

# RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX-TABLERS CLUB

## THE PANDEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

This is the story of what we hope will have been a unique year in the history of our Club. At the start of writing, the end of the year is some months away, so to see how it concluded please read on!

### MARCH 2020

The Club AGM was due on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March and four days before this Chairman Gordon Knott sent out the following email:

*This email I thought I would never receive let alone have to write. We have on Tuesday our AGM and we are in a Coronavirus pandemic. The AGM is an important meeting for Club but the welfare of our members is paramount. At Council yesterday we discussed in detail whether to postpone the AGM. Council decided to encourage all members to attend with the exception of those with an underlying medical condition or if you have symptoms including influenza, a common cold or a recent cough. Our decision is in line with current advice, but we will continually review based on guidelines from Public Health England. Council is talking with St Leonards what action we can take together to reduce the risk. However, every member must make their own decision.*

Over the next couple of days apologies were coming in from those who had booked for the AGM and so Gordon sent this to Council:

*I write to inform you tomorrow's AGM is to be cancelled. Richard and I have been monitoring the situation, reviewing our options and this morning took the decision. We have a duty of care to our members and their wellbeing. In light of the pandemic facing the world, it is impossible to justify holding our AGM. I know you will support our decision and thank you all for your support during the year. In true ex-Tablers fashion keep smiling and stay safe.*

Later the same day the following email was sent to all members:

*Gentlemen, this email is notice tomorrow's AGM is cancelled. We have been monitoring the situation, reviewing our options and this morning took the decision. We will miss the fellowship of the meeting but know there will be many more opportunities later in the year. In true Ex-Tablers fashion, keep smiling and stay safe.*

*Yours in Continued Friendship, Gordon & Richard*

Gordon and Vice Chairman Richard had discussed what should happen next and as a result Gordon emailed all Club members as follows on 17<sup>th</sup> March:

*I write this email after a wonderful year as your Chairman. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time and must thank all on Council for their support but more importantly all the hard work they have done to make my year easier. I must also say a big thank you to you, all our Members, who have been so supportive and made my year a real joy.*

*It is now time for me to step aside, I have this evening sent my resignation to Secretary Steve. As at 9pm Richard will take over as interim Chairman until Club can reschedule the AGM.*

*Despite the Coronavirus pandemic Ringwood & District Ex-Tablers Club continue to thrive and move forward. We have a new year starting and a new team in waiting. I know Club will give them all the support I received.*

*Gentlemen, it's been a pleasure. Thank you*

Then, on 18<sup>th</sup> March Richard sent this email to prospective Council members:

*You will have seen Gordon's email to all Club members sent yesterday. There will be a better place than this email to thank Gordon properly for his year as Chairman in a momentous year which included the re-formation of a Round Table in Ringwood.*

*Following Gordon's email I am asking all of you if you are willing now to step into the new roles for which you have been nominated. We will of course complete the proper formalities whenever we can.*

*The proposed Council which would have been voted on is as follows:*

*Vice-Chairman : Bob Merrett*

*Past Chairman : Gordon Knott*

*Secretary : Chris Kean (Steve Wyatt will also remain in post pending the completion of an AGM/EGM to complete the formalities of the postponed AGM)*

*Treasurer : Andrew Green*

*Social : Jeff Wickens*

*Welfare : David Hirst*

*Membership & Publicity : Ian Stockdale*

*Editor : Peter Lomax*

*Speakers : John Adams and Richard Blackiston*

*Meals : David Phelps*

*Lay Member : Steve Mursell*

*Jeff has a Social Team to support him including Will Parke, Mike Fraser and Mike Edwards.*

*Electronic Distribution will be via Arthur Robins who is due to return from Barbados on Thursday.*

*If this is OK with you then I will arrange for an email to all Club Members to advise them that this is what we are doing to move forward. In addition, I will ask everyone to keep the Club informed of any healthcare difficulties and to make contact if any help is needed.*

*We are intending to publish a Newsletter, hopefully as soon as early next week, and I have already had a conversation with Peter about this. The Newsletter can cover some of the ground we would have covered at the AGM and as importantly is*

*intended to begin an ongoing communication network for the Club until we are able to resume our normal meetings and activities. If you would like to contribute to this Newsletter please send your input to Peter.*

*It would also be good in these pretty depressing times to begin a competition or two through the Newsletter. I know that Ian is proposing to spend a lot of time in the garden and others have 'projects'. We could therefore invite photographs under those two headings and also written descriptive contributions for which there would be prizes at some later stage. Any further ideas along these lines appreciated.*

*Finally, thanks to you all in anticipation of your support for the approach we have taken. We are fortunate all to belong to a very strong Club and I'm sure that the qualities of our Club will see us through this episode and we will find ways to keep together even though we will not be meeting.*

Richard then wrote to all Club members in similar vein and explaining,

*This is to let you know the next steps. To ensure continuity for the Club, those members who had been nominated for Council posts for 2020/2021 have been asked to step into the new roles straight away. We will of course complete the proper formalities whenever we can.*

*As we are unlikely to be meeting for a while, I ask all of you please to keep us updated on your personal situation in particular any healthcare difficulties and please make contact if any help is needed. Many of us may be in the vulnerable category but I have no doubt we are all willing to use other contacts if necessary to provide help if we cannot.*

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 41 Club and Tangent GB&I announced that the National Conference and AGM planned in Cardiff in April was to be cancelled.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March the Government Health Secretary Matt Hancock had announced that "all unnecessary social contact should cease". Although some regarded this as the start of the Pandemic lockdown it was emphatically confirmed the following week on 23<sup>rd</sup> March by Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Magazine Editor Peter had promised an early edition of the new title with the name announced on publication and it was duly sent out on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Here it is:



# **The Cartier Chronicle**

*Timeless luxury reading for those with  
taste....or for those where time just stands still!*



Welcome to this emergency special edition of The Cartier Chronicle. I hope you like the title which reflects our new Chairman Richard's unique email address:  
**theone**richard**carter@btopenworld.com.**

This newsletter will only work with your contributions and given our current situation we will be doing plenty of reading over the coming weeks! So please submit suitable articles and photos by the 4th of each month. Yes, there will be another newsletter in early April and maybe even more often for the coming months.

Thank you. Peter L

[pwlomax@btinternet.com](mailto:pwlomax@btinternet.com)



## **Thanks to Gordon.**

On behalf of all of us I must thank Gordon for all his excellent leadership as Chairman in the past year. We can look back on a momentous year. The re-formation of Round Table in Ringwood is fantastic. We were in Carnival once again. We enjoyed an active social year with BBQs and the Irish Night which very sadly after doing all the organisation Gordon was unable to attend because of the passing of Angela's mother. We have had walks, cycle rides, continuing strong sectional groups including caravanning, kippers and golf, not to mention Keith's film and concert nights.

Gordon has also developed contacts with other local 41 Clubs and has varied the structure and presentation of our monthly Club meetings. He has also progressed the development of our website.

Quite a year. Gordon thank you very much for all your efforts.

## **Moving forward.**

We are living in unprecedented, worrying and difficult times. Our Club is an important part of our lives but at the moment we all have other priorities and concerns, not least the wellbeing of ourselves and our families. Continuing to get our medication and shopping are also rather more in mind than normally.

Nevertheless, I'm sure we all look forward to the day when we can meet up again and enjoy the fellowship and fun which are the hallmarks of Round Table and Ex-Table Clubs. For that reason we have decided to take the Club forward as if the AGM had happened. These are exceptional times and of course it remains our intention to complete the usual formalities as soon as we are able.

I must therefore on behalf of all of us, thank those members of Council who have stepped down this year, Keith Anderson, John Quint, Paul Thackray and Steve Wyatt who will kindly stay in office until the AGM formalities have been completed. A warm welcome to those who are joining Council this year, Chris Kean, Jeff Wickens, Peter Lomax, Richard Blackiston and Steve Mursell.

Jeff has agreed to coordinate this year's social activity and has a team to help him to whom I am very grateful. The team includes Will Parke, Mike Fraser and Mike Edwards.

What about the year ahead? Who knows? As soon as we are able to resume more normal activities I know that John and Richard are already lining up good speakers for us. I would want to continue the contacts with local 41 Clubs and of course we will support Richard Dyson in his Regional role when he is once again able to circulate the Clubs in our region.

This time a year ago the Ringwood Round Table family consisted of two Clubs, ourselves and Tangent. We are now a four Club family with the addition of Ringwood and Verwood Round Table and a new Ringwood & District Ladies Circle.

Maybe this year we will have a four Club meeting.

Our approach with the new Round Table has been to launch it and to stay at arms length while they establish their own identity and way forward. They now have their charter and I hope that progressively we will be able to develop closer relationships without cramping their style, as I'm sure there are things we can work on together.

Another highlight of Gordon's year has been the arrival of new members. I am delighted that Steve Mursell and Mike Edwards will be involved in what we do this year and Jim Stride as well who is doing so much with the new Clubs. We have a couple of additional prospective new members in the pipeline which confirms the healthy state of our Club and long may that continue.

Stay well; stay positive; stay in touch.

Yours in Continued Friendship,  
Richard

## A message from Past Chairman Gordon.....a review of the past 12 months



Remember a time when we could smoke in pubs. Now, we can't even drink in them! My year in the Chair has 'Flash Gordoned by', a new Council is in place but wait, we've not had an AGM. That's a bit about-face, but it's challenging times. Twelve months ago, we were planning the Club's Social Calendar, getting everyone together. How Coronavirus has changed things. Now it's all about keeping everyone apart and we've given it a name "Social Isolation". It's a topsy-turvy world. Thank goodness to continued friendship, may it never rust.

At the beginning of the year, our biggest issue was the failure of the turntable on Vinyl Night. At our April Meeting we heard about Cyber Crime and Security Awareness. We had concerns about going on-line and staying safe. Today, we are concerned about going out and staying safe. Back in April the solution was if you go on-line be careful. Today the solution is don't go out but if you must, be careful. Similar solutions, but the consequences, a world apart. Thank goodness fellowship is as strong as ever.

We live in challenging times, but Ex-Tablers rise to these challenges. Take Tabling in Ringwood, it had disappeared but today Ringwood, Verwood & District Round Table is back and this month they received their Charter, in the year of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original formation of Tabling in Ringwood. The challenge of reforming Ringwood Table was taken on and beaten with hard work from David Phelps, Richard Blackiston, Mike Fraser, Jim Stride and Facebook. Jim joining us gave renewed energy to the group and before you could say Round Table, 10<sup>th</sup> September had been set as the date for the inaugural meeting. Congratulations to the group plus Phil Hoyle and Ben Salsbury, Chairman and Vice of the newly reformed Table.

We have Social Distancing and the scourge, Social Isolation. Our Social Calendar gave us our Irish Night while Social Isolation cancelled St Patrick's Day. We had three impromptu BBQs drinking with friends while Social Distancing closed pubs. But it's not all bad now when I'm out running and not keeping up..... I'm practicing Social Distancing!

But the year has not been about Coronavirus. I've had a wonderfully enjoyable year. I visited Bournemouth 5, Christchurch and Wareham. We were in the press on numerous occasions thanks to the reports John Adams submitted. We made the front cover of the 41 Club's National Mag, a photo of Richard C and Phil Hoyle and the title, "Meet Ringwood Round Table". Angela and I had a lovely time with friends from The Frogham Adventure Group. We met the Golf Society and had a wonderful evening of fellowship at their Presentation Night. We sailed into the Ringwood Carnival with our float, the Sandbanks Ferry and we won 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize. Our Club supported Fanfare For Spring, a great afternoon of fellowship and it was John Harper not John Humphries who got stuck marshalling with me at the corner of Star Lane.

During the year, our own Richard Dyson (yes, Alfie's granddad) was voted National Councillor for Area 23. I believe the first Ringwood Ex-Tabler to be on National. Angela and I attend the Ringwood Remembrance Service. It was an honour to lay the Ringwood & District Ex-Tablers' wreath at the Memorial Cross. And during the year, we published our website, [www.ringwood-extablers.org](http://www.ringwood-extablers.org).

Throughout the year fellowship was in abundance. Arthur organised theatre trips and the annual BSO's Proms in the Park, an evening with friends, picnic, wine and enjoyable music finishing with a light show. John K took us to Lashings Friday for a day of drinking, lunch and there was also some cricket. Then he arranged an audience with Professor Alice Roberts, an evening of fellowship and book signing.

Throughout the year, Keith, last year's Immediate Past and now a Past Chairman or as I see him, Elder Statesmen Keith, organised Cycle Rides, Film Nights with fish & chips followed by ice cream and let's not forget the M&Ms. On a cold November evening Will and Julie held an outdoor party. Well, it was firework night. Fellowship and the bonfire kept us warm. It does not get any better, great company and food with fireworks.

Area 23 has many thriving Clubs, none more than Ringwood & District Ex-Tablers Club. It was great to see them at Dorset Knobs. A fantastic evening of fellowship meeting old friends from other clubs. In December, I attended the Lambs Christmas Lunch at Leadenhall Market and again met old friends as 80 Ex-Tablers and Tangent members from many clubs attended Christmas Lunch. Fellowship in abundance, the pub crawl after, wonderful. (*Ed...why wasn't I invited? So much for fellowship*) The Round Table Family is special.

Club Nights, everyone a gem and maybe I should have closed some meetings a little earlier. Our Speaker Secretaries, Ian S and David P excelled. We had variety, from entertainer Wayne the Weird to our own Colin Williams sharing the history of his family's business, Williams Shipping. We had an OBE telling us about running the Royal International Air Tattoo. Table layouts were changed to what I called the "Fellowship Layout" so we had one meeting and I could see faces rather than the back of heads. A raffle was introduced and at some meetings we had a Master at Arms. Thanks gentlemen for humouring me. National President Andrew Mackereth joined us at our June meeting, one of the first club meetings he attended during his year. Also, with us that night was our newest married member, Peter Lomax. It took Ann to make an honest man of our retired Banker. (*Ed....No comment!*) The talk was about the history of Poole Harbour. Then there was our ambitious joint meeting, the Antique Road Show. Two local experts valued our treasured collectable objects. They pulled it off, but it took a little blackmailing in Council, I say no more.

Amongst all the socialising, we still managed to donate to worthy causes. We visited Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance to present them with a cheque of £750, we presented £450 to The Parkinson's UK East Dorset Branch and £450 to The Dorset Children's Foundation. Not bad for a Club not actively raising money for charity.

We had Christmas Drinks and our New Year's Eve Party. The theme was Pantomimes but my lasting memory was Colin with long dark hair and wearing a long flowing dress. Colin and David C organised a wonderful evening for us as we saw out the old and celebrated in the new year. The social event of the year, Ladies Night was special. Richard organised a wonderful evening. Top table was bristling with VIPs. We had National President Andrew, Tangent's National President Sue Hill, Tangent Chairman Anne, National Councillor Richard, Paul and Cathie C, my favourite daughter Caroline and hubby Alex and all the way from Ireland, Angela. (*Ed....here's a tip Gordon. Next time put her at the top of the list!*) The interruption was a polished performance of, you guessed, Flash Gordon. Wonderfully entertaining and in these challenging times I've kept one speech bubble, "Gordon's Alive".

Our Council this year has been superb, every Council member has made a positive contribution and helped me in my year as Chairman. To Council I thank you but must mention in despatches our Secretary Steve W for his sound advice and keeping me on track. To Club, I thank you for your support. I've enjoyed my year and it is due to you and the fellowship within our wonderful Club.

We are now moving into a challenging year but I know we have a safe pair of hands at the helm. Chairman Richard and his Council have challenges to face but in true Ex-Tablers fashion will meet them head on and succeed. I look forward to the year ahead. It's been an honour to be your Chairman. I wish Richard every success and an enjoyable year. Gentlemen, stay safe and To Continued Friendship.

Gordon

*Ed.....On behalf of all of the Club. An enormous thank you. A truly outstanding year.*



## TANGENT – IN PARALLEL

Little did I think a few weeks ago that I would be writing this piece. I think we are all stunned at how quickly life has turned from optimism looking forward to Spring and a new year of Tangent/41 Club social activities, to planning how to keep ourselves occupied at home!! Over the next few weeks, we all need to help each other to ‘keep smiling and keep safe’!!



I was so pleased to be able to celebrate Tangent’s Birthday last week before we all hunkered down at home. Caroline and her team decorated the Hall beautifully, Amy serenaded us with her amazing guitar playing, and Young cooked us a spectacular Asian banquet. Thank you all. I’m looking forward to celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday next year!



The most important thing for Tangent and 41 Club members over the next few weeks, as we learn how to adjust to life with Covid-19, is to remember that we continue to be one large extended ‘family’ and not to become hermits behind our closed doors. We must all support and look after each other, whilst keeping ourselves and our families safe. Don’t hesitate to let one of us know straight away if you need help.

Sending texts, phone calls, WhatsApp, emails with photos of happy times past, present and future all helps to reduce a feeling of isolation. Sometimes we want to see the faces of friends as well as read their messages and hear their voices – this may be the time to try your first WhatsApp video phone call.

Richard and I have been thinking up activities to keep us occupied and to share with family and friends. Our favourite is to raid the toy cupboard we keep for grandchildren visits. Dust off the lego/duplo, build a model, and share a photo of it with your grandchildren. Perhaps a competition with your grandchildren – who can build the best castle/garage/plane? If you submit a photo to our Editor, I’m sure that he’ll include them in the newsletter.



*(Ed...I sure will!)* On a practical level, we will run our AGM this year using email.

This will allow the new committee to take the baton and think about organising the forthcoming year of support, and for when we all emerge from our homes. I will email all Tangent members directly with details. If you know of a Tangent member that is a reluctant email user would you please let me know. We want to minimise the cost to the Club of posting materials, but also want to ensure that we are being inclusive. Therefore, we’ll post out where necessary. The National AGM has been cancelled. I’ll let you know how the new National Executive will be elected.

