

# The Cartier Chronicle

*The One to watch!*



*As we approach Christmas here is a joint message from Richard and Caroline.....*

Here we are at the end of a very strange year. Clearly not the year we had envisaged but both Clubs have rallied round to provide what we hope has been an interesting and fun programme of Zoom meetings and the occasional socially distanced outside activity. Most of our members have now successfully mastered Zoom but it wouldn't be a proper meeting without the shouts of 'turn your microphone on!' or 'yes we can see you, can you see us?' and the entertainment provided by shopping deliveries. Our thanks to both our social committees for their creative ideas! Thanks also

to our Pod leaders who have done a fantastic job of helping people keep in touch over the last 9 months.

Some traditions have kept going though and this year all three Chairmen from 41 Club, Tangent and Round Table laid wreaths on Remembrance day. John Adams piped as the wreaths were laid and his presence certainly added to the occasion. (see page 5)

December will be a busy month for us with social events every week in December; Jeff's London Trip on 7th, Tangent's Bubbles, Baubles & Bingo on the 14th, Ex-Tablers' Christmas meeting on 15th and our joint Christmas party on 21st. For the creative amongst us and those who used to collect washing up liquid bottles and pipe cleaners (remember those!) to make Blue Peter's Christmas crafts, why not have a go at our very own Christmas toilet roll craft. Turn a toilet roll into a festive character to display on screen during our 21st Zoom joint party. No Blue Peter badges for the winner but you might get a Chairmen's Christmas treat!!



There will also be a New Year's Eve Zoom party and you will find more information on page 4.

Some have enjoyed the quieter pace of life the lockdowns have afforded whilst for others the changes in routine and lack of face to face contact have been difficult to deal with. But over Christmas there is a chance to meet family and hopefully opportunities to meet socially in greater numbers soon. Until then our fantastic Pods, Zoom meetings and the enduring friendships in 41 Club and Tangent will see us through!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas  
and a healthy and happy New Year.

Yours in Continued Friendship

Richard & Caroline



**DIARY**

**DECEMBER**

- Monday 7th : Wickens Wander on Zoom at 7.30pm (page 2)
- Monday 14th : Tangent Christmas Party (page 5)
- Tues 15th : Club Meeting on Zoom. Email to follow with details.
- Wed 16th : National Club AGM 7.30pm on Zoom.  
Meeting ID: 875 6194 6202 Passcode: 41Club75
- Monday 21st : 41 Club & Tangent Christmas Evening (page 5)
- Monday 21st : Special Cartier Chronicle Christmas Edition
- Thursday 31st : New Years Eve Zoom party from 11pm (page 4)

**JANUARY**

- Friday 1st : Socially distanced walk in groups of six!! \* (page 4)
- Monday 4th : Copy date for the January Cartier Chronicle
- Tuesday 5th : Club Council meeting 4.30pm on Zoom
- Monday 11th : Club Film Night.....' The Fourth Protocol'
- Wed 13th : Joint Zoom meeting hosted by Tangent. Details to follow.
- Monday 18th : Club Concert. Details to follow.

\* subject to Government Covid restrictions at that time

**FEBRUARY**



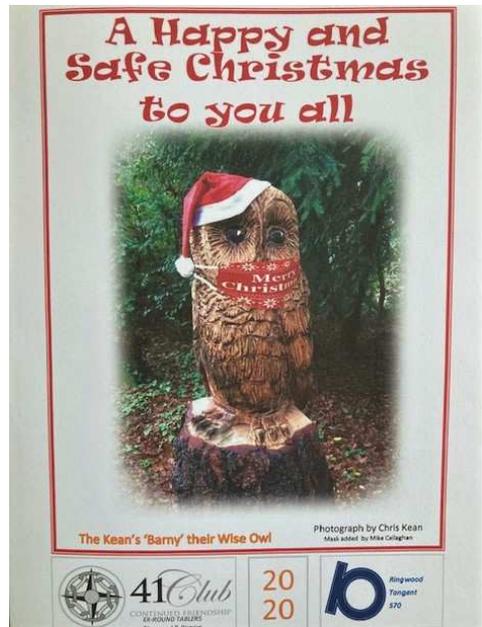
Fingers crossed!!



Thanks to Mike Callaghan's efforts you will very shortly be receiving your card.....in many cases by personal delivery to cheer you up this Christmastide.

Around £900 has already been raised for charity via this card and Council are looking for ways to distribute these funds. By the way, it is not too late to send a donation to our Treasurer!

