



# Merrettable



# Times



***The Editorial team at MT wish all its readers a very Happy New Year and hope that 2022 takes us all to a more normal existence as we learn to live with this pandemic. We are confident that life will be much better in 2022 and hope you are too!***

***The last 15 months have been tough and I had considered furloughing my proof reader but the government paperwork was far too complicated so I just decided to keep her on for a further probationary period (and anyway, my contract expires in a few months time).***

***Rest assured that we both wear masks as we prepare this newspaper so that you remain Covid safe. (Ed)***

***Chairman Bob writes.....***

I had hoped not to be writing a magazine piece that referred to cancellation of events but that sadly is what dominates this month's entry.

However before all that, some things did take place and I thought at the time that it was building up to be a good Christmas. Following the presentation of the Tabler of the Year Award to James Marley at the Table meeting at the London Tavern, Sara and I were pleased to attend the Frogham Caravaners Christmas Lunch at the Old Beams, Ibsley. We were made very welcome by the 'Tin Shedders' as they are known to some and had a great lunch. It was a bit of a dry run at the Old Beams as we were/are hoping that it might become a new meeting venue for the Club and possibly Tangent too.

I think David Phelps as our Meals Monitor and I came away with positive feelings. The pub staff made us very welcome, the food was good and plentiful so all was looking good for the Christmas meeting. I should have guessed that as soon as we heard the name Omicron, the new Covid variant, this was about to go pear shaped. And so it transpired. As news of the rapid spread of the new variant became known, it was becoming apparent that all our Christmas plans were in jeopardy. At a rapidly organised Zoom Council meeting on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, it was decided that the only decision we could make was to cancel our 41 Christmas meeting and also cancel our New Year's Eve party as well. It was very disappointing to make such a last minute decision but Council felt that with the unstoppable rise in infection numbers and the scientific experts telling everyone to be cautious and avoid gatherings, it was unavoidable.

We do hope that we can recreate the Xmas meeting with Wayne the Weird and the Staycation NYE party at some point in the New Year, but limited time and full diaries will probably mean it will be well into Spring before this can be arranged.

Now that the Club decisions have been made I hope you had chance to have a good Christmas and that your own holiday plans were not disrupted in the same way. The New Year is a couple of days old as I write this but it was to be a quiet night for us this year. We should be grateful to the Old Beams and Greyfriars who have been very understanding and accepting of our decisions and I trust we can be back as soon as it is sensible.

In looking forward, I do hope we can get back together soon and our plans for January can actually take place. We will be announcing the decision on the Joint meeting shortly.

So can I wish you all a much better 2022 and look forward to seeing you all in Ringwood in the very near future.

Bob





# The Tangent Telegraph



A big thank you to Sian Elen for organising a wonderful Christmas dinner at the Vitality Stadium. The room looked very Christmassy, the food was great (so it can be done!) and the staff were attentive. With a few festive readings from the committee and a raffle, the evening was a great success. No one managed to run across the pitch but we did get to see it! Shortly after our meal was the trip to Winchester Christmas Market which was much enjoyed. Thanks to the social committee for making it happen! (See more pictures of that trip on page 3).



In January we have the 2 (maybe 3 clubs) joint meeting to look forward to and then hopefully we can finally have a normal(ish) year of monthly business meetings – possibly at a new venue (watch this space) and plenty more social events.

Other events to look forward to in 2022 are:  
The Queens platinum jubilee  
The Football World Cup  
The Winter Olympics  
The release of Top Gun Maverick  
A new James Bond (Ian Stockdale turned it down apparently)  
The opening of the Queen Elizabeth line (I'm sure Jeff W will do a tour!)

..... so let's start planning!

Best wishes for a happy new year

YICF

Caroline

## LADIES NIGHT FRIDAY 11TH FEBRUARY THE CAPTAIN'S CLUB, CHRISTCHURCH

The Honorary Treasurer is looking forward to receiving the balance on the Ladies Night tickets. Please make an electronic fund transfer to the usual account number marking the payment with your name and LN as the reference. If you are unsure as to what deposit you may have already paid then please email me at [s.mursell@btinternet.com](mailto:s.mursell@btinternet.com)

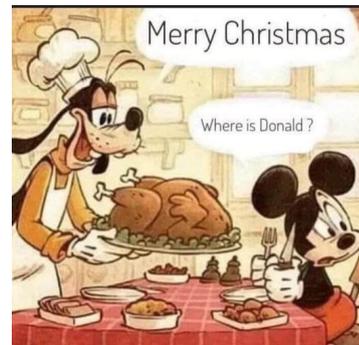


Many thanks

Steve

## Arthur's Corner

(or should we call it, Arthur's Angle?)