In these strange days I’m certain of one thing; the situation will pass eventually. Once we see the ‘light at the end of the tunnel’ we can start to plan a wonderful Ringwood & District Tangent/41 Club get-together to celebrate our continued friendship. Hopefully, it won’t be long before we can be holding impromptu BBQs, beach parties, guided walks, pub lunches. We just need to be patient, look after each other, and keep smiling and laughing.

Anne

*And here are some more ideas from Anne.....*

### MAKE THE MOST OF THIS TIME AT HOME

- Dust off the lego/duplo from the toy cupboard that you have ready for grandchildren visits, build a model, share a photo with your grandchildren. Have a competition with them – who can build the best castle/garage/aeroplane?
- YouTube has numerous Pilates Exercise videos – get those mats out in your lounge. Photos for the Newsletter editor of your virtual class please
- Book-club at a distance – facetime the group
- Painting/Drawing efforts – to be shared through the newsletter.
- Time to catch up on sorting out the thousands of digital photos that we all have and create photobooks of family and holiday
- Walks on the beach, in the New Forest, or at Kingston Lacey. You can keep a distance from all other walkers and take a picnic to enjoy in the fresh air. National Trust have free entry to their gardens during this ‘social distancing’ period.
- As a young child I had an Uncle living in Singapore and postal ‘snail-mail that took 6 weeks to arrive. We would play chess together!! We each had a chess board set up at home and would include our next move in our regular letters. Ok, it took a year to complete a game, but I still remember it with a smile. Easily done these days with phone/text/email/facetime contact. Chess, Scrabble, Draughts, Monopoly... – all at a distance. Involve your grandchildren as they sit at home bored!

If you are looking for the normal Diary of Events page then I am sorry to advise you that there is nothing to tell you apart from **EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED!**

But watch out for the April edition for ‘distanced’ walks and bike rides and hopefully plenty more.



## The 'Covid' Section (otherwise known as Cut Off, Verging Into Despair)

So what are we going to do for the next few months? We may be stuck at home or going out for a walk away from others.....or just what? Ian Stockdale has said he will be spending plenty of time in his garden and that is something Ann and I plan to do. So when it is safe to do so,

should we have an Open Garden weekend or more? Not a competition, just socialising. Should we set up our own **Club Facebook group**? We could exchange ideas, show what we've been doing, get ideas from others. We can phone each other!

### **WE MUSN'T STAGNATE!**

**Technology** is surely an outlet to pursue. What about online Scrabble or Bridge? Has anybody considered writing a short story or even their memoirs? Why not clear out the loft or that cupboard that has bits and pieces in it that you'd forgotten all about. I really ought to sort out my CD's into alphabetical order. I've been meaning to do that for years!

**Exercise** is paramount not only for the body but also for the mind. We've been told that we can go out as long as we don't get too close to others, so a walk in the New Forest would be ok but not necessarily along the prom at Bournemouth. Golf will be tricky unless I play on my own and my Pilates class has been suspended but Ann and I will be creating a regular routine to maintain our fitness. We could share it with you to try?.

**Do you use Facetime?** Group Facetime or WhatsApp calls could bring a smile to our faces. We may soon be undertaking important Council business in this way?

Please pass on your ideas to me so that I can share them around.

And finally, some wise words from Piglet:

*"Where are we going Piglet?" asked Pooh.*

*"We need to get supplies," said Piglet. "For the Coronavirus"*

*"Ahh," said Pooh, nodding in understanding. "Things like bread, milk, cough mixture, tissues and cat litter even though we don't have a cat?"*

*Piglet did a little laugh, and a sort of leap and bit of a cough. "No," said Piglet. "No, those aren't the sort of supplies we need at all! What we need are family sized bags of chocolate buttons, massive toblerone, jelly babies and crunchies and a freezer full of stuffed crust pizzas, and all of the Prosecco and Kombucha that we can possibly carry, so that when we get quarantined we won't mind it even slightly. THOSE are supplies."*

*All of a sudden, Pooh thought that the idea of coronavirus didn't seem quite so bad, and actually, getting quarantined with Piglet and their supplies really didn't sound such a terrible thing after all. "Oh Piglet," said Pooh. "I really do think you are a very wise animal."*

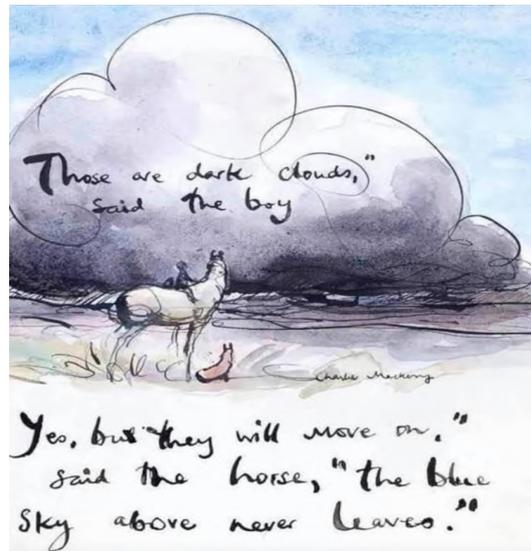
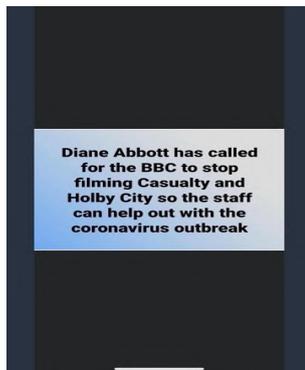
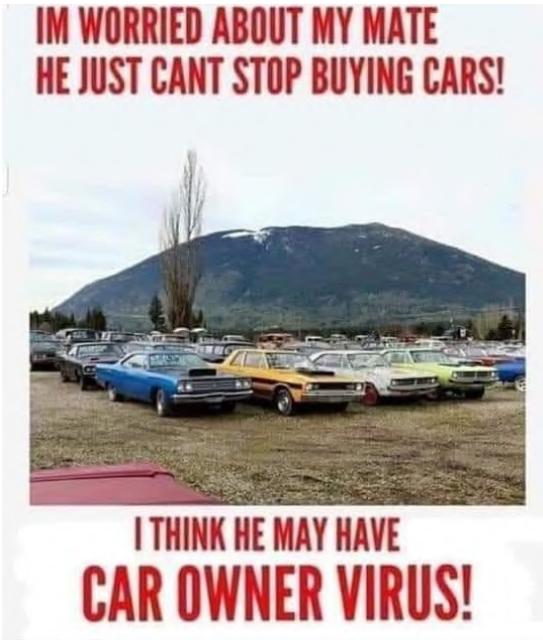




**It can't all be doom and gloom. Come on, have a smile!!**



The local chemist has run out of face masks and recommended that I try Boots. I'm not keen.



**NOW WASH YOUR HANDS**



We had some good news of prospective new members. Tim Airey and Leslie Jones had expressed an interest in joining the Club. Both were put on the communication distribution list and drafted into the new Club Directory which Gerald Carter had

kindly agreed to produce. Also, Stephen Butterfield had been in contact to renew his Club membership.

Gerald labelled the directory 'Interim Directory' with an 'Acting Chairman' and 'Acting Council'. This led Gordon Knott to suggest subsequently that after the AGM a new Directory should be produced. Richard felt it was fine as the 'Interim' would have greater value in years to come!

Looking back, things had moved quickly, and the next step was flagged by Richard in this email to Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> March:

*I hope you are all well. First of all thanks to Peter for issuing the first Newsletter in such good time. He didn't reveal the name to me so it was as new to me as it was to you - very clever!*

#### **REMOTE COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

*We are exploring the possibility of using an audio or video conferencing facility which would enable us to hold a Council meeting whilst encamped in our own homes. Bob has been using Zoom and there are others. I may trial one or more of these with a few of you and get back to you. It would mean downloading the one we use so it has to be user friendly. It would be free and as there are some limitations on the free service we need to check out the one best suited to us.*

#### **KEEPING ALL CLUB MEMBERS IN TOUCH.**

*I am keen to keep in contact with all members and have been in contact with David Hirst about how to do this. Quite a number of our members have established social circles having known each other for years and there is no doubt they will be keeping in touch with each other during this problem. However, we have a number of members who do not share such a circle in Club and I have therefore been giving thought as to how we can keep everyone in contact and check how they all are coping.*

*The attached below is a suggested way forward. Please feel free to criticise, adjust or come up with a different idea, and do you agree that we should try to do this? I have divided the members into "Pods" on a geographic basis. That way they are closer physically and knowing their own locality are more likely to know sources of help should that be necessary.*

*Most of the "Pods" have a member who could be a coordinator. Poulner has 4 Council members (an embarrassment of riches!); Richard Dyson could take Ringwood; there are 2 of you in Ashley Heath; Gordon Knott for Poole; I can take Fordingbridge; I would propose to ask David Darts if he is willing to take Ferndown; I think Keith Anderson would like to take Bournemouth/Christchurch and Bob could take Romsey/Southampton.*

*If we were to go with this the coordinators could make contact with David Hirst or me every so often so we can coordinate at Club level.*

*Please let me know your thoughts and if we progress this I see the next step as being a note to all members to let them know we plan to do this.*

## **NATIONAL 41 CLUB NEWSLETTER.**

*I received the latest one this morning and it is on the Club website if you have not received it. You will see that a Facebook Party is planned for 2pm on 4th April. Perhaps we could be considering doing something similar although I suspect not all our members are keen on all the techie stuff. That is why I am proposing the attached approach. However, we can of course use a variety of additional ways to keep in touch and be active with those who are interested in the techie stuff. Ideas please!*

*All feedback and thoughts welcome.*

The PODs were then launched and this was the initial make up of them:

### **POULNER**

Richard Blackiston  
John Harper  
Graham Hoyle  
Chris Kean  
John Kennedy  
David Meany  
Ian Stockdale  
Jeff Wickens  
Tim Airey  
Caroline Gill  
Joan Browne  
Fiona Wilcox  
Arthur Robins

### **RINGWOOD**

\* Richard Dyson  
Jimmy Gordon  
Martin Hardwick  
Stephen Penny  
Brian Pierson  
Dick Sheerin  
Chris Treleaven  
Jim Stride  
Roger Bettle

### **ASHLEY HEATH**

Gerald Carter  
Mike Fraser  
\* David Hirst  
Peter Lomax  
Derrick Lynas  
John Morgan  
Derek Scott  
Paul Thackray  
Barrie Vincent  
Maureen Brunt  
Catriona Johnson  
Lynne Salisbury  
Justine Turner

### **POOLE**

\* Gordon Knott  
David Okey  
David Phelps  
John Quint  
Paul Chappell  
Stephen Butterfield  
Shirley Baker  
Naomi Heseltine  
Pam Dwyer

### **FORDINGBRIDGE**

Mike Callaghan  
\* Richard Carter  
Peter Daughtrey  
Hugh Edwards  
Peter Godwin  
Andrew Green  
Robert Morey  
Will Parke  
Steve Wyatt  
Leslie Jones  
Chris Bright  
Sally Johnson  
Susan Lindsey  
Lesley Sharp  
Sue Smethers

### **FERNDOWN**

\* David Darts  
Gerald Downer  
Bill Field  
Alistair Hardie  
Brian Kinch  
Derek Matthews  
Tony Scrivener  
Mike Thornton  
Pam Caddick  
Marion Miller  
Gill Russell

### **B'MOUTH/CHRISTCHURCH**

John Adams  
\* Keith Anderson  
Geoff Bevans  
John Clough  
David Curle  
Colin Read  
Sue Taylor  
Juliette Turner

### **ROMSEY/SO'TON**

Mike Edwards  
\* Bob Merrett  
Steve Mursell  
Chris Saltrick  
Colin Williams

### **PERMANENT O'SEAS**

Norman Anton

The PODs launch had involved communication with new Tangent Chairman Caroline Gill after their AGM on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April and she encouraged her members to take part in this email :

*As you might know, 41 Club has set up pods to enable members to keep in contact with those who live close to them and provide support when and where needed as well as a means of keeping in touch with friends. The pods could operate via phone calls, texts anything. In Poulner we have a whatsapp group and funny things are posted every day to keep us entertained.*

*41 Club wish to extend membership of the pods to Tangent ladies and so if you would like to join your local one, or another one if you have people you would like to keep in contact with in another locality, please let Richard Carter know and he will add you to the list and ensure the pod prefect makes contact.*

Poulner POD nominated John Kennedy to be their leader (his term was POD Prefect) and he sent the following email to the POD which perfectly explains what was intended and outlining some options open to them :

*Hi Poulner Poders*

*I have been asked to co-ordinate our Poulner Pod as detailed in the earlier emails from Richard Carter and Ian Stockdale.*

**First Logistics:**

*I have left the email addresses open so that you can see the Pod "undle". In addition Joan Browne is in our Pod; however, she does not have an email facility and probably will have difficulty with establishing other facilities on her mobile phone. Her daughter, Fiona, is scheduled to contact me and maybe she will be able to help with these aspects.*

*Initially, this email is mainly addressed to 41 Club members but the Poulner Pod is open to Tangent, hence Caroline and Joan are included above. If your wives would like to be included separately, they are most welcome - please email to let me know. I am using both 2019-20 Club Directories for details of addresses, emails and landline phones & mobile phones. If yours has changed, or you want different ones used, please email to let me know.*

**Communications**

*The purpose of the Pod is that we maintain contact in these very difficult and surreal times when we are self isolating. It is important we keep the communication channels open in the best way we can.*

**WhatsApp:** *this is being widely used as an easy and effective form of both individual and group means of contact. I use it regularly and I am currently in several groups. Many of you will be in the same position. I have set up the Poulner Pod for our group. Please let me know if you would like to join this WhatsApp group. I am the administrator and the only one who can join you and it will be limited to the Poulner Pod. If you wish to join, and your partner, please email to let me know. I already have your mobile numbers so you only need to confirm. If you are not on WhatsApp, but want to, you will need to download the App onto your device. WhatsApp can also be used for face to face screen visual. Our use of this will evolve but normally I try not to overload. However, I appreciate that in these times members may want to chit chat more than usual.*

**Zoom:** this is a video conference facility. Again, I have used this with another group and individual friends. This enables all those wishing to participate in a conversation to be seen on screen. It is a powerful tool. It is necessary to establish a set time for this and as administrator, I would let you know in advance the number you would enter to join. I have not personally set one of these up before so will be feeling my way. I believe that this can follow on as there is no hurry with any of this.

**Skype:** this is a video conferencing facility. This has been mentioned to me as used by some group members. I have not used for some time but will look into if it is felt this might be an alternative to Zoom. Please let me know if this is of more interest than Zoom.

**Facetime:** this can only be used between Apple users so is unlikely to be an answer for our Pod.

**Phones & Messaging:** do not forget these for one to one which will remain important. In particular for contacting those on their own and/or unable to fully participate in the technology.

### **General**

This does seem a very long and detailed email but there is no need to be overwhelmed. We, and you, can take each bit at a time. the overarching principle is stay in touch in whatever way we can. This will help to keep the Clubs we cherish very much alive and us all together. Not least, if anyone requires any help, information and so on, we can all be here for assistance. Any further thoughts and suggestions are most welcome.

All the very best for now, and stay safe, sane and cheery.

John

Poulner Pod Prefect (!)

Poulner POD started to make great use of both Zoom on Friday afternoons and also WhatsApp and that continued through the months ahead. The WhatsApp content provided both humour and local information of value to POD members.

Richard followed up the POD introduction by letting all POD leaders know the names of Tangent members local to them so they could be fully included in whatever activity the POD determined.

Gordon set up both WhatsApp and Zoom sessions for Poole POD with the Zoom sessions being either for Coffee or a 'Quarantini' late afternoon meet.

Fordingbridge POD established a regular Thursday afternoon Zoom get together and a quiz was quickly introduced and maintained each week with various POD members submitting it.

Ashley Heath POD also established a regular Zoom on Wednesday afternoons.

## APRIL 2020

Editor Peter, good to his word, produced the second edition of the Cartier Chronicle at the beginning of the month.

Issue 2 April 4th 2020



# The Cartier Chronicle

## The One to watch!



I hope you all remain safe and well and are coping as best you can with the current restrictions.

The Stay in Touch Pods seem to be establishing themselves in different ways, aimed at keeping all of our members in contact with the Club.

Council members have been trialling the Zoom Video Conferencing software and we have planned a Zoom Council meeting for next Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April. WhatsApp groups are becoming established and Zoom Video conferencing is also being used for social group meetings over a glass of wine in the evening and coffee in the morning. Please make contact if you would like to take part in either of these Staying in Touch opportunities.

My thanks to Arthur for keeping us amused, and Spring is almost here. Our first azalea is out which also brings a smile.

I wish Anne and Caroline well with their AGM event and look forward to working in tandem (or should that be 'In Parallel'.....see page 2! Ed) with Tangent on more normal activities as soon as we are able.

