

# CROHAM HURST GOOD NEIGHBOURS



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## WHO WE ARE: -

Croham Hurst Good Neighbours is a local registered charity (No.1052007). CHGN is one of approximately 30 member groups of the Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association.

Please contact our Organiser, Jean Rosser.

Our address is:- 52 Croham Road (Side entrance off Moreton Road), South Croydon, CR2 7BA.

Email:- chgnoffice@gmail.com

Telephone No. 020 8649 9678

Website - [www.chgn.co.uk](http://www.chgn.co.uk)

Our Office Hours :- 10.00am to 12.30pm weekdays except Fridays. Please let us know when you are coming.

## WE CAN HELP:-

### By supplying any of the following:-

- \*Organising and running a door to door shopping bus service.
- \*Organising emergency shopping for the housebound.
- \*Occasional light DIY type jobs.
- \*Occasional health related transport.
- \*Help with basic computer skills.
- \*Help with correspondence and form-filling.
- \*Occasional gardening help.
- \*Befriending.
- \*Social events.

**Why not be a friend** Our aim is to ease the lives of the more vulnerable people in our neighbourhood and befriending the lonely can mean a lot to them. We need volunteers for this and seek your help. Could you spare a little time to visit someone for a chat, or do a puzzle or read a story? If so please contact our office. Arrangements would be flexible and convenient to you.

We are grateful for the support we receive from our benefactors and in particular Relief in Need and from the South Croydon ward budget via Counsellor Maria Gatland.



## MEET OUR NEW ORGANISER

Jean Rosser is our new Croham Hurst Good Neighbours Organiser, taking over from Roberta Gilkinson. A warm friendly lady, she is ideally suited to the role, having spent a lifetime as carer and supervisor in a variety of elderly residential homes and centres in Croydon. But this is a far cry from her childhood in Abertillery South Wales, where her father was a miner and where the occasional pit pony might invade the garden, much to her father's annoyance. After Grammar School Jean joined a Department store as a book keeper, earning £3.50 a week. At 19 she married childhood sweetheart Ken, who had joined the Metropolitan Police. This meant moving from her beloved Wales to Eltham and with the arrival of three children in quick succession, life proved challenging in a small flat. The family moved briefly back to Wales before returning to London and has been happily settled in Selsdon ever since.



Jean's career has always involved caring, with a succession of part time/full time roles in homes for the elderly, including Langley Oaks and many years in special sheltered housing, South Sea Court, in West Croydon, leading Jean into full time management roles. Not content with retirement eight years ago, she took part in a pilot project for the NHS, based in Taberner House, and then went on to work for Careline, then took a role of Care Manager in the community for the Reablement Team. She continued working at Bernard Wetherill House until 2017.

Her family now comprises devoted husband Ken and two adult grandsons, who sound thoroughly spoilt! When asked to sum up a lifetime helping old people, Jean told us touchingly "It fulfils a need to feel worthy." We thanked her for talking to us and wish her all the best in her new role.



# You are wanted!

We need volunteers in providing those services listed on page 1 and most urgently need drivers and helpers on Tuesday mornings at Sainsbury's to meet our shopping bus and to assist the wheelchair users to do their shopping. We operate a rota of helpers, so if you are able to help occasionally it would be appreciated.

We also need help in delivering this our biannual Newsletter, issued in May and November, to every home in our area.



**If you can help with either or both tasks please contact our office on 020 8649 9678**

## Up and down the Brighton Road: buses and trams.



After the main railway line to Brighton opened in 1841, many people on local journeys on the Brighton Road continued to walk or travel on horse-back or, if affluent, in their own carriages or carts. At that time there were not many obvious destinations anyway. Nor were there many intermediate railway stations such as Purley Oaks and South Croydon, opened in 1899 and 1867 respectively. A few wayside inns catered for travellers, such as the Windsor Castle near Purley Oaks, and the Red Lion at Coulsdon. Otherwise, all the way southwards to Merstham and beyond was open agricultural land, now of course mostly vanished under suburban housing.

