



Canning & Clyde Road Residents Association

www.addiscombe.net

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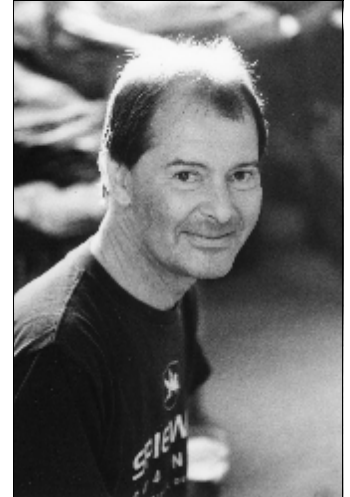
Association Website
www.addiscombe.net

Good Cheer Edition

Steve Collins

It is with great sadness that we have to tell you that Steve, our founder and Chairman, died on 7 November. Please see page 2 for more on Steve. To say he is greatly missed is a huge understatement. Anne, however, promised him that the Canning & Clyde Road Residents Association would continue to be as effective as ever. Steve was very pleased about this. We must say a big thank you to all those residents who support us in all kinds of ways. The best tribute we can all give Steve is to carry on his excellent work!

Steve did not want anyone to be sad about his death



Christingle

Every year St Mary Magdalene Church, Canning Road, holds a Christingle service on Christmas Eve. It is really a children's service but all are welcome of whatever age and faith. Two of our young residents, *Dan and Laura Baker*, tell us here what it is all about.

Christingle means 'Christ Light' and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world.

Many years ago, children were asked to take a present to put beside the crib in Church. One family had no money for gifts but they wanted to take something. They found an orange but it was going mouldy at the top. They thought they would take out the bad bits and put a candle in the top and turn it into a lantern. One of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle. Then they fastened it with four small sticks and put on a few raisins. They took their lantern to church and the priest said how special it was.

- ë The orange is round like the world.
- ë The candle is tall and straight and gives light in the dark like the love of God.
- ë The red ribbon goes all around the 'world' and is a symbol of Jesus' blood.
- ë The four sticks are for North, South, East and West and the four seasons.
- ë The fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets!) are for the fruits of the earth.

On Christmas Eve we will go to St Mary Magdalene at 5 o'clock for the Christingle.



Looking for a Good Christmas Present?

How about one or both volumes of The Book of Addiscombe? £15 each or £25 for both. Lavishly illustrated A4 hardbacks (160 and 192 pages). Compiled by the Canning & Clyde Road Residents Association. All

Flip Flop and Fly Steve Collins (1947 – 2007)

'Once met, never forgotten' was typical of the many things people said about Steve when they heard he had died on 7 November. Steve was a real one-off in the nicest possible way. Whatever he did, he followed his instincts and pursued what he believed to be right with energy, enthusiasm and determination. He was also kind and gentle. Steve had had cancer for four years and right to the end maintained his courage and sense of humour.



Steve had three great interests in life: his local area (Addiscombe), rockets and music.

He founded the Canning & Clyde Road Residents Association in 1979. A lot of Steve's work was connected with developments in the area, whether to support or oppose. Steve always had his ear to the ground and could effectively represent people's views. He expected the same of politicians! When he felt politicians were not doing this, he stood as an independent candidate in two local elections to drive home the point that residents' views should come above party politics. Steve energetically compiled and part wrote the two 'Books of Addiscombe' motivating over 150 contributors in all.

Even more than that, Steve built a great sense of community in an area with a very mixed population of long-term and short-term residents. It was his innate friendliness and acceptance of all kinds of people, whoever they were, that forged a real sense of belonging in an area that could so easily be anonymous suburbia.

Those who attended Steve's firework parties will be well aware that he never lost his boyhood love of rockets. Already inventive, enthusiastic and proactive as a ten year old, he built one in his parents' back garden using various bits and pieces from his father's shed including fuel, retired to the coal bunker with a friend and launched it. Unfortunately it made a large hole in the lawn and blew out the neighbours' windows. The neighbours were very nice about it. A crowning moment in Steve's life was launching a military satellite at Cape Kennedy Space Center. Apparently this was not strictly legal but Steve as ever charmed his way.

