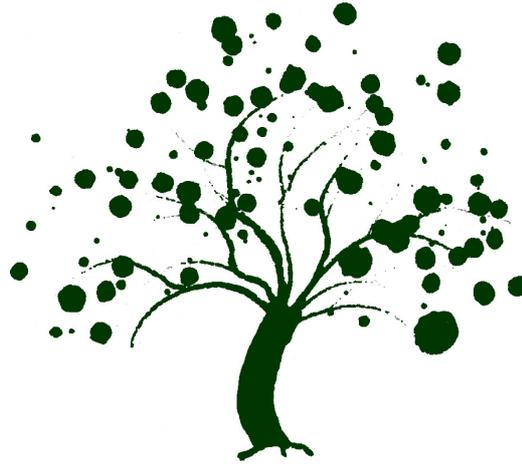




H.O.M.E

H.O.M.E RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



YOUR Residents' Association



WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

WWW.HOME.ADDISCOMBE.NET
FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/HOMERA
TWITTER.COM/HOME_RESIDENTS

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WELCOME TO OUR H.O.M.E NEWSLETTER!

Looking at last year's issue, which you can still find on our web, I started with a mention of Covid-19 and the fact that our Council was bankrupt.

Hard to believe it, but we are still living under this cloud and are feeling the consequences in our everyday lives.



We are very fortunate to live in an area with some lovely local parks, excellent transport services and many good local shops.

Sadly over the last few years the area has suffered and could do with some additional tender loving care.

As a residents' association, we have pushed for more trees, better quality development and a cleaner environment. All these are part of our mission *'to preserve, conserve and improve the environment in H.O.M.E roads as well as in outlying areas'*.

The Council still has huge financial difficulties and has no money to help smarten up the place, so we organise street cleaning. These are great community events, and although it is heart-breaking to see lots of litter re-appear within a day or two, we will not give up on our neighbourhood.

The Council has shown contempt for our area based on their attitude towards traffic displacement and the lack of any meaningful action to make things better for the residents in our roads. In recent months a promise has been made by the Council to conduct an area wide traffic review.

Please help us with this issue – see the enclosed leaflet which lists our social media and web details.

We can be here for each other.

The lockdown has shown that local people and local shops are what sustains us, so help us to expand our supportive and great community within our five roads.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2022.

Merry Christmas!

Mira Armour - Chair



Please note there are two separate flyers included with this newsletter: Addiscombe Donation Centre (working with the Salvation Army) and H.O.M.E RA Flyer, and how to get involved (*not just on the subject of traffic!*)

CAROL SINGING THIS CHRISTMAS



We're arranging a short Carol Singing Event on the Triangle (bottom of Ashburton Rd) at 5 pm on Thursday 16th December.

If you'd like to sing with us, please email Carol via athome@addiscombe.net, or just come along and listen ! 😊

WHAT HAVE HOME RESIDENTS BEEN UP TO THIS YEAR?

Despite lockdown and its restrictions, H.O.M.E members have not been idle!

We have discussed planning applications with an eye to our conservation area status, as overdevelopment is a constant danger. See page 7.



You may have seen HOME-in-Bloom signs in some front gardens celebrating the best of residents' efforts and successes. The signs and the traffic campaign leaflet were designed by our website guru Sam. Have you seen the website recently? See www.home.addiscombe.net

We hope you will find it easy to navigate and exciting to look at! We also started a Facebook group and a Twitter account this year. See us on facebook.com/groups/homera and twitter.com/HOME_residents

The October litter picking morning brought together nearly 20 residents to help clean up our streets and the Narrows, including giving some overgrowth a much-needed haircut. We have had less progress with graffiti since the Council now only removes what it considers as offensive graffiti. There may soon be a further volunteer force needed to do some painting! Thanks to Cllr Jeet Bains for arranging for the graffiti at Sandilands tramstop to be removed.



You will be aware of the Traffic campaign, a long-running negotiation with the Council led by a tireless group of HOME RA committee members. We have been promised an area-wide

review and funding was applied for from TFL.

We should have some news on this before the end of December and some action by April 2022.