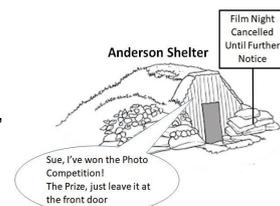
Yours in Continued Friendship,  
Richard



### 2019 - 2020 Photo Competition

No AGM, no award to the winning photographer in the 2019 -2020 Photo Competition. What the covid is going on! This year's Competition, a photograph taken at a social event/club meeting during my year in the Chair. Finding time on my over washed hands, I reviewed the entries, many, many times. I noticed pictures of us enjoying the company of friends, while in the same room. Remember those days before Zoom, before Social Distancing. Days when there was nothing better than sharing a room with friends, when Amazon delivered to the front door rather than dropping it off on the driveway, when you could buy toilet rolls or get an Ocado delivery slot, when restaurants were open and if you saw someone wearing a mask, they were up to no good. Pictures submitted showed me hugging Sue and Juliette on AGM night. No surprise it's me with the biggest smile. There is Keith and I, and yes, we are shaking hands. Club standing shoulder to shoulder in the same hotel courtyard as we present a cheque to a worthy cause, the A Team huddled together looking down on a silent turntable at a Social Event. Remember them? No, not the turntable, social events. There were chefs barbequing together under a brolly at John and Lindy's BBQ while the rest of us snuggle under the gazebo keeping warm and not a hand sanitiser in sight. Since we stopped taking group photos, have you noticed life is not as much fun? So, to get back to 'normal' all we need do is start taking group photos again. Sorted!

Anyway, to the winning Photographer. Could it be one of our official Photographers, Ian for snapping the front cover of 41 Clubs' National Mag or maybe our national winning Photographer Arthur? No not them. What about a Photographer who submitted one of the many excellent pictures published in our Mag. No, none of these either, even though many would have been worthy winners. In the end, I went for a topical photograph, one of an Ex-Tabler in isolation or so it appears. The subject was at Will and Julie's Firework Party. It is a well-known fact, where you find fire, you will find a happy Ex-Tabler and if he is playing with fire, he won't be able to hide his delight.



The winning photograph catches such a moment. The subject in the photo, our delighted Jeff Wickens with his fire stick. And the Photographer who caught this moment, Keith Anderson. Congratulations Keith. We were to present a fine bottle of red, but it is thirsty work Home Isolating and.....!!!!!!  
Gordon

See overleaf for Past Chairman Gordon's 'Chairman's Choice Award'

### Chairman's Choice 2019 - 2020

No AGM, no award to the winner of Chairman's Choice. What the covid is going on! Déjà vu or just Groundhog Day.

Throughout my year, many of you offered invaluable advice, and everyone brought friendship and fellowship to Club. Choosing the winner of the Chairman's award has not been easy, there were so many who would have been worthy of the award.

There was David Hirst. I was delighted when David joined Council. He slipped into his role and made Welfare his domain. Welfare is a hard job and David did a great job, with compassion. Andrew Green and Steve Wyatt's advice and guidance was invaluable throughout my year.

John Kennedy's support was there without me asking. With no prompting, the three Impromptu BBQs were organised, Lashings Friday just happened and the icing, the audience with Prof Alice. Ian, Mr Stockdale, has been a constant support throughout the year. He was always available either on the phone or to meet up and never short of ideas. Some we shared over coffee while sitting at his kitchen table. Aahh, those were the days. John Adams was a contender for playing the bagpipes not just on Burns Night but for Jimmy Gordon on his 100<sup>th</sup> year. But he also disqualified himself, for playing the bagpipes! David Phelps, Richard Blackiston, Mike Fraser, Jim Stride all would have been deserving winners for their commitment to reforming Table in Ringwood. But Jim disqualified himself, you noticed, how could you not, yes Jim's jackets. But long may he continue to wear them jackets. And then there's Richard Dyson for becoming our first member to hold a position on National. But Richard also disqualified himself for making me sit through the whole National AGM in Belfast. I know, two years ago, but I still suffer from AGM yawn.

There were so many strong contenders, Gentlemen, we have quality throughout our membership. It is no wonder we have such a superb Club. However, there can only be one winner and I have selected a winner who handed the baton just gets on with the task. Irish night he stepped up to help Richard, Carnival he floated the boat, BBQ afternoon he was there directing cars.

Gentlemen, this year's winner I'm delighted to announce is Mr Jeff Wickens. Drum roll, loud applause, no hand shaking.

Congratulations Jeff.



### TANGENT - IN PARALLEL

I certainly didn't anticipate that I would be writing my final piece for the Newsletter with the world in lockdown!! I had hoped to be able to celebrate this past fantastic year with a room full of Tangent ladies, to be handing on the chain of office to our new Chairman, and wishing our new Committee good luck for the forthcoming year. The best laid plans of mice and men...

It has been an amazing year thanks to my committee of hard-working and creative ladies and the wonderful fellowship of our Tangent and 41 Club members. A heartfelt thank you to you

all. Our social events have delighted us this year with theatre and garden visits, the Poppy Factory tour, bonfire supper, cookery demonstration, walks, tour of the RNLI college, a Ringwood Tangent Birthday lunch banquet, lunch with Bournemouth No1 to help them to celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday. And those are just a few of the year's delights!!

We've enjoyed a fascinating range of speakers through the year receiving 'postcards from Iran', hearing about the female Pope from Wimborne, gaining an insight into hospital radio, an introduction to our local Lantern community, discovering that chocolate can be healthy, a Joint meeting when we discovered the value in our attics and luckily managing to taste and stock up on Conker's new Naval Gin and Fortnum & Mason Green Tea Liqueur just before going into lockdown!!

The 'pop up' tea room that appeared in a flash 'At Home' was totally beyond my expectation. Do you remember the horrendous winds that hit us that weekend resulting in the cancellation of the Ellingham Show. Miraculously well, actually because of the considerable hard work of 41 Club and Tangent members, we managed to go ahead with my 'At Home' with the sun shining on us. A day that I will never forget.

I'm very proud that during the year we honoured Joan Brown with lifetime membership and wish her well following her recent fall. We have seen the re-establishment of Ringwood & District Ladies Circle; they continue to meet with a Zoom Quiz planned for this month.

In October we enjoyed traditional Tangent fellowship with guests from 4 neighbouring Tangent Clubs and National President Sue Hill joining us for our monthly meeting. Sue enjoyed our company so much that she returned with husband Ray for Ladies Night in February. Two visits in one year from a National President - must be a record!!

When I accepted Sue Treleaven's invitation to succeed her as chairman I was very aware that Richard and I had a year ahead full of travel commitments, and I was anxious how I would combine the two. Thank you committee and Caroline for holding the fort in my absence, with the marvels of modern technology and with Caroline's stand-in charring skills, all seemed to go well. Of course, I couldn't have managed the year without the support and encouragement of Richard - 41 Club National Councillor Richard no less!!

We have done our best through the year to nurture the traditions of the Club whilst also beginning to adapt for the future. If I had suggested a couple of months ago that we should hold our AGM using Zoom, you would all quite rightly have asked me 'which planet was I on', but the surreal world that we suddenly find ourselves in has forced us to accelerate our evolution. Our Zoom AGM at 7.30pm on 8 April will certainly be one to remember - it will probably be a bit chaotic but we'll have fun and have a chance to say thank you to our hard-working committee of 2019-20 and give Caroline and her new committee a raucous welcome.

I'm confident that Caroline will bring creativity and enthusiasm to the chairman role during what is going to be a very difficult time for us all. I know that we will all do everything we can to support her and her committee as they keep the ship afloat through uncharted waters, keeping us all connected until we can meet together again. I wish Caroline and her team every success.

*(Take a look at some highlights of Anne's fabulous year on Page 5)*



**Editorial.....**

How are you doing? Getting yourself organised and more used to this enforced lockdown? I do hope that all is well with our readers....and if not then please say so and contact someone in your club for support and advice. The new Pod system is there to help, so please use it. Try and stay positive and do something different each day. Ann and I tried somewhere different for last Friday's meal. We ate in the dining room! Then on Saturday we went out for coffee.....to the garden chalet! Most of us are fortunate enough to have some space around us and I think of those poor people stuck in a small flat with no garden and how difficult that must be.

We cannot escape this Covid 19 for the time being but we will, so hang on in there. Stiff upper lip and all that!

This edition will update you with a few things that are happening behind the scenes as well as announcing some awards that would have been made at the AGM. And talking of AGM's.....Tangent are hoping to hold their AGM online via Zoom! Good Luck Anne!! Anne's final report for the newsletter is on page 2 and it is as good as ever. I've enjoyed her reports this year and congratulate her on a great year in the Tangent chair.

I am trying not to mention the 'C' thing too much as it is in our faces via TV, radio, social media all the bloomin time but I have been sent tons of material from you guys and I am inserting some below. You may have seen them already from other sources so I have tried to choose what I believe is the most pertinent right now. Sorry to Arthur, Jeff and David Darts that I couldn't put some of your offerings in the mag. You know why!

The May edition will have reports from Council meetings and much more!

**Articles for input to me before May 4th**

**Thanks to Anne Dyson for the following.....**

The National Theatre are going to live stream some of their productions on YouTube - free.

Jane Eyre 9 April  
Treasure Island 16 April  
Twelfth Night 23 April

<https://www.londontheatre.co.uk/theatre-news/news/national-theatre-live-to-stream-shows-from-archive-for-free-every-week-on-youtube>

There appears to be an avalanche of scam text messages, phone calls and emails supposedly from HRMC or official Gov sources suggesting a grant is available or the recipient is being fined for being out of the house - with suspicious links.

Watch out for these coronavirus scams that could trick ANYONE: Police warn of fraudsters trying 'to take advantage of the public' Fraudsters are spoofing official Government phone numbers and impersonating the taxman in a bid to rope worried Britons into handing over money or their bank details.

<https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/beatthescammers/article-8155145/Coronavirus-fraud-Beware-fake-text-messages-Government-HMRC.html?ito>

And you've probably heard about the newly created Ringwood Coronavirus Assistance charity? Here is a link to their Facebook page together with another warning

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ringwoodcoronavirusassistance/permalink/199170138048915/?sfnsn=scwspmo&extid=Kfjo7AKvsApIXyhE>



**And to cheer you up, thanks to Shirley Thornton for the following.....**

**UK VIRUS ALERT**

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent virus threat and have therefore raised their threat level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, the level may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross."

The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out.

The virus has been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's Get the Bastard." They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides."

The Germans have increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs." They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbour" and "Lose."

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual; the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

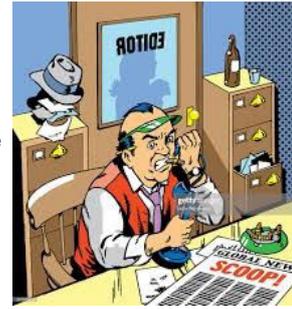
Australia, meanwhile, has raised its alert level from "No worries" to "She'll be alright, Mate." Two more escalation levels remain:

"Crikey! I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend!" and "The barbie is cancelled." So far, no situation has ever warranted use of the final escalation level.

The Russians have said "Its not us"

Bob Merrett would have presented this report and award at our AGM but.....!!

**The Editor's Report 2019/2020**



It has been a privilege being your editor again this year and you have provided me with reports, photos and announcements that has allowed me to produce what I hope you felt were 12 entertaining editions of Knott the 9 O'Clock News. I have tried to ensure members of both Clubs have been kept in touch with events and even if you were not able to attend you could read about what had happened. I hope it fulfilled the (unwritten) remit of the Club's magazine and you found it an enjoyable and useful read. Special thanks to the two Club Chairs, Anne and Gordon for their regular Copy which rarely required amendment by me. (Unlike this one! Ed!!)

Last year saw the presentation for the first time of the Editor's Award. As I said then, there are no explicit rules for this prize, it's down to the Editor to determine the winner based upon the quality and or quantity of contributions. I have to say these have been excellent and again has made this task quite difficult. I would like to repeat my thanks to the Chairs of 41 Club and Tangent, as their copy consisted mostly of joined up writing and sentences which sometimes included words of four and even five letters and only a few spelling mistakes. However, I have decided that they are not eligible for the Award as I have to include their copy like it or not. But given there are no rules, future Editors may well wish to do things differently and that is entirely appropriate. We have had some great contributions. In the category of witty photo captions can I say to John Kennedy, very well done. Last year's winner Arthur Robins also provided some brilliant witticisms and IPC Keith Anderson's photos were brilliant. There were so many that I am sorry that I wasn't able to use them all. But I am pleased to say that the winner of the Editor's Award 2019/20, for his excellent reports, photos, captions and being the willing butt of others jokes, goes to Ian Stockdale.

I hope to be able to present the trophy to Ian in person at some point this year.  
Bob Merrett

You did a great job for two years. Thank you Bob. Ed.

Jo Bonello

I trust that you are all keeping well. We are OK down in Somerset. I am attaching a page from the April Mendip Times. Fame at last! Give my best regards to all please. Jo

**Club welcomes new members**



SHEPTON Mallet 41 Club president Keith Jenkins is pictured welcoming two new members Joseph (Jo) Bonello (left) and Frank Grech.

Jo, who is married to Bridie, comes from Malta where he was a founder member of the Malta Round Table. Frank and his wife Susan moved to Shepton Mallet about two years ago. He was a local government officer in Coventry.

MENDIP TIMES • APRIL 2020 • PAGE

I heard a Dr. on TV saying in this time of Coronavirus staying at home we should focus on inner peace.

To achieve this we should always finish things we start and we all could use more calm in our lives. I looked through my house to find things i'd started and hadn't finished, so I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a bottle of wum, the remainder of Valiumun scriptuns, an a box a chocletz. Yu haf no idr how feckin fablus I feel rite now. Sned this to all who need inner piss. An telum u luvum. And two hash yer wands, safe day avrybobby!!!

**Here's a good idea from Stockers.**

With grand children we have started our first online challenge/project to stay in touch and have a little fun.

The first one was the creation of a large hat, made of materials from the recycle bin, to scare away the Coronavirus. Not a competition but a challenge and I won!! Ha Ha.



You can understand why Ro is concerned that her husband is taking this Self Isolating thing a bit too seriously!



**Message from the Curles**

A change of email address for Jill  
elruc2004@yahoo.com

this is now the same as David's email

**Home Isolating Chronicle (or where time just stands still)**

***Another missive from across the water by Flash Gordon***

Home Isolating or stuck in a reality where we are reliving one day over and over? But no, Home Isolating is a twilight zone of opportunity, for Angela. I'm now told I have time to do all those jobs around the house and not having the paint is no excuse as the dastardly White Van Man now delivers.

Here in Dublin, nearly two weeks into Home Isolating and it is going well. After much practice, I'm now able to peel a single 24 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch length of peel from a single potato, but to have any chance, it must be a large potato. Later in the week, I'm going for a new record. It was to be tonight, but a little difficult, we are having rice. 

We've established routines, wake, work, eat, work, eat, TV (Netflix), bed. Monday and Tuesday are alcohol-free days, which means five days are alcohol days. We go out for regular runs, breaks the day up nicely. Here, we are allowed out for essential travel and once a day to exercise. We're in a sort of prison without having done the crime and there is no point claiming to be innocent, everyone claims to be innocent when in prison.

I'm watching TV programs not normally watched. It's due to me having a little difficulty changing channels as Angela is not sharing the remote. I'm not pushing it as I've already been pinned to the wall once this week. It was my fault and I acknowledge it was not funny answering "dust" when asked what is on TV.

As Cartier time stands still, I'm losing track of the days. I'm now not sure if it is alcohol free Tuesday or Wednesday. So just in case, I open a bottle wine. I'd hate to miss one of my alcohol days. GK

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY (remember those things?!)**

**PROPOSED CLUB BIKE RIDE at KEYHAVEN**

**led by the Andersons**

**SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS**

**On either: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May or Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May,**

**if better weather is forecasted.**

**Meeting point:**

**11am for 11.30am Car park Keyhaven Road, Lymington SO41 0TP**

**(opposite The Gun Pub)**

**Let's hope this may be possible.**

**More details in the next newsletter.**

**Anne Dyson's year to remember**



Here is the first of what I hope will be a regular feature of this year's magazine. I will be asking (or you can volunteer!) members to submit an article about their early Tabling years. I approached Chris Treleaven, partly because he started his tabling away from Ringwood and this gives us another slant and I thank him for this great opening article. Ed.



## A BECOMING TABLER!

I wonder if any of us can remember where and when we first heard about Round Table and what made us think we'd like to join?

**ROUNDTABLE** I just about can – it was at the time of the Skopje earthquake disaster in 1963, where at least 1000 people died and many more thousands were made homeless. At the time, I was working on a pilot plant at an RTZ factory in Avonmouth (making of all things, chlorofluorocarbons!). Suddenly 2 or 3 colleagues announced they were taking unpaid leave to drive to Skopje, to tow donated caravans to help the homeless. This was a UK-wide aid project, which I learnt was being organised by "Round Table" – the first I'd heard of this international organisation! On their eventual return, it all sounded not only helpful but a lot of fun and camaraderie between these chaps, who were "Tablers".

Knowing I was likely to move jobs, I didn't immediately follow up this interest, but as soon as I started work in Exeter, and moved to Crediton to live, I found there was a Round Table in the Town. My neighbour was also keen to join (and his subs etc could be paid for by the Bank he worked for) (*What are you inferring!!?* Ed), so we both went along for a look-see, which we found to be a very positive, locally involved with community work, good fun with first class banter and beer thrown in!). Eventually made the probation period and inducted in 1967. The rule of a maximum of two of any one profession or trade was strictly applied – being a rural community, we had two farmers, two vets, two market traders, two builders, an auctioneer as well as the familiar quanta of accountants and bankers. One such accountant was John Saltmarsh, who – by eventual coincidence for me – transferred to Ringwood & District Round Table in about 1968 – and belonged to our ExTablers Club until he sadly passed away about 20 years ago.



Crediton High Street - now and in 1955

Crediton is a market town similar in many ways to Ringwood or Fordingbridge, and has recognisable traditions. For example, the Annual Carnival was in September, and Round Table dominated things with its outlandish floats. One such demanded that I and a colleague become Bill and Ben, and the only way the flower pots could be attached was building them round us at the time, and then cementing them in place. Trouble was nobody had thought of the consequences of consuming several pints during the parade over several hours – how did one "go" with no arm access below shoulder level!?? Another such entry was a huge replica of the Kon Tiki expedition raft, with large sail and deck mounted on a farm hay wain pulled by a tractor, and took weeks to build. On Carnival day, the wind got up and eventually blew the sail away – then 20 or so Tablers tried to re-capture it as it whizzed across Devon farmland never to be seen again!