Please pass on any suggestions you may have to Richard or any Council member.



**2020 Wickens Wander - London**

**THIS MONDAY!!**



Every year around this time a small band of hardy travellers have a wander round the lesser known parts of London and a few jars in a pub to shake the off dust and more often than not, warm up! This inevitably meant a train or coach up and back, some pretty hectic Underground and London bus trips and lots and lots of walking. Sadly this year I could not even do the recce with Dick Sheerin and had to abandon the trip - but who knows maybe we might be able to sort something out for the spring. In the meantime the plan is to show a 'wander' presented by a proper London guide, maybe have a few reminiscences and a quick quiz to round things off.

**So please join us on Zoom on Monday 7 December at 7.30 pm - courtesy of Richard Carter (Zoom link to follow)**



*Here is another gem from the Celtic Bard himself aka Mike Edwards.  
Thank you Mike. Ed*

## **MY TABLE YEARS – HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY**

During my Nationwide career when assistant manager at the Newport, Gwent office my CV needed two additions to advance to manager level. One was to pass the Building Society Institute exams, the other was to demonstrate community involvement. Even back in 1978 Nationwide was ahead of the game in promoting CSR – Corporate Social Responsibility.

I had already been looking at service clubs, so when approached to try Round Table I jumped at the chance and in November 1978 joined Newport 4 which was a very formal club, which I liked. For example at dinner meetings members took a raffle ticket allocated for their seat, as guest initially I sat with my sponsor, but soon as I joined I took a pot luck ticket. In case you think it a cumbersome, time consuming system I don't ever recall a meeting starting other than on time. Ringwood 41 has big number meetings, there were 60 members of Newport 4 and rarely less than 50 attending meetings, a mixture of lunches and evenings.

I passed the exams too in June 1979 and a few months later we moved on to my first manager's appointment at Wrexham. That was when our Table and Circle lives really took off, and we had almost 5 wonderful years throwing ourselves completely into all aspects of Table and Circle life – social obviously, fund raising, sports and so on. During those years there was a spectacular one off event, and an annual one that I still think back on every year.

The one off was the second running of a one day Wild West Festival which Table had first run in 1978. It had been a great success financially, raising £10K, but organisationally a disaster as it had taken traffic hours to get away from the event field. Table decided to repeat the event in 1982 and I was the organiser. After a year of planning, and satisfying the police (and public) that we wouldn't cause traffic chaos second time around, we had a gloriously sunny September day, a crowd of 10,000 and managed to make just £1500.

I apologised to the Chairman, he graciously told me the money didn't matter, the fellowship the event had created and the community spirit it generated were worth far more. I had intended to outdo the first event, but our outgoings were just too great, a valuable lesson learned.

Had it rained we would have made a huge loss, having hired a massive marquee for a darts competition in the afternoon, with locals playing against Eric Bristow, and a C&W concert in the evening, headlined by Miki and Griff!! I played darts against The Crafty Cockney to test the exhibition board, me off 101 and him off 501, needless to say he won hands down, as mine were shaking so much I could hardly hit the wall, never mind the board.

When the set up was complete I asked Eric if he needed anything else. "8 pints of lager please Mike" came the reply, and I nearly fainted. "You sure Mr Bristow" "Yes, why" "Well you are a great player, but can even you play after drinking 8 pints?" Came the reply "Don't be so effing daft, the beers are for the support crew!!". Raucous laughter, he really was a great bloke.

The annual event was the Xmas float, a really classy converted milk float that was taken round from the last week of November until December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Always the same routes on the same night, and if we didn't make a visit, no matter how foul the weather, there would be complaint letters in the local paper. We used to raise about £4000 (in the early 1980's), one year my tin included a fiver from Russ Abbot who lived in our village near Chester.

We also collected food, having been astute enough when ASDA opened a new store in Wrexham to ensure the manager joined Table. So we got free carrier bags, heavily discounted tea, sugar, Xmas puddings, crackers etc and with Circle made 1000 food parcels for the local needy, 20 to be delivered by each Tabler.

Now every time Romsey Table brings their float round our area I think of those great evenings.

Delivering those parcels was another life lesson in how fortunate some of us are compared to others (also made me a bit of a soft touch for mortgages for young applicants!!). The ASDA manager incidentally gave me another great moment – he and I played golf against Sir Jimmy McAlpine and Tom O'Connor who then was big on TV with Name That Tune. He had come to open the new superstore and though he and Sir Jimmy took a fiver of us both, Tom was very kind, a very good 10 handicapper, and very funny.