The Ashburton Road parking issue is on the waiting list to be considered by the Council; we remind them from time to time.

We are grateful to Tracey, daughter of the late Shirley Mills, for letting us use her mother's house for our AGM. Shirley Mills was a much loved resident, who in earlier years offered her home for our social events.

Please look for the reports and photos on the 'Meetings and Events' tab of our web.

We consult our two local Ward Councillors Jeet Bains and Maddie Henson about all local issues, and sometimes involve our MP Sarah Jones on broader issues. They are always invited to our events. Unfortunately they no longer have discretionary Ward money we can apply for.



Another area of activity this year has been looking after new trees. The Council had a tree-planting scheme (funded by a charity) to plant 800 trees in the borough. We were given 15 trees and residents watered them during the dry summer spells. Sadly none were supplied to Elgin Rd, but we planted wild flower seeds instead in the empty tree pits.



We continue with Neighbourhood Watch and our Safer Neighbourhood police team who can help with things like anti-social behaviour and people using electric scooters on pavements.

There is a proposal for a Little Library and a noticeboard in the Triangle (area of grass and trees on the corner of Ashburton Road and Lower Addiscombe Road), and we will be consulting shortly on a proposed Play Street next year in Havelock Road/Mulberry Lane.

All updates will be on www.home.addiscombe.net

Carol Porter

GET TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBOURS

An Interview with Jean, a long-standing resident

Jean has lived in her flat in Havelock Road for about 30 years and recalls some of the things that have stood out for her during that time. Her parents lived locally, and she had a good friend living on Lower Addiscombe Road who recommended Addiscombe as a pleasant area to live, with good shops. Joyce, who lived upstairs made her especially welcome. When Jean moved in, she found a book left in a bookcase belonging to her old French teacher. What a small world we live in!

Jean has always been fairly local and has been a member of Shirley Methodist Church much of her life.

She recalls the construction of the tram line in 2000, a disruptive time, but now finds it a boon for getting around, which is important to her as she does

not drive, and buses tend to be unpredictable.

Jean loves living here. Finds it 'a lovely spot', a settled area. She likes to support local shops, including the Co-Op as they pioneered Fairtrade goods. The shopkeepers are all friendly. The greengrocer keeps an eye out for Brian the Big Issue seller, and looks after his motorised wheelchair which friends raised donations for. The greengrocer kindly made room for the florist to use part of their premises, when the florist had to shut. The fishmonger writes funny messages on his blackboard - go and see! Jean appreciates the local magazines and Bev Jones' cards.



Interesting local people Jean knows:

One of her neighbour's flats was full of dolls houses he had made. She knows Edward Handley whose father was the owner of the brickworks in Woodside, which, in its heyday produced a million bricks a week. Edward still regularly worships at South Norwood Methodist Church. She also knew John Gent, the writer of many books and pamphlets about the area. He owned a great number of local postcards and was instrumental in the planning of the tram route.

Hobbies: Jean likes reading, calligraphy and writes to lonely people who find it difficult to get out. A family pastime is cryptic crosswords, and she makes good use of Roget's Thesaurus and a dictionary!

She has taken part in Walking for Health with a couple who join in despite sciatica, from Lloyd Park to

Coombe Gardens. They have done regular walks all through COVID. At Christmas she is usually away, but has enjoyed the New Year Socials that HOME has put on in recent years in January.

Anything to change?

Buses always seem to come together! And there could be more bus shelters in Croydon.

What has been good about COVID?

Jean has discovered new walks, church friends, and neighbours were good about getting shopping and prescriptions for her. She liked the 'Clap for the NHS' and rainbow pictures in many windows, and generally seeing people as she lives on her own. However, she found it a frightening time, with the TV pictures and the numbers of people in hospital, but realises it was to get people to comply with the government rules.

What can the Residents' Association help with?

The first thing that came to mind was the heavy traffic. She thinks it has got worse, slows the traffic down from exiting the road. Also, the road surface in Havelock Road is very bad now.

Carol Porter



We're hoping to run another Quiz Night early January, but details aren't finalised yet.