And the welfare work will sound familiar too – on the advice of local Doctors and Social Services -Christmas food parcels were taken round to those considered in need - an early Foodbank!. For the most part, gratefully received but there's always one! "She's already been given two chickens and she gets another one from you and yet you've only given me a slice of ham!" You know the sort of thing – in the end, when it all became a bit much, they got taken to a pantomime instead!

All great fun and fellowship – shame to see Crediton and District Round Table (no. 468) eventually folded like ours in Ringwood, but who knows, perhaps there are local chaps as committed and hard working as we have been blessed with here to do a phoenix-like resurrection down there!

CRT



Chris now....I couldn't find one from 1955!! Ed

Council members had been trialling and familiarising themselves with the remote video conferencing app Zoom. This was largely successful and so the date for the first Council meeting was set for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 4.30pm. It would be on Zoom as the lockdown of course prevented any face to face meetings.

Here are the minutes from new Secretary Chris Kean:

## **THE VERY VERY FIRST ZOOM COUNCIL MEETING** **held at 4.30pm on TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**

### **Present:**

Richard Carter (Chairman), John Adams, Richard Blackiston, Andrew Green, David Hirst, Chris Kean, Peter Lomax, Steve Mursell, Bob Merrett, David Phelps, Ian Stockdale, Jeff Wickens, Steve Wyatt.

### **Introduction**

RC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for “turning up”

### **Treasurer**

Our able treasurer (and his pet fly) summarised the accounts for the financial year 2019/20, the proposed budget for 2020/21 and his proposals for the membership subscription for the coming year, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

**The accounts** were accepted and agreed as presented.

There was some discussion on **the budget**, in particular as to whether provision should be made for a gift to Round Table. It was felt that the new RT will be a very different animal to the old Ringwood RT with much less formality and hence gifting regalia might not be appropriate. No provision would be made but it will be kept under review.

AG stated that, although he had included £150 for social events, he expected them to breakeven. However, it was felt that the provision was prudent given the current environment.

The budget showed a loss of £396.50, reducing our reserves to £1103. This is a reduction of almost £1000 over a 2-year period. This was felt to be too big a reduction and the proposed **subscription** of £33 (last year £31) should be raised to £35, a rate similar to 2 years previously. Agreed unanimously.

Papers setting out the proposals are to be prepared by AG for **circulation to all club members** who would be asked to respond with any objection within 10 days. If a majority have not responded negatively by the deadline, the accounts for 2019/20, the budget for 2020/21 and the subscription will have been approved. This was recognised as not being ideal but given the extraordinary circumstances the procedure was considered acceptable.

### **Meals**

All DP's comments are in his notes. Future meals will be selected from the bar menu at an additional cost of £3. However, the arrangements for the future will remain uncertain for some time. Once clearer the club will be informed.

## **Membership and Welfare**

DH reported that thankfully all seems well at the moment. Jimmie Gordon is doing okay.

Pods are running in their different styles

RC reported that Tony, the husband of Fiona Wilcox's sister, had died of Covid 19 in Yorkshire. Fiona has joined the Poulner Pod together with her mother, Joan.

## **Editor**

RC congratulated PL on getting out 2 editions of Cartier in quick succession.

The next edition will be in a month's time but if there are important issues to convey to the club PL is happy to produce interim supplements.

Copy deadline is always the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month but preferably prior to that date.

## **Christmas Card Donations**

It had been agreed previously by the Club that 50% of the funds would be given to Ringwood Day Care Centre. AG had tried to contact them to make arrangements but had been passed on to Age Concern in Southampton. Council did not wish the funds to be absorbed into a bigger pot and we would therefore make the donation once the position is clearer.

As for the remainder, it was agreed that we should wait to see what requirements were needed locally arising from the pandemic.

## **Plaque**

JA outlined his thoughts regarding a plaque to be given to the widows of members who have passed away as a lasting memento of their time in the club rather than flowers which last only fleetingly.

Discussion ensued with an alternative suggestion of a photo presentation.

It was agreed that Council was not ready to go down either of these roads at present and hence they should be carried forward to a later date.

## **New Club Directory**

RC thanked Gerald for preparing this again – on an interim basis.

## **First Club Meeting after Lockdown**

JA proposed that at our first Club meeting together will be a fellowship meeting rather than having a speaker. It will be an opportunity for members to regale each other about their personal experiences during the crisis.

*(At this point AG entertained the meeting by chasing his pet fly round the room with a swatter. Quite why he would want to swat his prized pet remained a mystery).*

## **Zoom Club Meeting**

Emboldened by the success of the Council meeting, RC said that he would attempt to set up a pan-club meeting for 21 April, being our normal club night, with a view to repeating the meeting in May if thought fit. It would be early evening, accompanied by a glass of wine (or whatever is your poison) and would be a "drop in/out" meeting.

## **Sports and Social**

JW had produced an outline programme of events for the whatever remains of the social year. To be kept under review.

## **Membership**

IS confirmed that we have 3 new members and 2 potential members, Tim Airey (a doctor who lives in Hangersley) and Leslie Jones (who seems unresponsive to contact). Also, Stephen Butterfield who wishes to re-join following his jaunt to the West Country.

We should discuss in pods as to how we might engage/include them.

## **Publicity**

Good stories needed

IS is updating all relevant local directories

Website, Gordon continuing as webmaster together with John Quint and RC.

## **Ladies Night**

BM to fix a date with the Miramar.

## **AOB**

IS thought Pods should try to keep an eye out for peoples' wellbeing, sharing practical information.

The Accounts as presented and approved were published in the May edition of the Cartier ahead of the rearranged AGM subsequently announced for May. Club subscriptions were proposed to be £42 discounted to £35 for payments made before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

On 5<sup>th</sup> April Anne Dyson emailed all Tangent members announcing that the Tangent AGM would be held on Zoom on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, and Caroline Gill stepped into the Chair succeeding Anne.

We had not yet taken the step of announcing our ex-Table AGM through Zoom but we did need to have the accounts ratified by Club and so Richard sent the following email to Club members on 8<sup>th</sup> April :

Your Interim Council held a Remote Council meeting on Tuesday 7th April. The major item for discussion was the Accounts for last year and the budget for the current year. Both were unanimously approved by Council for recommendation to all Club members. The papers prepared by Treasurer Andrew Green are attached.

Normally, of course, this would have been presented and discussed at our AGM in March. Since the start of our 'isolation' we have wanted to move the Club forward as best we can and as normally as possible. We believe it is in all our interests that the Club is in as good a place as possible to pick up our usual activities as soon as we are able to do so.

We are keen to agree the budget and the proposed subscription as soon as we can so that Andrew can then issue notices to collect the subscriptions and we are ready to proceed as we would be in any other year.

We are therefore asking you all to look at these papers. If you have any queries please contact Andrew directly by phone or email as soon as possible.

To simplify the need to respond to this email we ask you to respond to Andrew if you are **NOT** content to proceed as proposed. Please respond by Sunday 19th April. You may send back a positive response if you wish but this is not necessary as we will take no response as acceptance.

I hope you understand the reasons for proceeding in this way and that you will feel able to support the approach we have taken.

On 8<sup>th</sup> April Richard sent out to all members an invitation to join a Club Zoom drop in meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April which would have been the scheduled Club meeting date:

**ZOOM CLUB MEETING : TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL : 4.30PM TO 6.00PM**

Hello Everyone.

I hope you are all well and have found ways to enjoy this unique Easter weekend!

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April should be our Club meeting date and rather than just let the day pass by I would like to offer you all the opportunity to meet up through Zoom video-conferencing. If you have items of Club business you would like to discuss please let me know. Otherwise, it would be a purely social, fellowship gathering. It could well be chaotic and hopefully fun at the same time.

It will be a 'drop in' meeting so you can join at any time from 4.30pm to 6.00pm and stay for as long or as short a time as you wish. A glass of something at hand may help!

Quite a number of us now have experience of Zoom but I know many will not have tried it. I am very happy to arrange for a trial, one to one or in groups, so you can become familiar with it ahead of the day. Please contact me by email or phone if you would like to do this and we can agree a time.

You do not need to download Zoom as I will send you a link before the meeting which will give you direct access to the site and to the meeting. For security purposes when you log in you will go to a "waiting room". I will be alerted to that and will let you in!

Zoom can be experienced on PC, Laptop, iPad or phone. Phone works well for a small meeting but only lets you see one participant at a time. The iPad allows you to see 9 people and the Laptop 25 and in both cases you can scroll sideways to show others if there are more than 9 or 25 participants respectively.

I look forward to seeing you on 21<sup>st</sup> and will ask Arthur to send out the joining details a couple of days ahead of the meeting.

With best wishes to you all and your families at this time.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April some helpful advice had come from National 41 Club and Richard sent this email to Council suggesting we held an AGM on Zoom.

The latest National Newsletter came via email last night. I have been hoping to see how National planned to overcome the lack of the National AGM and much is explained in the Newsletter.

There are two main points arising in my view.

#### 1. AGMs.

- For all uncontested positions National have immediately put the nominated candidates in their new post.
- Clubs have been holding their AGMs remotely using Zoom and this is encouraged by National.
- National is working out how to have accounts and budget approved and it looks as if they may adopt a similar approach to the one we have taken.

#### 2. CLUB YEAR 2021/22.

- National Council has decided that there will be no elections at the 2021 AGM and the Board and Officers currently in post will continue in office for the Club year 2021/22.

We should discuss as Council our own Club response to this. I do not propose to change the social/fellowship nature of next week's Zoom Club meeting. However, I think we should have a Council meeting at some point after that (no rush!) to consider holding our AGM via Zoom in May. Our normal Club meeting would be on 19th. We would then have a minuted AGM which gives proper authority to the new Council and records approval of the budget enabling Andrew to have a formal document to show the Bank as necessary and to change signatories. Members who have read the National Newsletter may ask about it during next Tuesday's meeting and my response would be that we are scheduling a Council meeting to discuss it.

On the Club year 2021/22 a couple of you have mentioned this to me already and I have had a brief chat with Bob about it. My view has been and remains that we should hold our AGM in the usual way in March next year and Bob should take over. (Assuming he is elected!!) There may be other Council changes depending on the normal considerations everyone makes at that time. Bob has said that there is no need to take a final decision on this right now and we can debate it again later in the year, which is fine with me although it is my preference not to roll the two years together.

Please let me have any feedback and other thoughts.

There was general support for this approach and so thinking began on some of the detail.

From the beginning of the lockdown Arthur Robins had kept us all entertained and amused with his 'Daily Smile' missive of jokes, pictures and videos. He continued this for 100 days which was a huge effort, much loved and something to look forward to every day of lockdown. Here is a sample:

This was the very first Smile dated 26th March 2020

Tough in the supermarkets at the moment

I managed to buy some Caesar salad yesterday.

The sell by date label said " Best before the Ides of March"

---

30th March 2020

Can you remember back just a couple of weeks ago? They started to tell us to wash our hands for 20 seconds but at least the pubs were open  
Did anyone else notice that at about that time the peanuts in dishes on the pub bar started to taste different?

As it's the 7th day of quarantine I thought the attached photo was apt



---

13th April 2020

First batch of Dyson ventilators are out, doctors say this guy is picking up nicely.



20th May 2020

Psychiatrist: As this is our first session I want to make sure we have the same objectives. What do you think I should be treating you for?

Patient: I suffer from separation anxiety. My wife left me and I'm terrified that she'll come back!

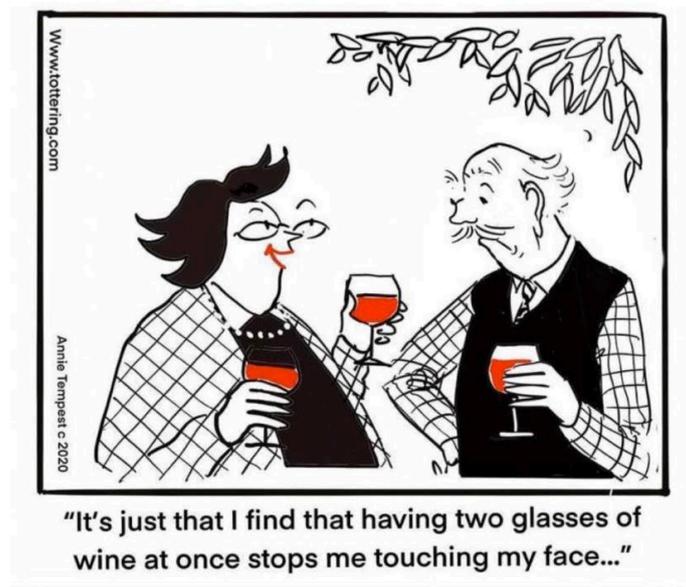
After that I think something drink related might go down well



22nd May 2020

Good morning everyone

Well done to the person who put the letter "b" in "subtle"



One of these Daily Smiles prompted Chris Treleavan to suggest this :

If the "non-essential" shops lock-down continues into May, how about a prize for a photo of the most interesting/novel/outrageous hair style of one of us after no chance of getting to a hairdresser for weeks? Entries and winner could appear in June magazine, and winner has to say who last cut his hair!

Editor Peter couldn't resist this and he rushed out a special one page edition of The Cartier:

Issue 3 April 15th 2020



# The Cartier Chronicle

## The One to watch!



### **SPECIAL HAIR PIECE/SUPPLEMENT !!**

I can picture the scene. You are sitting on the patio with a cup of coffee/tea/gin and tonic/ glass of wine/even all of those. You are looking at your iPad and thinking.....blimey, that month has gone by quickly, it only seems like last week that I read The Cartier Chronicle and here is another already! Lockdown isn't so bad after all. Well here is a supplement to whet your appetite and to introduce more humour over the coming weeks.

#### **Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow**

How long is your hair? (David Curle.....no need to answer that one)! How grey is your hair? (Ann Lomax.....no need to answer that one)!

One of our members (Chris T wanted to remain anonymous) has come up with the idea that readers should submit to me photos of themselves any time up until June 26th showing the state of their hair given that 'Lockdown' is likely to extend for some while yet as far as visiting a hairdresser is concerned. We would love to see the most interesting/novel/outrageous hairstyle. Perhaps you've tried cutting it yourself or your partner has?

I should add that perhaps I have got a head start (in more ways than one) as this photo suggests.

So, during this Lockdown (and before its parting) why not have a close shave with the scissors and look trim again? So please get to the cutting edge and send me your photos. This isn't a competition, no winners or losers, just a bit of fun.

We need that right now. (Ed)



41 Club ZOOM Meeting  
Tuesday 21st April  
4.30pm—6pm

Joining details to follow soon by email. It is a drop in drop out meeting. Look at Chairman Richard's email that Arthur sent out on April 11th. You don't have to be a tech wizard to use Zoom.

#### **Tangent News**

Congratulations to Tangent who very successfully conducted their AGM via Zoom with over 30 attendees. The first few minutes was apparently a bit noisy but Chairman Anne very sensibly began to use the mute facility! That was after Julie Parke worked out how not to appear upside down! Incoming Chairman Caroline was then duly presented with her chain of office (a few loo rolls on string and other assorted bits and pieces)! We all wish Caroline a very successful and memorable year.....it has started out extremely memorably already! Read more from Caroline in the next edition.

#### **Our Chairman Richard writes.....**



Thank you to Peter for this special **HAIR** edition. I can't be the only one to remember the musical Hair and so this extract from the title song:

*Give me a head with hair, long beautiful hair  
Shining, gleaming, streaming, flaxen, waxen  
Give me down to there, hair, shoulder length or longer*

#### **CHRISTMAS CARD DONATIONS 2019**

Council decided in February to recommend to Club that 50% of the funds raised (the total amount was £815.87) should be paid to the local Ringwood Day Care Centre. The Care Centre office is now closed although Carers are continuing to work to support local people. Council recommends that we make this payment when the office reopens to ensure that the money benefits the local Centre and does not go to a wider Age Concern pot.

The balance of funds attracted a number of suggestions but none progressed to a stage that Council could recommend. At the April Zoom meeting Council agreed to recommend that the balance of funds remains held pending further developments with the pandemic as a deserving organisation which is helping in the present crisis could become a suitable beneficiary.

Should you have any objection to the choice of Ringwood Day Care Centre please let me know.

#### **THE NEW DIRECTORY**

Our thanks to Gerald Carter for his production of the new directory which is much appreciated.

Yours in Continued Friendship  
Richard



The first Zoom Club meeting happened on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Here is the evidence provided by John Kennedy!



Richard wrote up notes (hardly minutes!) of the occasion:

## RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX TABLERS' CLUB MINUTES OF CLUB MEETING

**Virtual meeting on Zoom 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 from 4.30 pm to 5.55pm**

The meeting was a social/fellowship gathering offering all members the opportunity to drop in and drop out during the meeting time.

Present for all or some of the meeting:

John Adams; Keith Anderson; Richard Blackiston; Mike Callaghan; Gerald Carter; Richard Carter; Paul Chappell; John Clough; David Curle; Richard Dyson; Bill Field; Mike Fraser; Andrew Green; David Hirst; John Kennedy; Gordon Knott; Peter Lomax; Bob Merrett; Steve Mursell; David Phelps; John Quint; Colin Read; Arthur Robins; Derek Scott; Dick Sheerin; Ian Stockdale; Paul Thackray; Chris Treleaven; Barrie Vincent; Jeff Wickens; Steve Wyatt.

Apologies received from Peter Daughtrey; Brian Kinch; Chris Kean; Derrick Lynas.