# WINCHESTER MARKET TRIP

## Thursday 16th December



After the disappointment of the cancellation of Bath Xmas market twenty four of us descended on beautiful Winchester and a fun day was had by all . While some 'Christmas shopped', eighteen met up to do the midday tour of the Cathedral under the organisation of Barbara.

The Cathedral tour was extremely interesting as our tour guides, Richard and Steven, brought the history to life. Their special stories including how the East side was saved from subsidence due to water ingress with underpinning that was undertaken by William Walker, diver, over a 100 years ago. (See picture right)



A splendid visit and well recommended.

Afterwards fourteen of us ate at the Old Vine Restaurant where we were spoilt with good food and a room of our own. Others had split into their own groups & went off in different directions .



By the time light was fading we headed for the market. Although smaller this year we still managed to part with our money in the unique collection of festive stores .

All in all a good pre-Christmas day out for us all .

Jenny



## Two Clubs Evening

Tuesday 18th January  
7 for 7.30 pm

### The Old Beams, Ibsley

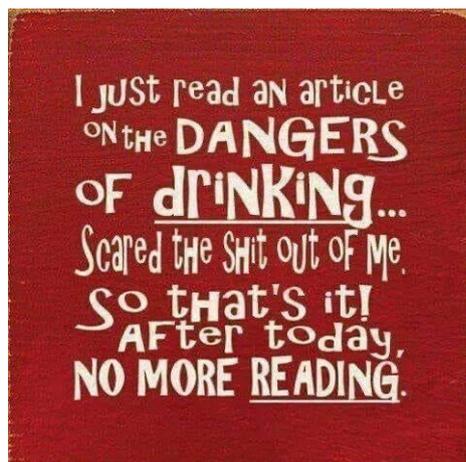


As I write this we are still unsure whether this dinner meeting will go ahead but you will be advised very shortly via email of a final decision after 41 Club Council have met to consider all your views.

Whatever your decision please ensure that you have advised your Meal Secretary of your intentions so that we can get the numbers correct!! Thanks.

After the meal you will be entertained by an evening of Call My Bluff with Mike Edwards in the chair doing his very best impression of Robert Robinson.

If you haven't visited The Old Beams then you will find parking either at the front of the pub or plenty more space at the back which is accessed from the front, just to the right of the pub itself. Hope that helps.



**Therapist: Your wife says you never buy her flowers is that true?**

**Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.**

### EATING IN THE FIFTIES

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognized food.

'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties ... was elbows, hats and cell phones.



## What a wonderful achievement by Ringwood and District Round Table!

A fantastic effort with great results. Well done!! It makes us 41 'ers feel nostalgic, proud and very old!

Take a look below at the incredible work that this Table have already achieved and continue to achieve in the community.



### This is what Round Table posted on their Facebook page.....

With our final drop-off to FoodBank made, we can finally reveal the final totals for Santa's Sleigh 2021!

- £3,340 Raised
- 1025kg of food donated
- (that will feed 102 people 3 meals a day for 3 days)
- 196 hours volunteered
- 49 miles travelled
- 3 new routes added

Yet again we have been blown away by the kindness and generosity of our local communities - You really have been amazing, and proved that you should all be on Santa's nice list! Whether it's the family who chased us down to road with cans of food, or the little girl who emptied her money box into one of our collection buckets, the ladies running club who came out to find us for a selfie or the kind gentleman with the crate of Brewdog for the thirsty elves, you showed the real spirit of Christmas! We've put in a good word with Father Christmas for you! You've done wonderful things to help us this year, so from the whole team at Ringwood & District Round Table we wish you the merriest of Merry Christmases!



Want to recycle your tree for charity? Look on the next page for details. Round Table can help.

# HOW YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE STARTED

ROUND TABLE  
CHARITY TREE-CYCLING SERVICE

SATURDAY 8TH JANUARY 2022

# HOW IT LOOKS AFTER CHRISTMAS

## ROUND TABLE TREE-CYCLING.....

.....THIS SATURDAY ONLY!!