Please check our website/facebook/twitter accounts at the end of December for details.

LET'S MAKE ADDISCOMBE A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE.



Your H.O.M.E. RA organises regular street cleaning days where residents come along and clear up the mess left by others. It's a great community event always ending with tea and cake. Sometimes litter on our roads is there because Veolia staff fail to pick up any rubbish they drop when emptying our bins. Sadly it is often people simply discarded their plastic/glass/cans, take-away packaging, cigarette ends, etc on the road rather than taking it home and putting them in their own bins. Please note that cigarette ends are **not** bio-degradable.

Fly-tipping along the Narrows remains a big problem. We know of a couple of residents who dump their general rubbish there too instead of putting it in their bins. Some of the items discarded could be sold by our local charity shops - furniture, books and clothing. Other stuff should be taken to recycling centres, or arrange for the Council to collect it.

We are thinking of asking the Council to put cameras up to aid fining those who dump stuff there.

A heart-felt plea – please would everyone do their little bit to help by putting any litter they have in bins (preferably their own) and if there

are any road bins that are overflowing, report it using the 'Love Clean Streets' mobile phone app.



Please download the app on your Android or iPhone.

It is easy to use and is the Council's preferred way to report issues.

Norman Young

NOISE POLLUTION

During the winter months noise is usually less of an issue, but it is a real, recurring problem during the warmer months when residents like to have their windows open at night when they sleep.



A number of residents have expressed concern over the amount of noise produced at some properties, particularly at night. There have been many occasions where residents have complained that they can't get any sleep because a neighbour has been playing music with windows open well past midnight, sometimes going to 5 a.m. Of course everyone has the right to enjoy their music, but is it reasonable to force others to listen to it for hours on

end when they are trying to get some rest?

A lack of sleep is a serious issue for mental and physical health, and causes significant problems at work too.



Playing music loud at night with windows open or with a sound system outside disturbs many neighbouring households.

Because there are so few trees left, noise travels easily without being absorbed. It's surprising how clearly one can hear what people are saying in the back garden of a house as far as 300 feet away in such circumstances, so you can see why playing music can be very disturbing at night. Lots of laughing and loud talking also prevents neighbours from getting to sleep.



The rules only seem to apply at night hours, but there are a lot of people who work night shifts and they need peace during the day to sleep (there are many key workers who live here), and there are an increasing number of people who work from home during the day.

For those who like to listen to loud music, please use a pair of headphones. They are not very expensive these days and would mean those inclined, can blast themselves silly all day and night without disturbing anyone else. Please be careful about damaging your hearing.



Note that the law defines a maximum amount of noise which is acceptable during night hours (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.). When noise exceeds the permitted level, action can be taken against the source of the noise.

Luckily the majority of Addiscombe residents are really considerate.

We make a plea that everyone tries to be considerate and keep noise levels low. This is particularly important during the summer months when many need windows open at night to keep cool.

If you have noisy neighbours, it's better to try to speak to them directly, but if this isn't possible, you can contact the council and they will advise on the legal process. Information about this process is available on the council website or via a link on the front page of our website, but the Council service has been cut to the bones, so you may not get an immediate response.

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.



The major planning applications at the time of writing concern the 'Garages Site' and 19 Ashburton Rd. The owner of the Garages Site, just south of Mulberry Lane, now acknowledges that his first attempt, a block of flats, was inappropriate but he is trying again. This time, it's a 'mews' with three 2-storey houses and one smaller house, which again is inappropriate and is causing much worry for the neighbours.

At 19 Ashburton, Mr Datoos is trying for the third time to turn his semi-derelict giant back garden shed into living accommodation with the excuse that it would be for a disabled person and their carer. It will likely be turned down by

Croydon Planning Department, but then he will try his luck with another appeal.

We are pleased to say that the daft appeal to put a pair of houses in the back gardens of 45-47 Outram has recently been dismissed.

Check the Council's Planning website for details about any Planning Applications:

<https://publicaccess3.croydon.gov.uk/online-applications/>

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

SATELLITE DISHES

We are lucky to live in a Conservation Area, but one of the restrictions is that Satellite dishes should not be visible from the road.