We enjoyed great Ladies Nights at a wonderful hotel called the Bryn Hywel, if you are ever staying near Llangollen make sure you stay there. I attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Charter dinner there in 2002 renewing old acquaintances and sleeping in the room next to the Pavarotti Suite!

We had many great speakers, one was a Spitfire pilot and the nearby Duke of Westminster had RAF connections and was invited as guest of honour. I hosted him, and when asked what drink he would like, requested a glass of red wine. So I have bought a drink for the man who was the wealthiest person in the UK (he never bought me one back which is probably why he was so wealthy!!).

We left Wrexham for Waterlooville and Petersfield in 1984, and then Southampton in 1988. Portswood and Chandlers Ford were equally friendly and welcoming clubs, Chandlers Ford especially I remember for the Eastleigh Beer Festival, which was a very big event in the late 80's, a great money spinner and the best event ever to volunteer for!! One year I was in the food galley selling the thousands of cheese and ham rolls the Circlers had made, and who can forget the meat samosas. I can recall the smell as if it was yesterday.

All great days, I was lucky to have 11 great years before being kicked out with my leaving tankard and into 41 Club at the 1991 AGM. Can it really be that long ago?!!

But even now the links with Round Table persist, and not just through 41 club membership. Through his church a close friend of mine knows John Marchesi who I have partnered in golf Catenians (Catholic charity) golf events. Louis Marchesi was John's uncle. Funny how life goes full circle, isn't it!!

# 2021 and the prospect of a far better year!!

## New Year's Eve



At the time of writing we do not know what the Covid situation will be over the New year. There could be a welcome relaxation which may mean many will be joining

friends and family celebrations but there may not be. Either way we thought it would be good to have an opportunity to see in the New Year together.

**So..... At 11.00 pm on New Year's Eve we will have the Ringwood Ex Table's Zoom Welcome to 2021 .**

Fancy Dress is purely optional but what about finding a previous New Year outfit – or maybe DJ, posh frock , best PJs (with Wee Willy Winky hat) frilly nightie or just a paper hat. BYO bubbly and nibbles , trumpets, kazoos – and a balloon to blow up and burst at midnight to see the New Year in with a bang. We want to hear about any hilarious stories from the past year, memories of previous New Years, your best New Year ever, any decent jokes and what you are wishing for in 2021. (*I think we all know the answer to that one!! Ed*)

We can finish off with a loud, spontaneous, disorganised, out of tune, somewhat drunken rendition of Auld Lang Syne and lots of air kissing.

## New Year's Day

Traditionally we had a walk to sober up after the night before and met up for the hair of the dog and to finish off the party leftovers. Alas we cannot do that and again we don't know what the situation will be but it is likely that the rule of 6 will apply. It is difficult but maybe the best option is to self organise a walk perhaps within your pod - Fancy Dress still optional !! – Ideas welcome.



Well done to Jeff Wickens for somehow managing to get us in the party mood.



**If you have any more ideas to help us celebrate over the New Year then please give Jeff a ring now.**

## MESSAGE TO OUR ADULT KIDS

**My children ask me each year.....**

*"What do you want for Christmas? "*

After thinking about it, • I decided to give them my real answer:

I want you to keep coming around.  
I want you to ask me questions. Ask my advice.  
Tell me your problems.  
Ask for my opinion. Ask for my help.  
I want you to come over and rant about your problems, rant about life. Whatever.  
Tell me about your job. Your worries. Your classes.  
I want you to continue sharing your life with me.  
Come over and laugh with me, or laugh at me.  
I don't care, hearing you laugh is music to me.

I want you to spend your money making a better life for you.  
I have the things I need. I want to see you happy and healthy.

When you ask me what I want for Christmas I say "Nothing" because you've already been giving me my gift all year.

**I want you.**

## COPY DATES

Special Christmas Edition: Thursday December 17th

January Edition: Tuesday January 5th

Thank you for continuing to send me suitable (and not so suitable!) copy.  
Please keep it coming.

**Also, please don't forget to send your photos and any short videos to Gordon Knott not only for the website but also for this year's Covid special montage that he is compiling.**





# Tangent News

## MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2020

### (Tangent only) "Our Very Own Christmas Party"

'Bubbles, Baubles and Bingo'

Dress: Christmas jumpers, hats, baubles and all things Christmassy!