Steve loved music, all kinds of music but especially blues. For many years he held big music parties at his house showcasing new local bands that he wanted to help promote. These parties became legendary. As was Steve's way, everyone was welcome to come and have fun. He would often don a short skirt (he had the legs for it) and bouffon wig for the occasion, his resonant voice being the only thing that made him initially recognisable - but then he had the personality to carry it off. He was a fan of Croydon's Big Beer Band. Steve was delighted to discover the blues music at Croydon's best pub, the Oval Tavern in Oval Road; once found, we hardly missed a Sunday while Steve was well. Steve being Steve largely planned his own funeral. *'For music as people are coming in we'll do "Up Above my Head" by Sister Rosetta Tharpe. For dispersing it will be Big Joe Turner "Flip Flop and Fly". Apparently the cremation fee includes an organist whether you want one or not but I can't think of anything I'd wish him to play.'* One of Steve's brothers, Jeff, created a firework-like display of flowers complete with two real firework rockets to go on top of the coffin. There were both laughter and tears as this all descended, Tracy Island style, to the Thunderbirds theme tune, also Steve's choice. Some said they half expected the rockets to go off!

Steve's instructions also included *'I wish to be cremated at Beckenham Crematorium ideally of a Thursday early afternoon. The event is to be followed later that day by a rather good wake at the Oval Tavern, Croydon. Of a Thursday evening they'll have live music afterwards.'* Well, this is precisely what happened. Graeme and his ever excellent bar staff did us proud. We had a fantastic, fun party that Steve would have loved. In fact – some of us sort of thought he was there enjoying it in his own enthusiastic way. *'Flip, flop and fly – Don't care if I die!'*

Looking for a Good Chair

Steve was keen that we find ourselves a good Chair / Chairman / Chairwoman / Chairperson – whatever term you prefer. To this end we (the committee) invite you either to nominate someone else or yourself. We shall be holding an Extraordinary General Meeting on Tuesday 15 January 2008, at 7.30 pm in the Lounge of the Edward Jobson Court. The entrance is down the pathway on the right hand side of the building. Andor will be Acting Chairman.

We would ask nominees to think about how they would go about listening to and representing the various views of our residents. The business part of the meeting will last no more than an hour (if that).

Afterwards we shall celebrate Steve's contribution to our area and the election of our new 'Chair' with

Brilliant Barbecue

Many thanks to the many people (we stopped counting at 60) who attended our annual barbecue in July. It was good to see so many people chatting away and enjoying the fayre. Many thanks to the other Steve Collins (yes, there is another by the same name) for his very own excellent Black Cat Brewery beers. We also raised £120 for association funds.

Good Grub

Congratulations to Mr Gibson, our local Addiscombe butcher, for winning yet more awards for his superb sausages. This year he has gone one further. One of his young butchers, James Monckton, has just won the Guild of Q Butchers 2007 prize for producing the best Cottage Pie in the whole of Britain. Fancy a change to turkey?

Sonia - our local hairdresser

We asked *Lesley Kavanagh* if she would write about one of our long-term businesses, Sonia's.

Every Christmas there is a festive air at Sonia's on the Lower Addiscombe Road. Customers are treated to sherry and Sonia's delicious home-made Christmas cake - she baked 14 cakes this year! There is also a Christmas trifle for charity. This tradition goes back many years, almost as long as she has been in hairdressing.

Sonia has been working 'on our patch' for an amazing 28 years but she originally hails from Famagusta in Cyprus. Her brother came to the UK to take up a university place and Sonia came too 'to keep him company'. She trained to be a hairdresser in London and met her husband, Geroge, here.

She has seen a great many changes in the neighbourhood over the years. She thinks that there is no longer the trust there used to be among local people due to rising crime in the area and has herself been the victim of burglary. In particular she has noticed a rise in bad or threatening behaviour from some youngsters.

On the other hand she cannot see herself moving from Addiscombe as she has built up a loyal clientele, 'They're like a family to me. I watch their children grow up and they've seen mine grow up as well.' She gets on well with the other local traders, some of whom she's known for a long time. She has a married daughter in Shirley and a further son and daughter in the London area.

Like many other local shopkeepers, Sonia feels that the lack of parking facilities in this part of Addiscombe is not good for trade and would love to see a car-park to serve our local shops or less restrictive (or expensive) roadside parking. The arrival of Tesco opposite has been good for business but the proliferation of hairdressers' shops further down the road has naturally not pleased her.

Will she lay down her brush and scissors in the near future? She has no plans as yet. Even if she eventually gives up working in the salon, she'll keep some of her long-established customers on, to keep her hand in. 'I love my job and I love people,' she says. 'Hairdressing is



Update on Developments in Addiscombe and Croydon

Addiscombe District Strategy

Croydon Council is consulting with Addiscombe residents about their opinions on the area. They have produced a survey which asks for your views on how important you find various aspects of life here eg: different kinds of shops and services, children's activities, activities for older people, what gives the area its distinctive character, priority you give to things like litter, lighting crime, your top priorities for change in Addiscombe.