Don't forget to book your Charity Christmas Tree-Cycling collection to avoid disappointment! Save the hassle of filling your car with dead Christmas Tree Needles but getting Ringwood & District Round Table to come & pick up your tree from your drive, take it away and mulch it for you, all for the bargain price of £10 per tree. All of the proceeds will be put towards local charities & good causes too!

We'll be round the area on Saturday 8th January, **so book before midday on Friday 7th** to avoid a trip to the tip! We've even expanded our collections to include not only Ringwood & Verwood but also Fordingbridge, Ashley Heath, St Leonard's, St Ives & Burley! To book your collection, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/RTTrees> #christmastree #treecycling #community #charity #newforest #christmas #domore #roundtable

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### News

TUESDAY 7th December was a chilly but very special night for Ringwood & District 41 Club at the London Tavern in Poulner.

A group of 'VIPs' met to unveil the new Ringwood Round Table meeting wall-plaque presented, on behalf of Ringwood and District 41 Club, by Chairman Bob Merrett.

The plaque is engraved in the name and memory of Jimmie Gordon who was the founder Chairman of Ringwood Round Table back in 1959. He contributed enormously to the Ringwood community and personally raised over £200,000 for cancer linked charity during his life.

Left to right: Bob Merrett, Chairman of Ringwood and District 41 Club, James Marley, Chairman of Ringwood and District Round Table, Neil Gordon son of Jimmie Gordon and Ringwood Town Mayor Cllr Tony Ring. Above right: Jimmie Gordon.



And on the subject of Round Table..... John Kennedy has sent me a cutting of the official unveiling of Jimmie Gordon's plaque outside the London Tavern.

What a legacy Jimmie gave us.

How lucky we are.



### Ian Stockdale's email to fellow members of the Poulner Freeride Cycle Team

Dear Fellow Athletes

What a smashing morning. Plenty of mud and racing hearts (and that was just getting into our drive).

Hopefully Richard your lip is healing nicely after the hot marshmallow and trust you all enjoyed cleaning me out of Doom Bar, London Pride and San Miguel.

I still have some sausage rolls left...just a few. Stollen is an acquired taste Eric, like Brussels sprouts.

If you are looking for a gift for old friends one of attached photos could do the trick...or not.

Take care out there and looking forward to spending time with you all over the next weeks.

Ian



PS Good to have you along Chris and sorry we didn't get you out of breath!!!

**Its 2022 so let's try again for a group social event !!!!**  
Ex Tablers and Tangent members please rejoin us for the



## Ibsley Park Race Night with Rustic Supper

Friday March 4th 7.00pm till 11.30pm

Ibsley Village Hall, Gorley Road ( in the Forest) , Ringwood, BH24 3NL

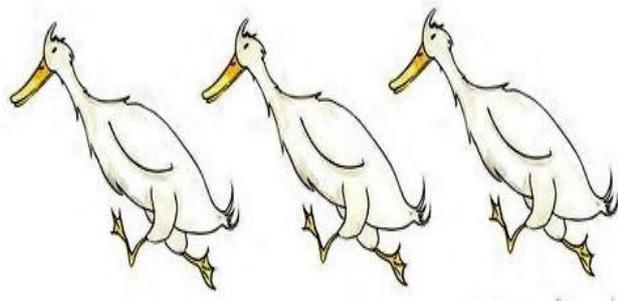
A Lively Evening with a variety of Fun Animal Races including Rats, Ducks, Horses and Snails.

A Delicious Supper, desirable Prizes and a chance to bet with BETBOB for real money. Bring your own race going hats, cravats, shooting sticks, crops, binoculars, drinks and wine glasses please.

Live Garden Snails needed so please start lifting stones in your garden and begin training!!!!

Book your places on the Tick Lists at your next Tangent or Ex Tabler meeting or phone/email Ian [ian@isosco.com](mailto:ian@isosco.com) or 01425 838826.

Due to space and Covid the numbers are limited. Sorry no guests at this stage.



### DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### JANUARY

Tuesday 18th.....Two Clubs Meeting (or hopefully 3 Clubs if Round Table are able to join us).

A dinner evening with entertainment.....'Call my Bluff'. Venue 'Old Beams' Ibsley. See page 4

**Booking in arrangements as usual with your respective Club's Meal secretary.**

Monday 31st.....Copy date for Merrettable Times

#### FEBRUARY

Wednesday 9th.....Tangent Meeting

Tuesday 15th.....Club Meeting

#### MARCH

Friday 4th.....Ibsley Park Race Night with Rustic Supper from 7pm at Ibsley Village Hall. See advert above.