with newsletter deliveries and reports any dumped rubbish to the council.

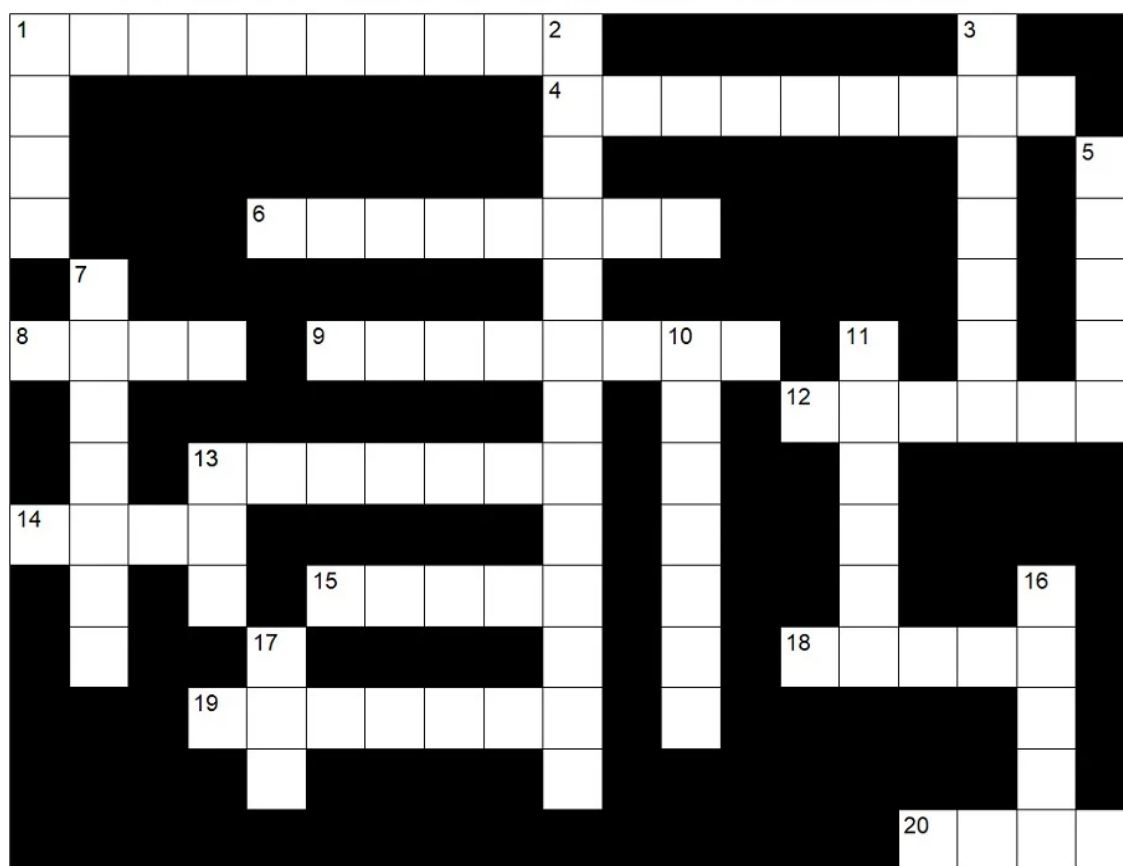


Ken lives on Ashburton Road, Sound and Vibration issues (Noise), Other environmental topics.



Name: _____ Contact: _____

A crossword to solve (some information can be found on our website)



ACROSS

1. Our nearest Tram Stop
4. One way road in our Residents' Association
6. One of our roads is named after a tree
8. Chorister sings alone
9. Road on which there is a hidden Grade II listed building, originally a gymnasium
12. Surname of one of our Councillors
13. A gift
14. Name of your RA
15. Surname on the Blue plaque on one of our roads (invented the teleprinter)
18. Addiscombe is thought to be Anglo-Saxon in origin, from a personal name (*use wikipedia*)
19. Name the footpath between our roads
20. One of our Conservation Area road signs has an error on it. What is it?

DOWN

1. Contains Santa's presents
2. Must not be fitted where visible from any road in our Conservation Area (2 word)
3. Carol singers use these to see by
5. Which road in Croydon has the greatest number of locally listed houses?
7. The name of the most distinguished cadet at the East India's Military Seminary at Addiscombe (look on H.O.M.E website)
10. Source of light on Christmas Table
11. Who collects your recycling?
13. Writing implement
16. Surname of our other Councillor
17. Grandpa *** all the mince pies

1st correct entry wins a bottle !

The answers will be revealed during the virtual Quiz Night. Send a picture of your answers to athome@addiscombe.net or drop off the page at No 44 Elgin Rd

Church Services

Here are details of how to find out what's going on:

St Mildred's Bingham Rd:

stmildredschurch.org.uk

Our Lady of the Annunciation,

Bingham Rd:

addiscombecatholicchurch.com

St Mary Magdalene, Croydon

Canning Road: stmmm.org.uk

Christ Church Methodist, Lower

Addiscombe Road :

christchurchmeth.org.uk

West Croydon Baptist

Church, Whitehorse Lane/St James'

Road: westcroydon.com



Neighbourliness and keeping well

The virus has given us one benefit - we are more likely to be 'neighbourly', looking out for those in need, talking to local people as we go out for walks, learning new skills and using our spare time to help others.

Do be kind and considerate to your neighbours. The NHS has brought us out to clap on a Thursday evening, We have made an effort to phone, Zoom, text and (when we can) meet with others. We have a sense of levelling-up - all wearing masks in local shops.

We hope that this newsletter is seen as a neighbourly local publication, and that it cheers you up as the days grow colder and shorter; Christmas lights are appearing in many homes, adding some festivity to our daily walks. So, when you are out and about, don't forget to say 'hello'!

How about joining your Residents' Association?

Royal Mail

Did you know that you can get your parcels collected instead of queuing at the Post Office? The additional cost is a very reasonable 72p. Web link for more info

<https://bit.ly/2VafVyM>

Please provide your contact details and e-mail address by either completing the details below, or preferably, registering online by going to home.addiscombe.net and selecting the 'Become a Member' tab. The database of contacts is used exclusively to inform members of RA events, activities and matters of interest to residents.

Name: _____

Address line 1: _____

Address line 2: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Phone No: _____

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY. Drop off completed form at 8 Elgin Road

Newsletter editors: Norman Young and Mira Armour