Members adopted and adapted (!) their dress code for the occasion. Chairman Richard, Editor Peter and Speakers Secretary Richard sported jacket, tie and badge. At Peter's request jackets were quickly removed. When Immediate Past Chairman Gordon appeared without these formalities it was suggested that the Master at Arms be called immediately.

Shorts were worn by several who were invited to stand for a knees inspection. Messrs Lomax, Sheerin, Field, Robins and Green were amongst those to rise to the occasion. Summer shirts had come out of the wardrobe and Arthur showed us how to unbutton the shirt and reveal a sporting chest.

Most had a homely internal screen background except for Richard Dyson who was very relaxed in the garden, John Kennedy in a garden room, and Arthur who took us all on a world tour of backgrounds because he is such a clever dick. At one point Mike Callaghan was wearing a very unusual hat or was it an illusion?

It was noted that the only member to have books visible was Barrie Vincent. Several members appeared to be sporting new beards but all were at early stages of development, all remained recognisable so far, and no great improvement in appearance was noted.

Conversational contributions came from all. Bill Field had to bow down to speak so we couldn't see his face but had a great view of his hairpiece. Gordon Knott was surrounded by halos and his white shirt positively glowed.

Bill Field informed members that his Rotary Club had made donations to two local Foodbanks including Ringwood. Colin Read said his Rotary Club had made a donation to NHS Charities. Chairman Richard said Council would consider these matters at its next meeting.

John Kennedy thanked those members who had been doing so much to help keep the Club together during the lockdown, specifically Peter Lomax for the Newsletter, Gerald Carter for the Directory and Arthur Robins for the daily joke. Chairman Richard added thanks to David Hirst for keeping in touch with the welfare of all members and specifically Jimmie Gordon in his Care Home.

Members asked after several members not present including Roger Bettle, Gerald Downer, Hugh Edwards, Martin Hardwick, Robert Morey and Will Parke and updates were given by various members.

Chairman Richard said that at the forthcoming Zoom Council meeting it would be proposed to hold a formal AGM on Zoom in May. This followed the advice and information from 41 Club's National Newsletter published on 14<sup>th</sup> April. Although we had moved the Club forward informally an officially recorded AGM would greatly assist the Club and particularly Treasurer Andrew who would have a formal minute to show the bank as necessary.

Members left the meeting for a variety of reasons. David Curle needed to prepare two G&Ts, Arthur had a dog problem, Jeff Wickens for a massage and Keith Anderson to watch a film.

The remaining hard core succumbed gracefully at 17.55pm and so ended the first Club Zoom Lockdown meeting. Chairman Richard thanked everyone for joining in.

As a result of the success of this meeting Richard sent the following email to Council Members the next day 22<sup>nd</sup> April:

Good morning all. My view of yesterday's Club Zoom meeting is that we would be able to run a more formal meeting and therefore we should discuss holding our AGM on Zoom at the next Club meeting date which is Tuesday 19th May.

Could we therefore have a Council meeting to discuss this and other business matters. I am working on the basis that a 4.30pm start works for us as a group and so suggest next Tuesday 28th April at that time. Please check diaries and let me know if this is OK!

Steve Wyatt issued the formal notice of our AGM to all members and I suggest that we follow that for the start of our meeting. We have in fact covered most of the agenda remotely and therefore I believe this formal part could be concluded quickly. The only piece not covered is the Council Reports and perhaps Steve could let us know how many he has received. Maybe the best way to deal with them would be to send them out by email ahead of the Club meeting so that they can be accepted without much discussion subject to any members' questions arising.

On behalf of National Richard Dyson has asked for details of our AGM plans and whether we would be willing to have National Chairman Peter and/or other Board members join the AGM. I have replied outlining our proposed plan and that I would confirm details after the Council meeting.

Ideally, we would conclude the formal AGM and business in good time to allow the meeting to continue with a social/fellowship format as yesterday. Could you please let both Chris and me have Council meeting agenda items and I will ensure there is time for each Council member to talk to their portfolio if they wish to do so. Other items I would like to include are :

- POD activity and development
- Use of Zoom
- Activity for Ringwood Foodbank and NHS Charity donation
- Development of relationship with the new Round Table

The Council meeting duly took place and here are the minutes:

**THE SECOND ZOOM COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held at 4.30pm on TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2020**

**Present**

Richard Carter (Chairman), John Adams, Richard Blackiston, Andrew Green, David Hirst, Chris Kean, Peter Lomax, Steve Mursell, Bob Merrett, David Phelps, Ian Stockdale, Jeff Wickens, Steve Wyatt.

**Apologies**

Peter L apologised but then then turned up much earlier than expected displaying new war wounds and claiming abuse!

**Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 7 April were taken as read.

**Matters arising**

None

**Correspondence**

The club had received an invitation to the Region 23 Quiz on 14 October (hopefully!) 2020. RC to pass his copy to Jeff W to organise at a later date.

**Chairman's comments**

The May meeting is to be a Zoom AGM and we need to think about future Club Zoom meetings.

After some discussion concerning the Ringwood Foodbank, it was agreed that the Chairman would send a note to all club members setting out what is needed and asking them to respond to Rotary's request for help as each member felt was appropriate.

Similarly, in relation to the request for assistance with the crowdfunding which Phil Hoyle is undertaking in order to provide free meals from the London Tavern to NHS/front line workers, it was agreed that this was not an appropriate use of the Club's charitable funds but it was one to which members individually might wish to contribute. It should be noted that the close date for the funding is 7 May. Steve M asked whether Phil had looked for matched funding; he also thought that mental health charities, particularly for the younger members of society would be a possibility for the second tranche of the Xmas card money. We had thought previously that there would be issues coming out of the lockdown in respect of which our funds could be put to good use; this could be one of them. RC to send round an appropriate separate note to all members.

It was noted that RT had recently held their Charter Night via Zoom. RC to speak to Phil Hoyle to see how EX-Table can best provide support to the new Table and its activities.

## **Vice Chairman**

Whilst we would all like to have a Ladies Night next year, it is far from certain as to what the social distancing rules will be at that time and whether members of the Club will wish to mingle closely even if the rules have been relaxed.

It was agreed that a booking should be made for February 2021 at the Miramar. The deposit is £150 and whilst in theory this would be non-refundable, it would be if the Miramar was unable to accommodate us due to restrictions.

## **Secretary**

As ever, Andrew G is a man of discerning taste when he recognised the true value of having 2 secretaries for the price of one!

The main issue was the AGM for which Steve W is the secretary.

Agreed that the meeting will take place at 4.30pm on Tuesday 19 May via Zoom.

All reports to be sent to Peter L who will produce a pre-AGM newsletter. SW to chase up reports.

After the AGM business is concluded David P will raise the issue of future meals (should there ever be any!).

The National President, or one of his fellow office holders, to be invited via our own area counsellor. Peter L thought that judicious use of the mute button might be needed if certain members of National are present – but he has not been elected yet! One or two members got very excited about bedtime stories (bit of a worry,

particularly David P's admission of his penchant for Peppa Pig  - just to keep David happy!).

## **Treasurer**

25 subs received thus far and no aggravation.

## **Social**

There were all sorts of suggestions as to how we might keep ourselves entertained from quizzes, growing things to tours of each other's gardens but suggestions always welcome.

## **Welfare**

David H said that, as far as he knew, no members had been affected personally. Jimmie Gordon is fine in his care home. Agreed that he would check whether Rotary are organising a card from the Queen for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday; if not and Jimmie's son is happy for us to proceed, David H will organise.

Thought of organising a recording of longstanding members recounting anecdotes of past events when Jimmie would have been involved. DH to discuss further with Rotary and members and plan the recordings.

## **Speakers secretaries**

John A talked about the first meeting back together and proposed that it should be an opportunity to talk about individual experiences during lockdown.

Richard B – the April speaker will come as and when required. June and July have been “furloughed” but can be wheeled out as and when needed.

RC wondered what we should do for the June meeting and whether we could roll out a speaker over Zoom.

Worryingly, Ian S suggested a demonstration of 15 things to do with a chicken, presumably that would include plucking it.

### **Meals secretary**

David P was feeling a little redundant.

### **Editor**

Copy for next edition as early as possible before the 4 May deadline.

Photos of garden or house projects?

John A to send still photo of his Lymington sortie with his pipes.

### **Membership and Press**

Ian following up with Tim Airey but it was agreed to leave Leslie Jones in peace as there has been no response from him.

John A to send still photo of Lymington sortie to Ian S for potential press insert.

Similar stories needed.

### **Lay member/Health & Safety**

Steve talked about the need to have worked out with Joe Wickes everyday if you were planning to visit one of the partially open B&Q stores – apparently you have to do your own humping of big bags.

### **Immediate Past**

Congratulations to Richard on the Zoom meeting

### **Website**

Gordon needed new pictures and possibly a video of John Adams at Lymington.

A meeting of the webmasters is planned.

### **AOB**

David H confirmed that the Pods were working in their different ways.

Ian suggested a “Podiatrist” was needed to help the less active pods get a “foot” on the ladder.

Peter L - We should be thinking of picking up the phone, particularly to those who are on their own.

There was suggestion of a bit of cross-pod fertilisation by getting 2 pods together.

David P is in contact with James Marley, the new RT Vice-Chairman. RT has various things going on and there is hope that we can build greater interaction.

During lockdown Phil Hoyle, Chairman of Round Table, had been providing free meals on Sundays to front line workers from his pub The London Tavern. He began a crowdfunding scheme to help this activity and we agreed to support him, the following note being sent to all members:

### **THE LONDON TAVERN, RINGWOOD, HELPING NHS FRONT LINE STAFF**

Phil Hoyle will be known to many of you as the Landlord of The London Tavern. He is also the son of Graham and Chairman of the new Ringwood & Verwood Round Table. For the last few weeks, he has been providing free meals to local residents who are front line NHS/Key workers. He started to offer this through the Pub's Facebook page and the need has grown as more have become aware of it, to the point where it is becoming a financial burden on the pub

To help him continue to provide this much needed service, he has introduced a Crowdfunding page for the Pub which offers rewards for donations but as he cannot take donations for the free meals over the phone you can support his activity for these Key workers by donating and not taking a reward.

At the Council meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April we agreed to make all our members aware of what Phil is doing and explain how individual voluntary contributions could be made, should you so wish.

Entering '[crowdfunder.co.uk/thelondontavern](https://crowdfunder.co.uk/thelondontavern)' will take you straight to the page. You can then choose your donation amount and pay either through the Crowdfunding site or through Facebook. You then make your payment with Visa or Mastercard. Payment can be anonymous.

When you have completed payment, you will be asked if you wish to, 'Leave a Message of Support'. We suggest that here you refer to being a member of Ringwood & District Ex-Tablers' Club. In the comment on the site you will see that I have made a donation and left a message.

The Fund is time limited and will end on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Plans were now being put in place for the AGM in May. Discussions with Steve Wyatt and Gordon Knott settled the agenda and the notice convening the meeting was issued by Steve. Richard Dyson, Region 23 National Councillor and Club member, put us in contact with Peter Good, National President, to invite him to attend, which he did.

In addition, plans were made for Club Concerts and Films using Zoom. In normal times Keith Anderson hosted both at his home for small numbers and in discussion with John Kennedy and Chairman Richard a format was agreed to continue them for all Club members. There would be a social chat on Zoom first before watching the concert or film (either pre-recorded or on YouTube) and concluding the evening with a follow up Zoom chat. The first Concert evening was planned for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Thoughts also turned to VE Day. We had been part of the Ringwood town plans for a big celebratory event. Regrettably, because of lockdown that had to be cancelled. Members were encouraged to celebrate at home as permitted and to have photographs for the magazine. The schedule of the National Club's involvement was sent to all members. In addition, Gordon produced an excellent video which was shown over Zoom to Club members not otherwise engaged on the day. The Ringwood TV produced a video of the day showing various locations around the town including a final sequence showing Jeff and Lyn Wickens and family enjoying their street party at their home.

Peter had the next Cartier ready to go and here it is:



# The Cartier Chronicle

## The One to watch!



"Adaptability enforces creativity, and creativity is adaptability." Pearl Zhu.



Congratulations to all of you for the creativity in the present situation. From the daily humour, to Zoom, WhatsApp and plenty in the wings, so watch out for the Anderson Lockdown Productions and the Social (not to say 'constant') Gardener.

*(Look out for next month's edition where expert gardener 'Mr Dibber' will give you tips and advice...Ed)*

Our next Club meeting will be as scheduled on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30pm when we will hold our AGM. We have been encouraged to do this by National and I am delighted to say that 41 Club National President Peter Good will join us. Details will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Please join the meeting if you can.

Well done to John Adams for his piping at Lymington Hospital for the Thursday evening 'clap' to thank hospital and key workers. He was invited to do so by the Police and the Coastguard who were also present.



### Dates for your Diary

**5th May** Tangent's Tour of Sue's garden  
**7th May** Lomax Waitrose delivery!!  
**19th May** Club AGM on Zoom



My thanks to all of you who are involved in the PODs. I know that you are keeping in contact with each other in various ways and the main aim of the PODs is to ensure that every one of our members in both Ex-Table and Tangent is kept in personal touch and involved as much as they wish to be in what we are doing.

Our garden has become something of a sanctuary this Spring and I guess it must be the same for many of you. Is it that the colours are brighter this year or is it just that we have more time to appreciate them? *(Or Susie's tender loving care?...Ed)*

Stay well and very best wishes to you all. Richard

### Hair Today Gone Tomorrow update



You are all either very shy, have a partner who can cut hair, have some good hair clippers or just have long hair right now! Where are your efforts? So we phoned Liz Fraser for some great advice before we finally plucked up courage to cut each other's hair. I was the first victim and it was going reasonably well until the hair clippers failed halfway through and Ann resorted to scissors. However, as you can see from the 'before and after' photos, the outcome was very acceptable.



I am not showing you the photos of Ann's hair. Liz was very complimentary about the way I cut Ann's fringe.

But that was all!!

GREYFRIARS COMMUNITY CENTRE  
Let us remember & celebrate 75 years!

**VE DAY**  
**STAY AT HOME**  
**STREET PARTY**

Friday 8th May - All day

Jeff Wickens has sent you out a reminder of the stay at home street party. I understand that some of you already have plans afoot so please take some photos for the next edition. Thanks. Ed

## Information Page

### RING-BINDERS & MAGAZINE FILES NEEDING A NEW HOME



keep them for when we meet again!!

We've cleared our home offices during lock-down and now have a large supply of spare, good condition ring-binders and magazine files of various sizes and colours. We don't want any cash to exchange hands, they are free to anybody that can give them a good home! If you would like any, just 1 or lots, please contact Richard or Anne Dyson; we'll drop them on your doorstep if in the Ringwood area, or

### JOHN HUMPHREYS

Having moved to Christchurch five years ago John has been attending Christchurch 41 Club regularly and, apart from seeing him at our Ladies' Night, he has not come to our meetings. John has therefore decided to resign his membership of our Club. This is disappointing but understandable and I'm sure we will keep in touch with John into the future.



### 2020 Subscriptions now Due - pay Now and Save!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Your Subs for this year are now due and are excellent value at just £35 if paid before the end of June, rising to £42 if paid after this date.

In these strange times, if at all possible, please pay your £35 by Bank Transfer to the Club's Natwest a/c - Sort Code 54-30-45 a/c No 14033003. Alternatively you can post a cheque payable to "Ringwood Ex Tablers Club", to 3 Holly Grove, Verwood, BH31 6XA.

Thank-you to everyone who has already paid, stay safe & keep well.

**Andrew Green**

### Chairmen Hoyle x 3!!

On Tuesday 8th April my son Chris (Marlow RT) and I had the honour of being present at the very first meeting of Ringwood and Verwood Table via Zoom. Phil was elected Chairman and the club is now Chartered. If you know someone under 45 and suitable for RT membership then please let Phil know.

So that makes three Chairman Hoyle!!

Phil and Sarah are working their socks off to keep the London Tavern going. He is delivering meals directly to homes of NHS frontline staff over weekends. Last Sunday he delivered about 120 Sunday roasts. Please join and share his Facebook page which is The London Tavern. Cheers *Graham H*

*(Chairman Richard sent us all an email (29th April) about this venture and how you can donate if you wish. Ed)*



### Some more useful tips from Richard and Anne

We have been using local enterprising businesses who are offering on-line or phone ordering and thought it worth sharing those that we have found to be good. We appreciate that many Ringwood 41 Club & Tangent members have also found excellent local services; is it a good idea for us all to share contacts? *(Ed....Yes please, see mine below!)*

Here's our experience:

Local Meat – New Pastures Wholesale Butchers, Fordingbridge. Free delivery. Phone Order 01425 650888

Bedding plants & hanging baskets – Baskets & Blooms, West Parley/Stuckton. Free delivery. On-line shop open once a week on their Facebook page.

Shrubs, herbaceous plants, seeds – Hilliers Garden Centre – [www.hillieronline.co.uk](http://www.hillieronline.co.uk). Free delivery but takes a couple of weeks

Potted Phalaenopsis Orchids – 4 for £20 from Bournemouth based 'Love Orchids'. Free local delivery, may take 8-10 days. [www.loveorchids.co.uk](http://www.loveorchids.co.uk)

Fencing supplies, compost, shrubs, bedding plants – landscape gardener & fencer D Bryant. Free local delivery. [www.dbryant.biz](http://www.dbryant.biz)

and Richard's new 'best friend' Screwfix!! Not a local business but free next day delivery and lots of stock.

And my (Ed) sharing suggestion if you like a good curry delivered to your door.....Curry Garden in Ringwood is open online for business. [www.currygarden.com](http://www.currygarden.com)

Pre order online stating menu requirements and preferred time and they will phone you for payment just before delivery. We tried it last Saturday. Excellent! Almost like going out for a meal!!