New dishes continue to appear, and at some point the Council will instruct owners to remove them. We suggest you ensure they are placed out of sight to start off with to avoid any unnecessary additional costs.

Worth also noting that replacement dishes must be repositioned so they are also not visible from the road.

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

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

PLANNING A STAYCATION?

Croydon u3a members know that you don't HAVE to go away to enjoy life – there's plenty to do right here – and it's available all year round! Anyone no longer working full-time can join. Be creative, learn a new skill, get fit, teach others something you are good at, help to organise an activity, become involved. A modest annual fee gives you access to a choice of around 60 interest groups.



We have been active for over 30 years in the Croydon area and we have kept going and flourishing, even during Lockdown. Many of our groups have used



Zoom to continue their activities - and we have recently even added new groups to the impressive range on offer!

Now that restrictions are easing, some groups are able to meet in person again – particularly those that are focused on outdoor activities such as walks, garden visits and visits to places of historic interest.

You don't need any qualifications to join – just enthusiasm and willingness to take part!



If you haven't already heard of u3a, do please look us up. Find us at: [//u3asites.org.uk/croydon](http://u3asites.org.uk/croydon), on Facebook, or contact Jenny Wilson at chair@croydonu3a.org.uk.
Tel: 07808 723 686

PLAY/EXERCISE STREET

Following the success of the Exercise Street setup in Elgin Road during the pandemic last year, we are considering holding a Play/Exercise Street event in Havelock Road in Spring 2022.

We will be consulting on this proposal very soon and would welcome residents' views.



It would be a great chance for neighbours to meet, socialise and take some exercise together (exercise not obligatory). More details to follow soon. Please contact Suzanne if you would like to comment (via athome@addiscombe.net)

Bev Jones – Artist

For anyone who has not come across my work before, I'm an artist mostly focused on painting Croydon and South London in bright colourful acrylics. I usually paint lots of busy street scenes with commuters and shoppers but with lockdown I decided to start painting parks and countryside pictures. So if you spent more time in green spaces in the last couple of years, have a look and see if I painted anything you recognise. Many of my local paintings are available as cards and prints. There are a few of my urban paintings still available to buy as well as my more recent landscape work.



Find me online at: www.etsy.com/uk/shop/BevJonesArt

See me in person at: **Stanley Halls Christmas Market** (5 min walk from Norwood Junction Station SE25 6AB)

10 December 5 pm - 9:30 pm and 11 December 10 am - 5 pm

Jenny Worstall – Author

I've lived in the HOME area for nearly thirty years and write about families, music, romance...the things that matter in life!

You may have spotted my stories in The People's Friend, Saturday Magazine (Express) or Love Sunday Magazine, amongst other magazines and newspapers.

I also write novels – you can find *Love and Lies* in Croydon Library and a range of short story collections and other novels on Amazon (just type in my name).

If you'd like to know more about my work, take a look at my website:

jennyworstall.wordpress.com



Andy Bennett – photographer

I'm a web editor and a photographer specialising in events, performance and beauty. Events can be anything from hard news such as photographing rallies or demonstrations to sporting events like the London Marathon to charity events. Performance is one of the things I really enjoy and includes live music and dance while beauty is something that is a real passion and gets the creative juices flowing. I also, when I can, love taking pictures of wildlife. As part of my involvement with HOME I shoot pictures for their AGM.



One of the great things about living in Addiscombe is that through H.O.M.E you get to find out about all the interesting people that live here and the huge variety of events that take place on our doorstep providing plenty of photographic fodder. And, of course, there are the useful and friendly local shops. On the downside, noisy neighbours, cars blasting their car stereos at all times of the night, constant traffic and, more recently, graffiti are all things that could force you to leave Addiscombe particularly as the council and the police have opted out in tackling these anti-social behaviours.