You can do this survey either on line (but you have until 21 December to do it) at

<http://www.croydonexpo.com/survey>

or ask Anne for a copy of the paper version; alternatively there should be some in the library.

A respectable number of residents from our two roads attended some workshops to look at various issues affecting Addiscombe. More on this in our next newsletter.

Croydon Centre Area Action Plan

As a statutory requirement, Croydon is obliged to make a plan for the future of the centre of Croydon. You may have read something in the local press recently about the world renowned architect, Will Alsop, who was hired by the Council to obtain ideas from the complete cross section of Croydon residents. Mr Alsop's main ideas are reducing Wellesley Road from eight to two lanes, redeveloping the Whitgift Centre, uncovering the Wandle River which for many years has been culverted underground, building a 30 storey eco tower with a series of plants on each floor, joining up different parts of central Croydon with green walkways, building a lot of high rise housing to meet the Government's housing targets for Croydon.

East Croydon Gateway Site

To recap - there are two competing schemes for this large 'Gateway' plot by the side of East Croydon Station. Stanhope Schroder propose a mixed office and residential development including a park and purpose built replacement for the Warehouse Theatre. Arrowcroft propose a mixed development including a 12,500 seat arena (but no park and almost certainly no theatre).

Croydon Council vigorously promotes the arena

scheme and in January issued a Compulsory Purchase Order for the land, which Stanhope Schroder own, to enable Arrowcroft to proceed with the arena development. The matter was then referred to a Public Inquiry which took place in October and November.

Starting in September of last year Steve co-ordinated a response to the Arrowcroft Gateway arena proposal from our association, HOME (Havelock, Outram, Mulberry, Elgin), Whitgift Estate, Morland Park and Park Hill Residents Association and also the Croydon Society. In July this year we submitted to the Inquiry our joint objections to both the Planning Application by Arrowcroft for the arena scheme and Croydon Council's Compulsory Purchase Order for the site. Some of our main objections were:

† Arrowcroft have not provided a convincing argument for the viability of an arena;

† there has been no proper consultation or community involvement;

† for a large event based development a robust transport plan is needed. The information the applicant provided relies upon sparse or out-of-date surveys;

† it is indicated that the Council - to respond to arena customers parking in residential streets - would likely introduce new parking zone regimes in our areas which are unwanted;

† the applicant does not mention off-site law, order and crowd control.

If you would to see either a synopsis of our objections or the full letter, please let Anne know and she will give you a copy. Alternatively you kind find them on our website, www.addiscombe.net

Cherry Orchard Road

Plans are being drawn up by developer Menta for four towers containing office, retail and residential space plus a new plaza for East Croydon Station. More on this in our next newsletter.

St George's Walk / Park Place

This is basically from a reworked Queens Gardens, the whole of St George's Walk, up to opposite Grants and bordered by George Street. There is nothing new on this since our February newsletter. The developers and Croydon Council are hoping that the whole development might be anchored around the flagship store, John Lewis, but John

Good Security at Christmas

Here are some tips from the Neighbourhood Watch about how to avoid burglaries during the Christmas and winter period.

Fit security lighting.

Use an automatic time switch on an indoor light, either in a room that cannot be peered into from the road, or upstairs. Consider drawing the curtains if you are in a room with the lights switched on. Regularly change the timing on the switch.

Put a time switch on a radio that has been tuned to a chat station. Again, regularly change the timing on the switch.

Property mark your valuables. Where possible, do not leave items on show from the street.

Secure windows, paying particular attention to those on the ground floor and above flat roof areas. Always use locks and bolts and keep all your keys, including car keys, out of sight and out of reach.

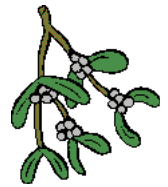
Ensure that gates or access to the rear of the house are locked and secure. Don't forget to lock your shed; your tools can be used to break in. Trim overgrown plants - don't give burglars a hiding place.

Intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars. Before choosing a system ensure it is the one most suitable for your needs.

Keep presents out of sight of windows.