## Caroline's Corner

And so it was that 2020 saw an unprecedented start to the Tangent year... the Covid-19 restrictions on social gatherings meant that for the first time in our history the AGM could not be held in traditional form. Did that deter the ladies of Ringwood Tangent? Of course not. Ideas were discussed, solutions found and our AGM was held via Zoom!

31 ladies joined our virtual AGM with outgoing chairman Anne successfully managing to complete her year and pass the chain of office to me. Somehow the transportation process altered the precious metals of Anne's chain to today's sought after commodities, pasta and toilet roll! But at least it went well with the new social attire – smart tops and pyjama bottoms.



With social outings off the agenda for a while, the new year will need to focus on social media and on line events to keep us together and entertained, but rest assured our social committee, often in conjunction with the 41 Club committee will be working hard to bring us some exciting events to look forward to.

*(And haven't they been inventive! Well done Ladies! Ed)*

Stay well everyone

### **Stop Press !!**

Tuesday May 5th 4.30pm...Virtual tour of Sue Treleaven's garden on Zoom

Yours in continued friendship

Caroline

### ***Thoughts from the Hill on being locked in by a couple that only go out for exercise in the woods.***

So here we are all being really busy and doing all sorts of new interesting and challenging stuff like Zoom, making jigsaw puzzles for grand kids, growing tender plants we would never normally consider, foraging for wild food on our walk, etc.

On the other hand we have stopped (or severely reduced doing) using a lot of stuff as a result of our lockdown.

Consider for example:

The car, covered in pollen, and full of expensive fuel. Donald is giving it away!

Handbags.....they just hang on their hooks...waiting to be taken out for dinner, clothes shopping, hairdresser, coffee with girls and classes at Greyfriars.

Our back gate that would normally open for the short walk to either the London Tavern or the Cornerways Surgery. Both off bounds now.

Saddest is our guest room dedicated to the Grandkids...all dressing up stuff and toys neat, really neat and we would prefer it to be untidy.

But not long now!!!!!!

The Optimists in Poulner

**Ian and Jenny**

PS Would you like recipes for Nettle Soup and Horse Radish Leaf Crisps...delicious!



Here is another article about memories of our Round Table days. Following on from Chris Treleaven's excellent piece, I asked Will Parke for a contribution as like Chris, he started his tabling away from Ringwood. More contributions are welcome. Thanks Will. Ed

### EARLY DAYS IN ROUND TABLE BY WILL PARKE

From a farming background about 5 miles west of Wimborne I then attended the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester 1968 - 1971.

I first came across Round Table while working as a recently qualified Land Agent in Cupar, the county town of Fife on the east coast of Scotland, 1971 - 74. My boss managed the estates of clients of a firm of solicitors as well as his own clients. In those days, solicitors tried to manage such estates, usually with a lawyer's approach to things, but the more astute firms engaged proper Land Agents instead. In addition, there were very few Estate Agents in Scotland and none in Cupar. My boss opened the very first in his own 'shop' on the High Street just as the North Sea oil boom started. Good move, what!

One of the junior partners at the solicitors was a Round Tabler and he explained what it was all about. We were about to set off back to England so I did not follow up the idea.

The next move was in the summer of 1974 to north Warwickshire where I joined a Land Agent managing two separately owned private estates. He was based on the larger one of some 10,000 acres and I on the smaller one of 5,000 acres on the edge of Nuneaton.

One of the tenants was a Tabler and he introduced me to Bedworth Round Table which I joined in 1976.

Bedworth is a small industrial town between Nuneaton and north Coventry. Coal mining and brick/tile manufacturing had ceased by then, so the town was struggling to re-invent itself. However, metal-bashing in Coventry and the surrounding towns was still very active.

Bedworth RT played a modest part in community life with annual carnival floats, some of which were built on our drive as I had access to the estate's lorry, building annual bonfires and selling hotdogs at it, organising a half marathon around the local Miners' Welfare Park, tin rattling, sponsored walks and manning a water stall for the Bedworth Marathon on a couple of occasions.

The Area events that I can remember were pub games against the Tables in Rugby, Kenilworth and Coventry and twice entering a soap box in the Area Soap Box Derby in Melbourne Park about 7 miles south of Derby itself.

I was part of a team of drivers taking National President Peter Bell to an Area event at the Everton FC ground in Liverpool where I was allowed to touch, but not hold aloft, the FA Cup.

Highlights were playing Tiddy-Winks half-way up Snowdon in April 1983 and again in April 1984. Two nights in the Victoria Hotel in Llanberis and trudging up this hillock, a quick Tiddle-Wink, then on to the top. About 60 or 70 RT's from our Area attended; most made it to the top.

On the social side, the usual joint events with Ladies Circle, of which Julie was a member. Annual cricket matches against a local village team, canal trips and parties for any reason or none at all.

In the summer of 1984, I moved back to Dorset and started with the Forestry Commission in Lyndhurst as their Land Agent for the New Forest, Ringwood area and the South Downs as far as Arundel and the Isle of Wight.

The inspiration for transferring to Ringwood RT and Circle was the two Carnival Floats by both Clubs separately. If they can do that, then they can do anything and so it proved. Wimborne, Ferndown etc didn't have a chance.

Andrew Johnson introduced me. A couple of years in Ringwood RT, then on to Ex-Table in 1987.



Will

## Ringwood & Verwood Round Table

### **An update from Vice Chairman James Merley**

Since our last update in December, a lot has happened for what was Ringwood & District Round Table. We've welcomed the boys from Bournemouth Round Table to a night of Slot Car Racing with Pizza's & Beer in January, went for a Curry with the chaps from Fareham RT in February & founded Round Table Woods in Crow with Colin Andrews of Ringwood Actions for Climate Emergency in March. March 7th will also live on as a big date for us as the date that we were formally re-Chartered as Ringwood & Verwood Round Table to reflect the new membership, and particularly that of our core team.



**ROUNDTABLE**

All of this was before lockdown struck & forced us to Adopt, Adapt & Improve how we do things under the "new normal" of social distancing. Since then, we've held a few Zoom Meetings, with Phil Hoyle voted in as Chairman in April, joined by James Marley as new Vice Chairman. We also held a Chairman's Cheese & Wine Night via Zoom, with a brilliant spread of Cheese & Wine delivered to all in need by the team at The London Tavern. We've got more activities lined up for the coming months, and some big ideas in the offing for when we're allowed to get together in the flesh again to show the area what Ringwood & Verwood Round Table can do!

We were also asked by Ringwood Town Council to assist with the town's VE Day 75th Anniversary celebrations in May, but obviously COVID-19 put a stop to the planned Street Party. Instead, we've set up Ringwood's VE Day Heroes on social media & our website, as a way to collect and share photo's of the local men & women who contributed - whether in combat or on the Home Front - to Victory in Europe 75 years ago. If any in Ex-Table have any photo's that they'd like to share, we'd be honoured to celebrate them. To send them in, please email them to [veday@rvroundtable.co.uk](mailto:veday@rvroundtable.co.uk).

\*\*\*\*\*

***This is all so very encouraging and reflects the hard graft put in by so many 41 Club members over the past year or more. Particular thanks must go to Gordon Knott, Richard Carter, Richard Blackiston. David Phelps, Mike Fraser and Jim Stride who worked so hard to make this happen. Take a look at their Facebook page too. I would also reiterate what Graham Hoyle says on page 2.....think about your friends who have family living locally and remind them of the fun and community service that RT provides for guys aged up to 45 yrs old. (Ed)***

### **Are you getting value from your pods?**

The general view is that these are working well with some pods meeting regularly via Zoom, others by phone, some contact via the doorstep (2 metres away!) and also by email with quizzes etc. Are you getting your food supplies ok, do you need help in any way?

Don't be shy.....we are a fellowship club and helping each other is what we do. David Hirst is the overall coordinator, also known as Podiatrist!!



**Congratulations to Peter and Margaret Daughtrey who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on April 23rd. Sadly the current restrictions made for a quiet celebration. However, their daughter who lives in Romsey and comes over with food every 2 weeks took them a special meal and they had a glass of champagne in the car park with their daughter 2+ metres away!**



Have you visited the Club's website?

<https://www.ringwood-extablers.org>

It isn't complete but it is well on its way thanks to Gordon. I am sure he would welcome any feedback as he currently relaxes in Dublin being fed very well by Angela (so we hear!).



And a beautiful relaxing photo to end this edition of Cartier. Taken by Sue Anderson two years ago on Friars Cliff beach. Thank you Sue.

If you have a photo, perhaps of your garden or a project you've been undertaking during lockdown then please send it to me. I can't promise to publish them all, but I'll try! Ed.

***That's all for now folks!!***

Chairman Richard attended the Round Table Zoom meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

What to do in lockdown? Well, there was plenty of gardening going on and Mike Edwards produced his first 'Dirty Dibber' to educate and entertain us:

## **BACK TO THE PLOT from THE DIRTY DIBBER** Issue 1 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### **Whether or Weather not to**

Did you know it was world naked gardening day last Saturday? Bet you didn't, so make a note for the first Saturday in May 2021 and you don't miss out on the fun. If you thought naked barbecuing was tricky, just wait until you tackle a bramble bush you've always meant to, or sort out that rampant nettle bed!!

There now I have your attention, why have you received these ramblings? Well, a couple of misguided souls ie. Ringwood 41ers who I've exchange gardening thoughts with recently, seem to think I could write an interesting column on the subject. So here goes with issue 1.

In these times of lockdown jokes I suppose my gardening is like sex is for most 41ers – we are no experts, but are wildly enthusiastic. My interest in vegetable gardening goes back over 50 years, so I suppose I've learned a bit, nowhere near enough though to avoid the odd disaster, which I will also share with you. I'm even less of an expert on shrubs and flowers, but will throw in the odd reference to those too.

So, whether to or weather not to comes from a conversation on 24<sup>th</sup> April with what were then two new but now ex friends, who will remain nameless. But let's just call them Jeff Wickens (the bugger who persuaded me to do this column) and Ian Stockdale (from his original idea that I should). Ian's pastoral call to me that Friday turned to matters horticultural, and whether he should plant out his beans. That is runner or French, not baked.

I said it depends on the weather (see, get the clever title?!!) as the first thing I learned as a gardening nipper was that you cannot cheat nature. Yes, maybe we can plant stuff a couple of weeks earlier down here on the Dorset Riviera compared to Geordie allotment holders, but you have to be wary, rely on past experience and above all, on how the ground and the immediate future forecasts are looking. Yes, I know we think they are usually wrong, and we can do better with a finger in the air, or that piece of seaweed nailed to the shed door, but they are generally pretty good. So, with a cooler couple of nights forecast as Ian was referring to plants he'd already brought on, I advised him to hold fire if he could, and not plant out until the middle of this week. It may not have been that cold, but a chill wind will do almost as much damage as a hard frost at -2C or 3C. However, how advanced were these plants, were their roots showing beneath the pots? If yes and deep pots, then they might well have to go out as otherwise they'd become cramped and if pot bound, it would check their growth. If in smaller pots and not showing as much root he could probably hang on for those few days.

French beans definitely hang on, they are less robust than runners, especially until well established. I have some now about 3"-4" tall in small cells tray, and they really need to be planted out. But I am desperate to hang on until next Week, as from Sunday to Tuesday it is forecast to drop to only 3C and it won't need much below that to create an air frost, damaging leaves, or a ground frost, which won't do much for soil temperature, another factor in when to plant.

Finally, what is the local microclimate where you are? Does it not suffer cold pockets badly, or does do better than the next parish or town?

Tomatoes will soon need setting out in the greenhouse (they can't go outside really until at least the end of this month unless outside varieties, which are not that common) but not quite yet. Remember anything out in the garden can't be brought in and protected, not unless you have an extremely understanding partner who loves frequently washing the kitchen floor!!

OK enough for now, my ex friend Jeff suggested about 400 words so blame him that this missive is just over 700!!

Next issue we'll look at immediate jobs, what is too late or is it never too late? Hopefully can also break this up with pictures inserted (I'm much better at gardening than IT!!) and I have a couple of useful videos to circulate. Will also research useful links on You Tube etc.

Keep digging! Mike Edwards - The Dirty Dibber

This was quickly followed by the second edition and appropriately in between the two publications on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May Tangent went on a Zoom guided tour of Sue Treleaven's garden:

### **BACK TO THE PLOT from THE DIRTY DIBBER** Issue 2 - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020

#### **Never do it without protection**

Back by popular demand – well one member liked it, another said it was OK and someone else told me no one in 41 Club really understands gardening, so who was anyone to criticize?!!

Remember I said it was world naked gardening day on 2<sup>nd</sup> May? This was one for the ladies really, as of course it refers to cutting back your Old Man's Beard and making sure the frost hasn't been getting at your pinks. In this time of closed barbers I imagine like me there are a few bits of trimming and cutting back going on. Frankly with the fine job Monica has been doing on mine I'm beginning to wonder why I've been paying someone else £15 every 6 weeks for it.

Anyway, just a quick weather warning, although the forecast has improved a bit for us here in the South, there is still going to be quite a change from what we've had, and more importantly our plants have been used to, Sunday looks a better day, though still with cool winds, but the danger is night time temperatures Sunday through Tuesday nights.

If plants have already been set out then protective action is needed. Horticultural fleece is of course the best, but failing that large pots over individual plants, or storage tubs along rows, will be better than nothing. If you have not yet planted out something you were about to, then don't. Delay (sorry, I mean do delay) and don't plant out until later next week. If unavoidable, then plant and protect.

If you have a greenhouse bring sensitive plants in, and again protect even if only with newspaper lightly laid over pots – it's better than nothing.

I mentioned last time confessing to disasters, my first sowing of parsnips has failed completely. Not too late and have sown another row, it will be Xmas before they are ready, but then that's when they are special anyway. Plus you always want parsnips frosted before you dig them. Funny old world gardening, right now we don't want frost, but for them in November we do!!

Meanwhile a triumph, these are the first picking from second pot planted on March 10<sup>th</sup> of Swift, reckoned to be the fastest growing first early spud, and by golly are they. Taste great too, will tell you how you can do this (if I can, you can) next year.



Next issue we'll look at immediate jobs, what is too late or is it never too late? I have a couple of interesting useful videos to circulate. Will also research useful links on YouTube etc.

Keeeeeeep digging!

And as if gardening wasn't enough excitement Mike Fraser appeared with the first edition of his motoring correspondence 'The Pedal':



### THE PEDAL TO THE FLOOR

The occasional missive from your Club Motoring Correspondent. So Lights Out and Go! Hello enthusiasts and others!

Most of you like me will have been socially distancing for at least 6 weeks. During that time your car will have been sitting there, very slowly deteriorating, as they are always best used daily if possible.

So where to start. Some of us are old enough to remember a time before the MOT Test. When it first came out the test was for Brakes, Lights and Steering. They soon added Tyres. So it's simple – that's what we check now.

Before you even start the car walk around and inspect. Look for anything unusual particularly any pools of fluid that may have leaked out of your pride and joy. Hopefully you won't find a family of hedgehogs have made their home under its' safe warm body.

Your first task is to check the tyres. Put on a stout pair of shoes and if they have not gone completely flat give each one a good kick, alternatively using a tyre pressure gauge obtained from any good accessory shop, if they are not less than about 22 PSI/1.52 bar, you can drive to most supermarket filling stations and reinflate them up to the pressures recommended in your service manual. If one or more is completely flat, change that for the spare, and then get the tyre checked by a specialist. If your car is fitted with "run flats" it may be driveable for a short distance but you should take it straight to a specialist, if you think one or more is effectively punctured.

Look under the bonnet and make sure the radiator expansion tank coolant level is within the limits shown. Check the oil level using the dipstick – they are familiar to those of us in this club!

Let's assume your inspection shows the car appears OK to drive. Start it up and let it tick over until the temperature gauge starts to show some warming, listen for any unusual noises, see that no warning light show on the dashboard.

While it's doing that check all of the lights are working correctly including headlight high beam. Use your isolation partner to stand behind the car when you check the brake stop lights. Checking the brakes should also feel normal to you. You should have parked the car when it was laid up in gear with the handbrake off or if an automatic in P without the handbrake on. If you unfortunately managed to leave the handbrake on it could have seized up making it require careful breaking of that bond to be able to then move at all – try carefully driving towards a clear run – it should free quite easily – if it does not you had better phone me!!

If all still looks well you are now good to carefully go, for the fun bit. You have now rolled out onto the road, driving at about 25 mph looking in you mirror for other motorists bearing down on you fast, and are listening for any strange noises. Still on a side road see if your temperature gauge is now up to temperature and then run up to the local speed limit, and again checking mirrors and not seeing any vehicles coming at you give the car a good swerve from side to side to make sure that having done so the steering feels normal.

Finally, having tested tyres, lights, handbrake and steering you are now able to check the brakes. This is the bit you will really enjoy – find a nice short straight, like a good slip road onto a dual carriageway, take your car up to about 100 mph, look in the rear view mirror to make sure that there is no one coming up behind you fast, and then apply the brakes fairly hard, keeping it in a straight line and without locking up at all, slowing you speed to about 50mph. Do this a couple of times and you will buff off the rust on disc brakes that will have accumulated while the car was laid up.