I can be found on Instagram and Twitter at [abennettphotouk](https://www.instagram.com/abennettphotouk) and my website is www.abennettphotography.co.uk/

CYCLEPODS - SECURE CYCLE STREET HANGER

If you are looking for somewhere secure to store your bicycle, there is a cyclepod near 52 Havelock Road. It costs £72 a year (£6 per month) to use this facility. <https://www.cyclehoop.rentals/> for reserving your slot.

ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING BAYS

A couple of these are being installed on H.O.M.E roads at the moment. That's good news for anyone lucky enough to own an electric car.

OUR DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVES

Correspondence address (for councillors):
c/o Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR0 1NX

Jeet Bains

Tel: 020 8604 7036

Email:

jeet.baines@croydon.gov.uk

Twitter: twitter.com/Jeet_Bains

Council link: <https://bit.ly/3d8cZeQ>

Maddie Henson

Tel: 020 8604 7019

Email:

maddie.henson@croydon.gov.uk

Twitter : www.twitter.com/MinsuR

Council link: <https://bit.ly/3d327il>

Croydon Central MP Sarah Jones

43 Blackhorse Lane, Croydon, CR0 6RT. Tel: 0208 191 7066

Email: sarah.jones.mp@parliament.uk <https://twitter.com/LabourSJ>

London Assembly Representative for Croydon and Sutton Neil Garratt

City Hall, Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

Email: neil.garratt@london.gov.uk Twitter: twitter.com/NeilGarratt

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!



Suzanne has lived in Havelock Road for over 20 years. She is now retired but worked in local government as a property lawyer for many years.



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 and has been a Croydon resident nearly all his life (a retired Physics teacher & musician). He is a founder member of H.O.M.E and is joint newsletter editor with Mira. He is also the honorary Treasurer.



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



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



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.



Melanie lives in Outram Road and is our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and helps with Planning Applications too.



Ken lives on Ashburton Road and his special interest lies in Sound and Vibration issues (Noise). He is concerned about many environmental topics.



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.



Norman Young - Digital Music Creator

If you are a composer and looking for someone to create realistic performances of your works, or you are interested in adding music to your advertisements, have a look at my website ny-productions.org or my Youtube channel bit.ly/3471lx3 where there are lots of examples of different types of music performed entirely from keyboard. I'm only able to assist with works that are classical/baroque etc in nature, rather than 'pop' music. I'm also able to provide voice-overs using AI.

South London Jamatkhana (Ismaili Muslim Community Centre)

Opposite the Sandilands Tram Stop, 205-209 Addiscombe Road, CR0 6SP



With best wishes for a safe and happy forthcoming festive Season

The Ismaili Muslims are a culturally diverse community living in over 25 countries around the world. They adhere to a 1,400 year tradition of Shi'a values that are expressed through a commitment to a search for knowledge for the betterment of self and society; embracing pluralism by building bridges of peace and understanding; and generously sharing of one's time, talents, and material resources to improve the quality of life of the community and those among whom they live.

The centre opened in November 1999 and sits on the site of an earlier private school known as Winton School, and consisted of three large Victorian villas. The central building was demolished and rebuilt, with the ones on either side beautifully restored. The restoration of these buildings improved the street scene considerably, and it is wonderful that the fine external features of the original buildings were restored and the new build blended in well.

The Centre has always shown great willingness to support this area, and have come to our rescue on many an occasion when looking for a suitable venue to hold important local meetings, and their hospitality has proved second to none. The building participates in Open House and they will share dates when a visit may be possible in due course.

During the Covid 19 Pandemic, their volunteers have been working with Croydon Voluntary Action as required and Ismaili Civic as part of a National campaign partnered with the local wrap up charity, (handsonlondon.org.uk/wrap-uplondon) and collected some 650 coats to help the homeless, refugees and children living in poverty across the local community.

Scanning this QR code takes you to the website where there is much more information about their involvement.



RELIGIOUS 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

South London Jamatkhana (Ismaili Muslim Community Centre) Opposite
Sandilands Tram Stop



AGM and Social August 2021

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'!

Please provide your contact details and email 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.

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY IN BLOCK CAPITALS.

Drop off completed form at 27 Havelock Road.

Name: _____

Address line 1: _____

Address line 2: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