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Zoom

Pour yourself a glass of bubbly, have your baubles handy, show off your best Christmas jumper and 'Eyes Down' for bingo!



Contact Caroline to participate and receive your unique bingo card to print at home

### Joint Clubs Christmas Party 2020



Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm on Zoom

Ho Ho Ho.....you are invited to join our Zoom Tangent and Ex Tabler Party. Christmas Fun with festive photos and tales of December activities past. You might even witness some live seasonal performance!!!

More details to follow and will include a little Christmas Craft activity for you.

Get ready with red hat, sherry and mince pies for a smashing online party Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30 pm. Ink the date into your diary and if you need any more info call Jenny Stockdale!!!



Talent Night co-organiser Richard Blackiston presents the winners trophy to Ian Stockdale



Remembrance Day at the War memorial was a different affair this year. John Adams provided a piper's escort as Richard and Caroline as well as Phil Hoyle laid their wreaths from our respective clubs.



## Letters to the Editor



While passing Greyfriars I spotted this message on the back of a white van. I was so concerned, I took a photo so that you can warn your readers of the danger.

Best Regards  
Gordon

*I was quite shocked. Old people in Greyfriars. Really? Ed*



We came across this in the outback about 500 miles north of Adelaide in January 2011. Who says Aussies don't have a sense of the absurd.

Will and Julie Parke

### Another Smile for Another Month

I was terrible at spelling when I was at school  
Brilliant at Jografy though

And the winner of this year's award for "worst nest ever" goes to .....

Great to hear that David Darts is going back on stage in the New Year. He's landed a part in the next RMDS production about a man who has a strong attachment to his dog  
No surprise to hear that David's playing the lead



Dear Editor

Maybe this shot requires a caption!!!

Ian

*Maybe it does but I'm not even going there!!  
Ed*



Dear Sir,

While checking my food cupboard, I came across a can of beans and several tins of tomatoes.

It raises the question, why do beans come in cans while tomatoes come in tins?

Yours faithfully  
Easily Confused

*Have you considered changing your name to 'Needs help'? Ed*

Dear Editor

I need to share with you the following as I would not wish this happening to befall any other readers of your Chronicle.

### **A Tale of Film Night, CoVid-19 and 14 Days 14 Nights**

Club Film Night was about to start. I was running late, hungry, just home after a day travelling and no film recorded. No worries, I have Netflix. Logging into Zoom, I arrived in the Waiting Room. I had time to search Netflix but failed to find the film. Before I could say "pandemic", I had been admitted to Rimbury Studios Film Night where Richard and Keith were presenting Harrison Ford starring in "6 Days 7 Nights".

No film recorded but I still had catch-up TV. I'll find it before the second part of Film Night. Hungry, I checked the food cupboard but chose unwisely. Dinner of an omelette (two eggs, a little milk, seasoning) was not enough after a day of travelling.

I had intended to return to the second part of film night, but 2020 had other ideas. Still hungry, I re-visited the cupboard as the "film goes" enjoyed the film. I settled for a packet of Thai Style Spicy Crackers, 80 grams, best before August.

I assumed the crackers would be fine, they just needed a Sweet Chilli dip.

Keen to get back to film night, I quickly turned the cupboard upside down and found every spice except the chilli dip. But wait, there was one last bottle lying on its side. Quickly, I picked it up, only for the contents, palm sugar, to spill covering the shelf and everything else.

I know, I asked the same question. What is palm sugar?

It took the next hour to empty the cupboard and clean the mess. But good news, I found the Sweet Chilli Dip, it was in the fridge.

Hurriedly, I checked the "best before date", but without glasses, no chance. No worry, I removed the top, peered in, it looked okay. Double checking, I lifted it to my nose and inhaled deeply.

This was a mistake!

The chilli flew through my passages clearing all before it. Immediately I lost my sense of smell. Sweat rolled off my brow. I had a fever. Throat burning. I could not stop coughing. I had lost my taste, for Crackers. My year staying alert flashed before me, I had not one but every symptom.

I had become a statistic to be reported on the evening news. Before me self-isolating, "14 Days 14 Nights"

Name withheld in case Track and Trace has not contacted you, yet.

*Gordon, (whoops, I should say Anon). In a subsequent telephone conversation you told me that you have now recovered although I fear that this extended lockdown has taken its toll on you. I have informed your psychiatrist of your problem. He will be in touch very shortly. Ed*