Now you are ready to go – happy motoring. Mike

With communications at a peak, it was time for the next edition of The Cartier published with Accounts, Budget and Council Reports ahead of the Zoom AGM:



# The Cartier Chronicle

*The One to watch!*



**Bumper supplement for VE Day memories and  
41 Club AGM papers  
Tuesday May 19th 4.30 pm on Zoom**

I have been asked to remind you that our club AGM is being held next week and Steve Wyatt has already emailed to you the formal notice. And don't forget that our new National President Peter Good will be joining us. This special supplement provides you with the necessary reports from Council members as well as Gordon's final remarks. You may have seen these before but for the sake of procedure I am including them again. This will negate the need to read them out on May 19th when the Zoom meeting will be held and hopefully the AGM can quickly proceed as more of a required formality and we can socialise. (Ed)



Our AGM, even though on Zoom, is a formal occasion and a number of us will be wearing jacket, tie, badge, medals/jewels and probably trousers. I should stress that this not a requirement (the trousers would be good as we plan to have the Loyal Toast) and dress code is an individual decision. You are welcome to wear medals as we normally would for an AGM.

The Zoom meeting details are below and I will send out a reminder the day before the meeting. In April we had a very informal drop in/drop out meeting and as this is more formal I would ask you to join as close to 4.30pm as you can so that we can open the meeting after a bit of the usual banter. I will enable you to join the meeting from 4.20pm but the meeting won't start until after 4.30pm.

I look forward to seeing you then.

Yours in Continued Fellowship,

**Richard**

## RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX TABLERS CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

**Tuesday 19 May at 4.30 p.m. on Zoom**

Welcome and Introduction  
Grace  
Apologies  
Introduction of Guests  
Loyal Toast  
Notice Convening the Meeting  
Minutes of the last AGM (circulated in March 2019)  
Business to Conclude Year 2019/2020  
National AGM  
Council Reports  
Treasurer's Report  
Immediate Past Chairman's Report  
Introduction of Our Chairman  
Remarks by New Chairman  
Election of Vice Chairman  
Election of New Council  
Any other Business  
Dates of Next Meetings  
Cocktail Story  
Final Toast



**RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX-TABLERS CLUB**  
**Income & Expenditure Account & Balance Sheet for year to 02/03/2020**

2018/19 Actual	<u>Actual 2019/20</u>	£	2019/20 Budget	£	<u>Proposed Budget 2020/21</u>
<b>1708.00</b>	<b>INCOME</b>				
	Total Income (Subscriptions)	<b>1860.00</b>	<b>1891.00</b>		<b>2100.00</b> <u>60 @ £35.00</u>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
913.50	Capitation	884.50	945.00	884.50	61 at £14.50
88.25	Speaker Meals - Club Meetings	136.50	130.50	120.00	
351.95	Speaker Fees - Club Meetings	407.00	500.00	350.00	
-83.00	Meals Account - Surplus	-154.00	0.00	0.00	
99.11	Social Events - Expense	238.92	150.00	150.00	
96.70	Ladies Night - Expense	244.73	300.00	300.00	
21.00	Greyfriars Affiliation Fee	25.00	22.00	27.00	
53.22	Chairman's Jewel	53.22	65.00	55.00	
190.00	Chairman's Honarium	190.00	190.00	190.00	
20.00	Secretary's Expenses	20.00	20.00	20.00	
10.00	Treasurer Expenses	10.00	10.00	10.00	
15.00	Welfare & Mem expenses	20.00	20.00	20.00	
0.00	Newsletter Exps	0.00	10.00	10.00	
0.00	Website	172.80	0.00	114.00	
0.00	Website Pre Payment	-114.00	0.00	-57.00	
59.43	Directory	44.59	65.00	50.00	
43.25	Flowers	51.29	60.00	60.00	
22.00	Poppy Wreath	22.00	23.00	23.00	
27.99	Miscellaneous Exps	85.65	50.00	50.00	
0.00	Donation from Fanfare	-750.00			
0.00	Donation to Air Ambulance	750.00			
-1039.00	Xmas Card Inc (incl xs on raffle)	-945.87			
39.00	Xmas card Expenses	30.00			
100.00	Xmas card Donations	100.00			
900.00	Xmas Card Dons not Yet Paid	815.87			
	Round Table set up & help	307.00			
	Raffle Income for Round Table	-200.00			
1928.40	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2445.20</b>	<b>2560.50</b>	<b>2376.50</b>	
-220.40	<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>-585.20</b>	<b>-669.50</b>	<b>-276.50</b>	

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		at 7/3/20	at 7/3/19
Balance at Bank		3477.22	5846.50
Cheqs & Dons not yet paid		-2151.62	-3821.70
Website Pre Payment		114.00	
Cash Float		60.00	60.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1499.60</b>	<b>2084.80</b>
Balance at 7/3/19	b/fwd	2084.80	2305.20
Surplus/Deficit		-585.20	-220.40
<b>New Balance</b>		<b>1499.60</b>	<b>2084.80</b>

Continued overleaf

I Propose that Subscriptions for 2020/21 be £42.00 Discounted by £7.00 to £35.00 if paid by 30th June 2020

**Bank Account:** I propose the following: - That we continue to bank with Natwest Ringwood and the account to be operated by any one of the following officers once it is practicable to change:  
"Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer"

Signed *Andrew G Green*

Andrew Green, Hon Treasurer

Date: 07/04/2020

<p>I have examined the financial records of the Club and confirm that the above Income and Exp Account together with the Balance Sheet are in accordance therewith</p> <p>Signed <i>Paul Thackray</i></p> <p>Paul Thackray, Appointed Examiner Date: 09/03/2020</p>
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COUNCIL NOMINATIONS			
POSITION	NOMINEE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
CHAIRMAN	RICHARD CARTER	GORDON KNOTT	BOB MERRETT
VICE CHAIRMAN	BOB MERRETT	RICHARD CARTER	GORDON KNOTT
SECRETARY	CHRIS KEAN	RICHARD CARTER	RICHARD BLACKISTON
TREASURER	ANDREW GREEN	IAN STOCKDALE	PAUL THACKRAY
SOCIAL	JEFF WICKENS	RICHARD CARTER	RICHARD BLACKISTON
MEALS SECRETARY	DAVID PHELPS	IAN STOCKDALE	DAVID HIRST
WELFARE	DAVID HIRST	RICHARD CARTER	PAUL THACKRAY
MEMBERSHIP AND PRESS & PUBLICITY	IAN STOCKDALE	DAVID PHELPS	DAVID HIRST
SPEAKERS SECRETARY	JOHN ADAMS RICHARD BLACKISTON	RICHARD CARTER JEFF WICKENS	ANDREW GREEN IAN STOCKDALE
EDITOR	PETER LOMAX	RICHARD CARTER	RICHARD BLACKISTON
LAY MEMBER/ HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER	STEVE MURSELL	RICHARD CARTER	STEVE WYATT
WEBMASTER	GORDON KNOTT	RICHARD CARTER	BOB MERRETT



"I move that we debate whether to vote to decide whether to discuss bringing this meeting to an end."

## REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS 2019-20

### **SECRETARY.....Steve Wyatt**

Until sometime after Ladies Night everything was normal. Very active for the secretary around meeting times with agendas and minutes and more paperwork to deal with nowadays than there used to be. Then coronavirus struck. We were all in uncharted territory and with social distancing and self isolation it looked as if Ex Table would grind to a halt. However, modern technology and programs such as Zoom have meant that there has actually been a great deal of contact between Club members and for the first, and hopefully the last, time the postponed AGM will be conducted via Zoom.

I have enjoyed working with Gordon and the rest of Council and wish my successor as secretary the best of luck.

### **MEMBERSHIP & WELFARE.....David Hirst**

#### **Membership**

During the year three new members have been enrolled in the club, Mike Edwards, Steve Mursell and Jim Stride, and one other is at the application stage. Sadly though Peter Walker and John Green have died and Mike Williams has resigned.

The membership of the club is, therefore, at 60, almost the same as at the start of the year. The club has always attracted members moving into the area from elsewhere, and it is to be hoped that some of the members of the nascent Ringwood, Verwood and District Round Table will also be minded to join us when they have to relinquish Table life. We all know what a good Ex-Tablers Club we are but to maintain that we have to continue to advertise our club and seek out new members.

Despite the high membership, the attendance at meetings is rarely above half our number and it would be great to see more members at the monthly speaker meetings. So I appeal to those of you we rarely see to come along more often – or start coming again like you probably did a few years ago.

#### **Welfare**

The deaths of Peter Walker and John Green have been keenly felt by members who remember them for their respective involvements in the club and Ringwood Round Table for many years. Our sympathies go to Annie Walker and family and John's family.

The visiting rota for John Green and Jimmy Gordon began the year as it had been running previously with seventeen members taking part. Members continued to make their visits when John had to go into hospital and then to a Nursing Home, and to Jimmy when he had to move into Oak Mount Care Home in January – where he is now well settled in. My thanks to those of you on the rota. What effect the current Corona Virus outbreak will have on visits is yet to be established but they are likely to be curtailed.

Many other members of the club will have had medical problems during the year with the most serious being a severe stroke to Hugh Edwards. Although still badly affected Hugh is making progress.

In January, following a comment by Jimmy Gordon about his liking for Scottish bag-piping, we were able to satisfy Jimmy's wish when our resident piper John Adams played for Jimmy, and provided a taste of Haggis and Scotch Whisky, at his Care Home. The piping had to be done partly outside to allay the fears of the Care Home manager that it would be too loud for, and upset other residents! Not a bit of it though, the other residents didn't mind at all and John had to do a reprise inside the home and through into other parts of the residents lounges. So all in all it was a resounding success, and John was a magnificent sight in his full highland regalia. Thank you John.

### **EDITOR.....Bob Merrett**

It has been a privilege being your editor again this year and you have provided me with reports, photos and announcements that has allowed me produce what I hope you felt were 12 entertaining editions of Knott the 9 O'Clock News. I have tried to ensure members of both Clubs have been kept in touch with events and even if you were not able to attend you could read about what had happened.

I hope it fulfilled the (unwritten) remit of the Club's magazine and you found it an enjoyable and useful read.

Special thanks to the two Club Chairs, Anne and Gordon for their regular Copy which rarely required amendment by me.

Last year saw the presentation for the first time of the Editor's Award. As I said then there are no explicit rules for this prize, it's down to the Editor to determine the winner based upon the quality and or quantity of contributions. I have to say these have been excellent and again has made this task quite difficult.

I would like to repeat my thanks to the Chairs of 41 Club and Tangent, as their copy consisted mostly of joined up writing and sentences which sometimes included words of four and even five letters and only a few spelling mistakes. However, I have decided that they are not eligible for the Award as I have to include their copy like it or not. But given there are no rules future Editors may well wish to do things differently and that is entirely appropriate.

We have had some great contributions. In the category of witty photo captions can I say to John Kennedy, very well done. Last year's winner Arthur Robins also provided some brilliant witticisms and IPC Keith Anderson's photos were brilliant. There were so many that I am sorry that I wasn't able to use them all.

But I am pleased to say that the winner of the Editor's Award 2019/20, for his excellent reports, photos, captions and being the willing butt of others jokes, goes to Ian Stockdale. I hope to be able to present the trophy to Ian in person at some point this year.

**MEALS SECRETARY.....John Quint**

The Hotel St Leonards continues to be the only viable meeting place for our club in the Ringwood area and whilst it sometimes has its shortcomings, overall it's not bad value, although I believe an increase in costs were hinted at. We don't pay for the room and they are very flexible on numbers being changed right up until the same day as the meeting, although contractually they could be more rigid. Plus they cope with numbers of anything between 20 and 100 which no other hotels or restaurants were willing or able to do. I complained about bar staffing and also a couple of times only one waitress to serve and clear the tables and was advised it was a result of absenteeism at short notice due to illness, a problem for any hotel! The management promised to address this but now Covid 19 has struck so not so sure about the future. I hope your new meals officer, David Phelps, enjoys a trouble free year, and as with the Golf Society, the Corona virus has rather simplified the task for now!

A few statistics for you:

Total meals booked for 2019/20 (10 meetings as July 2019 and March 2020 cancelled)	337
Average attendance for Permanent Diners per meeting is	27
Average attendance for Occasional diners and Guests per Meeting is	11
Therefore average attendance per meeting is	38

**LAY MEMBER (HEALTH & SAFETY).....Paul Thackray**

The club enjoyed a busy year of activities including Parties, BBQs, Walks, Cycle rides and other Social events. Risk Assessments were undertaken by the organisers and Health and Safety rules observed. Appropriate Risk Assessment templates have been developed and are available for organisers to use when required.

Covid 19 provided the greatest challenge and prompted a lively debate at the final council meeting of the year. It was decided to go ahead with the AGM but to leave it to individual members to decide whether to attend. However it was also decided to request the St Leonards hotel to take extra precautions to protect the safety of our members. Due to further developments nationally, the Chairman subsequently decided to postpone the meeting.

**SPEAKERS SECRETARY.....Ian Stockdale & David Phelps**

We commenced our year in April with a talk about Cyber Security from Alex Douglas from Barclays. It is not a very nice world out there.!

In May we were entertained by David Beardsley on the exotic and somewhat bizarre history attached to the Russell Coates family and their fantastic cliff side villa in Bournemouth.

In June we had Kevin Patience talking about Aviation in Poole Harbour.

It was quite some centre for flying in wartime and immediate post war days with Sunderland Flying Boats.

In July instead of our usual monthly meeting we attended an impromptu BBQ at the kind invitation of John and Barbara Kennedy. Stockers sadly missed that one!!!

At our August meeting we heard about the fascinating history of Williams Shipping presented by our very own Colin Williams. Who said watercress was boring? In September we were entertained by Tom Amery from the Watercress Company near Dorchester. Another very informative meeting being told how watercress is grown and how the Watercress Company has grown in size with farms not only in Dorset and Hampshire but in Spain and Florida and to make the evening we were all presented with a bunch of watercress. Delicious and so good for us.

The famous Green Carrier bag with name Harrods used by us all to impress. In October Robin Cook told us about the history of Harrods and its workings and with its old-time customs.

Tim Price OBE gave us a fascinating insight into the annual Royal Air Show Tattoo for our November meeting.

Here was a man who never took no for an answer and with his negotiating powers seemed to be able to persuade anybody or country to attend the Show with many types of military aircraft.

Our Christmas meeting; who will forget Wayne the Weird or to give him his full name Wayne Shakespeare who entertained us with zany magic. We hated those staple guns!!!!

Our turn in January to entertain the Ladies of Tangent. Our own version of the Antiques Road Show with two expert presenters and at least two of our ladies went home with big smiles. Will Parke is still distressed by his truncheon review!!

To conclude our year the annual competition for Melvyn's Mug. This year it was a step down memory lane with stories about events and happenings in early Ringwood Round Table days. Jeff Wickens with his Carnival memories won the Mug and this year it was presented by Naomi Heseltine the original donator of the Mug.

Something for everyone in 2019/2020. We hope you enjoyed the speakers.

**VICE CHAIRMAN.....Richard Carter**

All my predecessors as Vice-Chairman will know that the key tasks are the organisation and arrangements for Ladies' Night and the formation of a Council for the next year, and particularly the selection of a willing successor as Vice-Chairman.

I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to plan Ladies' Night, which is rightly regarded as an important event in the Club calendar. I had excellent help and advice along the way. Long may this annual black tie/posh frock occasion continue bringing together Club and Tangent members and their guests. This year's event ended up a rather special one with the presence of both the 41 Club and Tangent National Presidents.

Formation and development of a new Council is no less important. The main and first objective is to find the next Vice-Chairman. Then, who wishes to continue on Council, who would like a break, and the involvement of some new blood if possible. The latter has been made easier for me by the very welcome addition of three new members in the early part of 2020. During the year I have enjoyed supporting Gordon with everything he has achieved for the Club. Not least of course are the formation of the new Round Table, a reappearance at the Carnival and a good number of social events, not least the Irish Night which Gordon arranged and was then sadly unable to attend because of the passing of Angela's mother.

In addition, Gordon has developed the Club website and the Book & Pen was revived by Steve Wyatt and now sits with Gordon to continue.

In conclusion it has been a pleasure to work with Gordon and his Council to continue and develop the fun, fellowship and friendship which he championed in his opening remarks as Chairman at the March 2019 AGM.

*(The following appeared in the first Cartier Chronicle and served as Gordon's Report of the Year. Ed)*

**CHAIRMAN.....Gordon Knott**

Remember a time when we could smoke in pubs. Now, we can't even drink in them!

My year in the Chair has 'Flash Gordoned by', a new Council is in place but wait, we've not had an AGM. That's a bit about-face, but it's challenging times. Twelve months ago, we were planning the Club's Social Calendar, getting everyone together. How Coronavirus has changed things. Now it's all about keeping everyone apart and we've given it a name "Social Isolation". It's a topsy-turvy world. Thank goodness to continued friendship, may it never rust.

At the beginning of the year, our biggest issue was the failure of the turntable on Vinyl Night. At our April Meeting we heard about Cyber Crime and Security Awareness. We had concerns about going on-line and staying safe. Today, we are concerned about going out and staying safe. Back in April the solution was if you go on-line be careful. Today the solution is don't go out but if you must, be careful. Similar solutions, but the consequences, a world apart. Thank goodness fellowship is as strong as ever.

We live in challenging times, but Ex-Tablers rise to these challenges. Take Tabling in Ringwood, it had disappeared but today Ringwood, Verwood & District Round Table is back and this month they received their Charter, in the year of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original formation of Tabling in Ringwood. The challenge of reforming Ringwood Table was taken on and beaten with hard work from David Phelps, Richard Blackiston, Mike Fraser, Jim Stride and Facebook. Jim joining us gave renewed energy to the group and before you could say Round Table, 10<sup>th</sup> September had been set as the date for the inaugural meeting. Congratulations to Phil Hoyle, Chairman of the newly reformed Table.

We have Social Distancing and the scourge, Social Isolation. Our Social Calendar gave us our Irish Night while Social Isolation cancelled St Patrick's Day. We had three impromptu BBQs drinking with friends while Social Distancing closed pubs. But it's not all bad now when I'm out running and not keeping up..... I'm practicing Social Distancing!

