



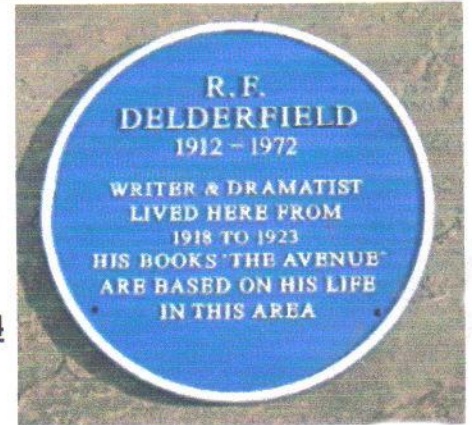
Addiscombe and Shirley Park Residents' Association

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UNVEILING OF DELDERFIELD PLAQUE

10AM
THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2014



ASPRA, the Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents' Association, have funded a "Blue Plaque" to commemorate the distinguished writer and dramatist, R.F. Delderfield (1912-1972), who lived at 22 Ashburton Avenue, Addiscombe, CR0 7JE from 1918-1923, and was greatly inspired by his time there, saying: "It was Wonderland to me".

The Plaque will be unveiled by the Worshipful the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed, at 10am on Thursday, 4th September, 2014, by kind permission of the present owners of the house, and in the company of members of the Delderfield Family.

Delderfield's books: "The Avenue", comprising "The Dreaming Suburb" and "The Avenue Goes to War", were directly based on his life in the area, and were later made into the successful London Weekend Television series: "People Like Us" (1977/8) starring John Duttine. He also wrote about the area in his autobiography: "Overture for Beginners".

John Duttine also starred in the adaptation of another of Delderfield's novels, this time by Andrew Davies: "To Serve Them All My Days" (1980/1), for which he won the Best Television Actor of the Year Award. The New York Times called it "the best drama series ever made by the BBC", describing it as "a richly textured tapestry crammed with the social details that were the speciality of Mr Delderfield".

“A Horseman Riding By” was serialised by the BBC in 1978, with Nigel Havers taking the leading role.

“Diana” was adapted for the BBC in 1984, again by Andrew Davies, starring Jenny Seagrove in the title role, and Patsy Kensit as her younger self.

The first “Carry On” film: “Carry On Sergeant” (1958) was based on Delderfield’s play: “The Bull Boys”.

In 1923 Delderfield’s father bought the Exmouth Chronicle, a local Devon newspaper, and in 1929 Delderfield joined the staff, later succeeding his father as editor.

He served in the RAF during World War II. Afterwards, in 1945, his play: “Worm’s Eye View” ran at the Whitehall Theatre in London.

Delderfield also published non-fiction works, on Napoleonic history, and other historical novels.

In 1962, he was the “castaway” on “Desert Island Discs”, and in the same year had a house built on Peak Hill in Sidmouth, Devon, which still exists and is called the “Gazebo”.



A great champion of the suburbs, which he referred to as “Arcady”, and those who live there, Delderfield wrote:

“These people are for the most part unsung, and that even though they represent the greater part of Britain’s population. The story of the country dwellers, and the city sophisticates, has been told often enough; it is time somebody spoke of the suburbs, for therein, I have sometimes felt, lies the history of our race.

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For further information, please contact:

Hilary Chelminski – Chairman of ASPRA
chairman@theaspra.org.uk Tel: 07989 033 831