Be careful how you dispose of packaging; it can be a signal that there is something worth stealing

Good Health



Pharmacy opening times

Christmas Day

11.00 am – 12.00 noon
Sainsbury's Pharmacy - 66 Westow Hill,
Upper Norwood, SE19 3RW
Telephone: 020 8916 3443

6.00 – 7.00 pm
Day Lewis - Shaws Pharmacy - 506 London Road,
Thornton Heath, CR7 7HQ
Telephone: 020 8684 2697

Boxing Day

11.00 am – 12.00 noon
Superdrug (Norbury) - 1491-1493 London Road,
Norbury, SW16 3LU
Telephone: 020 8764 1438

6.00 – 7.00 pm
St Clare Chemist - 21 Norfolk House, George
Street, CR0 1LG
Telephone: 020 8688 9133

New Years Day

11.00 am – 12.00 noon
Day Lewis - Patwood Pharmacy - 283 South
Norwood Hill, South Norwood, SE25 6DP

6.00 – 7.00 pm
Kents Chemist - 66 Church Street, Croydon,
CR0 1RB
Telephone: 020 8688 0888

For any health queries while your GP surgery is shut, phone NHS Direct on 0845 4647.

Rubbish collections – change of day

Wheelie bins

Will be emptied on Saturday 29 December (instead of Friday 28) and on Saturday 5 January (instead of Friday 4). From Friday 11 January we're back to normal on a Friday.

Big Bins

Will be emptied on Saturday 22 December (instead of Monday 24). From Monday 31 December they're back to normal on a Monday.

Recycling boxes

Thursday 3 January (instead of Wednesday 2). From Wednesday 16 January back to normal on a Wednesday.

Christmas tree collection points

Between 5 and 13 January

Co-op Car Park in Addiscombe (off Black Horse Lane just pass the white monstrosity on the corner of Lower Addiscombe Road). Please remove all decorations. There will be no tree collections from outside people's homes this year.



Good Service

Mr and Mrs Acharya's newsagent

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Open
Christmas Day and New Year's Day Closed

Sodha Wines

Open as usual

Tesco Express

Christmas Eve 6.00 am - 11.00 pm
Christmas Day Closed
Boxing Day 9.00 am - 10.00 pm
New Year's Eve 6.00 am - 11.00 pm
New Year's Day 8.00 am - 11.00 pm

Co-op by the roundabout with Cherry Orchard Road

Christmas Eve 7.00 am - 8.00 pm
Christmas Day Closed
Boxing Day 9.00 am - 6.00 pm
New Year's Eve 8.00 am - 8.00 pm

Good Live Music

Saturday 22 December

The Builders - 9.00 pm The Bogus Blues Brothers

Sunday 23 December

The Oval - Errol Linton & his Blues Vibe

Monday 24 December

The Oval - 8.00 pm Primo Blues (brilliant!)

Wednesday 26 December

The Big Beer Band (Jazz) (fun)
The Brief, George Street - Time yet to be decided
by band members. Contact Anne nearer the time.

Thursday 27 December

The Oval - 8.00 pm Giles Hedley Duo (top notch)

Sunday 30 December

The Oval - 5.00 pm The Marques Brothers
(inspirational)



Good Services

St Mary Magdalene, Canning Road

Sunday 16 December
6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve
5.00 pm Christingle
11.15 pm Midnight Communion with Carols
Christmas Day
10.30 am Family Service followed by Communion
New Year's Eve
11.30 pm - 12.15 am Midnight Celebration

Christ Church Methodist, L'r Addiscombe Road

Sunday 16 December
6.30 pm Carol Service
Monday 17 December
6.30 pm Children's Christmas Theatre Evening
Christmas Eve
4.00 pm Christingle
11.30 pm Holy Communion
Christmas Day
9.30 am All-Age Worship for Christmas

Good Pubs

The Oval Tavern, Oval Road

Christmas Day - 12.00 - 3.00pm
New Years Eve - evening only by ticket £5

The Builders, Leslie Park Road

Christmas Day - 12.00 - 2.30 pm
New Year's Eve - evening only by ticket £10

The Alma, Lower Addiscombe Road

Times not available

The Glamorgan, Cherry Orchard Road

Christmas Day & Boxing Day - closed
New Year's Eve - open to diners only until 10.30 pm
New Year's Day - closed

The Claret, Lower Addiscombe Road

(in Down Town LA)
Christmas Day - 11.00 am - 2.00 pm
New Year's Eve - no tickets; open till at least 12.00
but probably later

The corner of Lower Addiscombe Road and Canning Road. The church on the left is the old Methodist church which was burnt down on 21 January 1948.

If you would like to buy one of the two *Books of Addiscombe*, please contact either Gordon or Anne.