Horse-drawn buses appeared about the 1850s, the best-known being those operated by Thomas Tilling [1825 – 1893] whose business had been started by running buses from a public house in Peckham in 1850. His business flourished and with his sons Edward and Richard had by 1900 developed routes through South Croydon. Operating as Thomas Tilling & Co. Ltd, they opened a depot on the site now occupied by South Croydon Bus Garage, although this was rebuilt after severe bomb damage during World War II. Horse-drawn buses were replaced by petrol engines, probably soon after motor cars arrived on the road in the 1890s. The early buses had upper decks open to the weather, so rain-coats and umbrellas were needed. Some of the bus routes had termini at public houses such as the Swan & Sugar Loaf where buses would park on what later became the pub's car park. There was a sub-surface public gentlemen's lavatory here, convenient for (male) bus crews, passengers and public.

Croydon's trams, also horse-drawn at first, arrived in the town in the 1870s, based at what is now Thornton Heath Bus Garage. They were electrified at the start of the 20th century, when Croydon's first power station came into service in Factory Lane. The Borough Council ran the power station, and many of the street lights, and an electric tram line opened to South Croydon and terminated at Purley in or about 1901. A reminder of this service is the large electricity substation at the west end of Drovers Road. The Purley tram depot was just beyond the Royal Oak. These were double-deck trams with a staircase at each end, doubtless convenient for fare-dodging passengers avoiding the conductor. All the earlier Croydon buses and trams had two-person crews, with both drivers and ticket-selling conductors. The last tram ran along Brighton Road at midnight on Saturday 7 April 1951. It carried passengers at the premium fare of five shillings (25 pence), much higher than the normal ticket price.

Local folk lore has it that a tram once ran off the end of the rails at Purley, heading towards Brighton. It didn't get very far, as its electricity of course was disconnected when it ran off the rails. At West Croydon, electric trolley-buses were brought in to replace trams in the 1950s, but these only went towards Mitcham and South Norwood and beyond. None came to South Croydon, and all were soon replaced by buses.

Served by trains, trams and buses, Purley developed as a centre from around 1900, with churches, cinemas, public houses, and shops, and (without the cinemas) continues to flourish.

By Paul Sowan

# Did You Know?

\*Croydon had the first public railway in the world, which was opened in 1803 and ran between Croydon and Wandsworth and called the Surrey Iron Railway?

\*The conference scene in the film 'The Da Vinci Code' was filmed in the primary concert hall in Fairfield Halls?

\*Croydon borough has the highest property wealth in London, some £77.2 billion?

\*Croydon had the UK's first international airport and has the world's oldest air traffic control tower?

\*Prior to the Great Train Robbery in 1963, Croydon was the location of one of the UK's biggest robberies in May 1935, when £21,000 of gold bullion was stolen. (equivalent to £12 million today)?

And finally there is no pond at Thornton Heath Pond?



There is vibrant local Freegle group in Croydon with over 21,000 members.

Why don't you join today?



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Elaine Edwards

020 8665 0871./Mobile  
07977689215

## Useful Numbers:

**Age UK, Croydon:-**  
020 8680 5450.

**Citizens Advice Croydon:**020 684 2236

**Croham Safer Neighbourhood Team:-**  
020 8721 2471.

**Croydon Council: -**  
020 8726 6000.  
& ask for the department .

**Croydon University Hospital :-**  
020 8401 3000

**Edridge Rd. Community Health Centre:-**  
020 3040 0800

**Emergency Gas: -**  
0800 111999.

**Crime Stoppers:-**  
0800 555 111

**Victim Support:-**  
0845 450 3936

**Minor Injuries Unit: -**  
New Addington  
020 8251 7225.

**GP hub at Purley Hospital**  
020 8401 3238

**NHS 111**  
(For less urgent cases)

**Police Non-Emergency Number:- 101**

**Croham Hurst Good Neighbours does not imply recommendation by publishing an article or advertisement and can take no responsibility for the accuracy of data**