But the year has not been about Coronavirus. I've had a wonderfully enjoyable year. I visited Bournemouth 5, Christchurch and Wareham. We were in the press on numerous occasions thanks to the reports John Adams submitted. We made the front cover of the 41 Club's National Mag, a photo of Richard C and Phil Hoyle and the title, "Meet Ringwood Round Table". Angela and I had a lovely time with friends from The Frogham Adventure Group. We met the Golf Society and had a wonderful evening of fellowship at their Presentation Night. We sailed into the Ringwood Carnival with our float, the Sandbanks Ferry and we won 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize. Our Club supported Fanfare For Spring, a great afternoon of fellowship and it was John Harper not John Humphries who got stuck marshalling with me at the corner of Star Lane.

During the year, our own Richard Dyson (yes, Alfie's granddad) was voted National Councillor for Area 23. I believe the first Ringwood Ex-Tabler to be on National. Angela and I attend the Ringwood Remembrance Service. It was an honour to lay the Ringwood & District Ex-Tablers' wreath at the Memorial Cross. And during the year, we published our website, [www.ringwood-extablers.org](http://www.ringwood-extablers.org).

Throughout the year fellowship was in abundance. Arthur organised theatre trips and the annual BSO's Proms in the Park, an evening with friends, picnic, wine and enjoyable music finishing with a light show. John K took us to Lashings Friday for a day of drinking, lunch and there was also some cricket. Then he arranged an audience with Professor Alice Roberts, an evening of fellowship and book signing. Throughout the year, Keith, last year's Immediate Past and now a Past Chairman or as I see him, Elder Statesmen Keith, organised Cycle Rides, Film Nights with fish & chips followed by ice cream and let's not forget the M&Ms. On a cold November evening Will and Julie held an outdoor party. Well, it was firework night. Fellowship and the bonfire kept us warm. It does not get any better, great company and food with fireworks.

Area 23 has many thriving Clubs, none more than Ringwood & District Ex-Tablers Club. It was great to see them at Dorset Knobs. A fantastic evening of fellowship meeting old friends from other clubs. In December, I attended the Lambs Christmas Lunch at Leadenhall Market and again met old friends as 80 Ex-Tablers and Tangent members from many clubs attended Christmas Lunch. Fellowship in abundance, the pub crawl after, wonderful. The Round Table Family is special.

Club Nights, everyone a gem and maybe I should have closed some meetings a little earlier. Our Speaker Secretaries, Ian S and David P excelled. We had variety, from entertainer Wayne the Weird to our own Colin Williams sharing the history of his family's business, Williams Shipping. We had an OBE telling us about running the Royal International Air Tattoo. Table layouts were changed to what I called the "Fellowship Layout" so we had one meeting and I could see faces rather than the back of heads. A raffle was introduced and at some meetings we had a Master at Arms. Thanks gentlemen for humouring me.

National President Andrew Mackereth joined us at our June meeting, one of the first club meetings he attended during his year. Also, with us that night was our newest married member, Peter Lomax. It took Ann to make an honest man of our retired Banker. The talk was about the history of Poole Harbour. Then there was our ambitious joint meeting, the Antique Road Show. Two local experts valued our treasured collectable objects. They pulled it off, but it took a little blackmailing in Council, I say no more.

Amongst all the socialising, we still managed to donate to worthy causes. We visited Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance to present them with a cheque of £750, we presented £450 to The Parkinson's UK East Dorset Branch and £450 to The Dorset Children's Foundation. Not bad for a Club not actively raising money for charity.

We had Christmas Drinks and our New Year's Eve Party. The theme was Pantomimes but my lasting memory was Colin with long dark hair and wearing a long flowing dress. Colin and David C organised a wonderful evening for us as we saw out the old and celebrated in the new year. The social event of the year, Ladies Night was special. Richard organised a wonderful evening. Top table was bristling with VIPs. We had National President Andrew, Tangent's National President Sue Hill, Tangent Chairman Anne, National Councillor Richard, Paul and Cathie C, my favourite daughter Caroline and hubby Alex and all the way from Ireland, Angela. The interruption was a polished performance of, you guessed, Flash Gordon. Wonderfully entertaining and in these challenging times I've kept one speech bubble, "Gordon's Alive".

Our Council this year has been superb, every Council member has made a positive contribution and helped me in my year as Chairman. To Council I thank you but must mention in despatches our Secretary Steve W for his sound advice and keeping me on track. To Club, I thank you for your support. I've enjoyed my year and it is due to you and the fellowship within our wonderful Club.

We are now moving into a challenging year but I know we have a safe pair of hands at the helm. Chairman Richard and his Council have challenges to face but in true Ex-Tablers fashion will meet them head on and succeed. I look forward to the year ahead. It's been an honour to be your Chairman. I wish Richard every success and an enjoyable year. Gentlemen, stay safe and To Continued Friendship.

Gordon

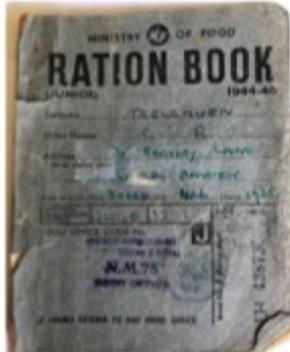
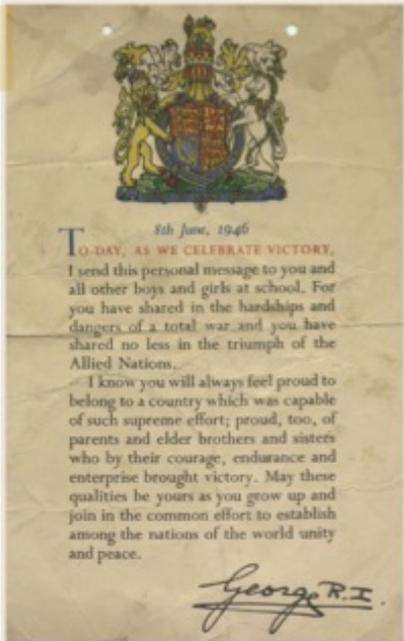


# VE Day.....your memories from 1945 and recollections of the 75th anniversary celebrations.

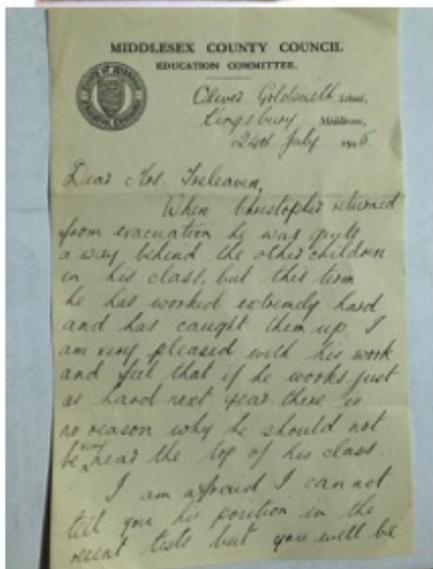
Paul Thackray writes.....I remember vividly where I was when the announcement was made on the radio by the BBC. It was 8pm in the evening and as a seven year old I was in bed. When my dad told me the war in Europe was over I jumped up and down on my bed at the joyous news. The trouble was my bed was a camp bed and it collapsed in a heap of canvas fabric and what was left of the wooden frame. I can't remember where I slept after that or if we managed to repair the bed.

This is Derrick Lynas' letter (on the right) from the King (although it wasn't personally addressed to him!)

The Blackiston's put up their bunting



Chris Treleven sent me this....On May 8th 1945, I - aged 7 - had just returned from evacuation from Market Harborough back to home in Kingsbury, NW London. My Mother and I had gone there during the V1 and then V2 rocket attacks - one of which had destroyed Woolworths in Kingsbury a few months beforehand. On return, I had to settle quickly back to the local Primary School, which is where I was on VE Day. Of possible interest are attached my then Ration Book (still has a few coupons in it now!) and a helpful letter written from the Education Office about how well I was catching up on School work from the VE Day return!



John and Barbara really got into the mood! Our Chairman's comment was 'Love it!' Eloping or just married?

David Darts didn't dare go out to celebrate with hair that long!



And finally, keep sane.....



Bill Field and his patriotic flagpole

David Curle recalls VE Day.....As I am one of the few who were around on VE Day! I remember my Mother and Father taking me to the gates of Buckingham Palace, how we got so close I do not know. There were thousands of people there.



We saw the King and Queen and Elizabeth and Margaret and a little later Winston Churchill joined them on the balcony. When his car drove through the gates we were very close to the car and we could see Winston clearly.

Can you spot David in the crowd? Ed.



On 14<sup>th</sup> May came the first Club Concert: Scheherazade. The Club Concerts and Films were developed from an idea by John Kennedy in conjunction with Keith Anderson and Chairman Richard who jointly hosted the Zoom events throughout the rest of the year.

The Concerts and Films were to attract a dedicated section of members who thoroughly enjoyed the social Zoom opportunity as well as the music or film.

**A CONCERT LOVERS VIRTUAL MUSIC NIGHT ;THURSDAY 14th MAY  
SCHEHERAZADE by Rimsky Korsakov BEGINING AT 7.30pm**



The date for the Zoom AGM had arrived. We were joined by National President Peter Good who in the pre-meeting chat revealed that he had lived as a youngster in Woodgreen, the next village to Club Chairman Richard's village of Hale. Richard emailed to thank him for attending and hoped he would be able to visit in person at some stage and see his old haunts again.

## **RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX TABLERS CLUB**

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on 19 May 2020 at 4.30 pm on Zoom

#### **1 Welcome and Introduction**

Chairman Richard opened the meeting. Chairman Gordon had resigned so that Richard could start his year in March and there were no contested positions for the new Council.

Purposes & Objects of 41 Club were read by Bob Merrett. Richard then said grace.

#### **2 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Stephen Butterfield, Paul Chappell and Derrick Lynas. Over thirty members attended the meeting which was easily enough for a quorum.

#### **3 Guests**

Bob Merrett introduced the guests who were our National President Peter Good, Phil Hoyle and James Marley, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Ringwood Round Table.

#### **4 Notice Convening the Meeting**

Steve Wyatt read the original notice for the AGM which had been postponed due to coronavirus. He then read the notice which had been circulated last month for this meeting.

#### **5 Minutes of Last AGM**

The last AGM took place on 19 March 2019 and the minutes were circulated in the same month. They were taken as read.

#### **6 Business to Conclude for 2019/20**

As these related to Gordon's year he spoke to the first three items. Bob Merrett, as Editor, dealt with the fourth.

**Christmas Card Donations** – We had already agreed that £100 would be donated to the National President's charity and half of the rest to Ringwood Day Care Centre. This left approximately £400 to distribute. At the last Council meeting it had been decided to hold fire for a possible local charity related to coronavirus.

**Photographic Competition** – This was for a photo to do with the year. The winner was Keith Anderson for his photo of Jeff Wickens on Fireworks Night.

**Chairman's Choice** – There were many deserving individuals, but in the end, Gordon Knott chose Jeff Wickens, who was always there helping out. The mug was held up by Gerald Carter, the previous winner.

**Editor's Choice** – Bob Merrett awarded this to Ian Stockdale.

## 7 **National AGM**

Peter Good told us nationally we are losing about 1,000 members per year. He wants us to modernise so as to attract Tablers to join. The Cardiff AGM was cancelled with no financial loss as the 2022 AGM will be held there. The AGM will be at Aviemore in 2021 and Jersey in 2023.

The proposed electronic vote on candidates for National office is not now going to take place and all resolutions will also be held over until the AGM in Aviemore. In view of this we did not need to appoint a voting delegate or decide how to vote on resolutions or candidates.

This was about the 60<sup>th</sup> AGM which Peter had attended via Zoom.

## 8 **Council Reports**

Steve explained that it had been intended that reports be given on the night at the AGM in March, but with the changed circumstances written reports were being given. Reports from most Council members had been circulated with the last edition of the magazine and these were accepted as published.

**Treasurer** – Andrew had nothing to add to the report, accounts and budget which had already been circulated. There had been no objections, but to formalise this Gordon Knott proposed and seconded by John Harper, that the accounts and budget be approved. This was passed unanimously.

Paul Thackray was reinstated as Appointed Examiner and Andrew and Paul were thanked for their efforts.

## 9 **Immediate Past Chairman's Report**

Gordon had nothing to add to the report which had been previously circulated.

## 10 **Induction of New Chairman**

Richard Carter was the only candidate so was elected.

## 11 **Incoming Chairman's Remarks**

Steve held up the Past Chairman's Jewel which then disappeared from the bottom of his screen and reappeared on Gordon's.

Richard thanked Gordon for his excellent leadership throughout the year. The reestablishment of our Table was a highlight and Richard wished Phil and James well for it.

Carnival had been great fun and Richard had enjoyed the other social events.

Keith Anderson, John Quint, Paul Thackray and Steve Wyatt had stood down from Council. Richard thanked Steve for staying on as Secretary to cover just the AGM. He welcomed the new Council members.

Richard thinks we have a fantastic Club which is very welcoming to outsiders. We are now a four club family having been only two clubs at the start of the year. It would be nice to have a four club event.

**12 Election of New Council**

Full details of the nominees, proposers and seconders had been circulated with the Notice of the Zoom AGM. Bob Merrett was the only candidate for Vice Chairman and was therefore elected. The Vice Chairman's Chain of Office was handed over in a similar way to the Past Chairman's Jewel. There were no contested positions so all of the nominees for other Council positions were appointed.

**13 Any Other Business**

It was proposed by Richard Carter, seconded by Gordon Knott that, as in previous years, honorary membership be offered to the President of Bournemouth 5. This was agreed.

Phil Hoyle reported on Table. At the moment it is called Ringwood & District but this will be changed to Ringwood and Verwood. There are twelve members with two prospectives. They meet every first Tuesday of the month on Zoom. They have planted 85 trees near Crow Farm Shop and hope to host 60th year celebrations at Ringwood & Ellingham Rugby Club. There are still funds in the old club account which they are hoping to access for this. There will be 41 Club involvement. Vice Chairman James is chairman of the Pedal Car Grand Prix committee. Peter Good added that Table nationally is looking healthier. There were twelve candidates for National Membership Officer.

Jeff Wickens has a number of social events in the wings for when we are able to hold them. He asked that we keep photos of what we are doing in lockdown. He hopes to put these together for a short history in due course. Mike Fraser is hoping to organise an Extravaganza for the autumn.

Dick Sheerin told us that Rotary are doing a CD of messages for Jimmie Gordon for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and they have also arranged a birthday message from the Queen. David Hirst asked that gifts for Jimmy's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday be sent to the Care Home in advance. John Adams has agreed to provide music. The gift from Club will probably be a bottle of single malt whisky and a box of chocolates. Arrangements will be finalised at the next Council meeting.

The Miramar Hotel is booked for 12 February 2021 for Ladies Night.

Ian Stockdale reported that there are two potential members and he is keeping in touch with them.

Richard Blackiston has a speaker on forensics lined up. He is willing to give his talk at the July meeting via Zoom.

Arthur Robins was thanked for the Daily Smile.

Gordon will put something in the magazine as Webmaster. There has been no meeting yet, but he will organise a training sessions for the committee. They are Gordon, Bob Merrett and John Quint.

**14 Date of Next Council Meeting**

Monday 25 May via Zoom when they will consider the June and July Club meetings.

**15 Date of Next Club Meeting : Tuesday 16 June at 4.30 pm via Zoom.**

**16 The Meeting Closed at 5.34 pm.**

On 29<sup>th</sup> May came the third issue of the Dirty Dibber so lockdown was obviously encouraging lots of gardening:

## **BACK TO THE PLOT from THE DIRTY DIBBER** Issue 3 - 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### **Now the sun is shining – start your watering regime**

Hopefully you all heeded the weather warnings, no idea how it was in your parts of the world, but here it was not only very cool at night, but we had very cold winds most days last week. That is now all behind us, and with luck the weather should now be kinder to us – no more cold nights, and especially no late frosts. If there are even if we've taken precautions then it will be too late in this year's growing season for us to do much about it.

### **Don't rush**

Garden centres are now open again, but take care in selecting what you buy, make sure it has been well looked after while they were closed. If you do need to top up your stock of veg or border plants, still take time if you can before setting out certain of them in their final positions. **Tomatoes**, for example, if they are to be grown outdoors, should if possible be delayed until the end of this month just in case of a late cold spell, which will check them back severely.

If they must go out, then ensure you select the very best spot for them, sheltered from wind and getting maximum sunlight. Remember **tomatoes** are odd, they don't need too much water to start with, when you might think they would, too much too soon and they could damp off. Too little will stunt them, and an irregular watering pattern, soaking one day, then not watering at all for a few days, will almost certainly at best reduce the yield, or at worst cause blossom end rot – a black patch at the base of the fruit, which ruins the fruit beyond use.

Later on, once well established (over a foot high and ready to set their first fruit truss) they are thirsty, and from second truss onwards and in full fruit, will need a good splash each almost every day, especially under glass on a sunny day. Don't feed them until they have set their first truss, then feed twice weekly.

**Courgettes** are also sensitive but should be safe now. Their watering oddity is that, like many others, they do not like being watered directly, so avoid hitting the centre of the plant. They have spikes on their leaves which trap water and can lead to fungal problems, so instead water low down to the side of the plant under the lowest first leaves. Also feed at least weekly, tomato food will do, but never let them completely dry out. Again like many other plants, that does them no good and will check growth and impact on future yield.

**Runner beans** if not already planted can be introduced to their support (if plants) or encouraged up them if you sowed seed direct. For some odd reason they often need encouraging to go up their canes, which they do in an anti-clockwise rotation. These are thirsty plants too, so once well established don't spare the water for them either, and once in flower make sure you spray them several times, it really helps the pods set and develop – hugely.

## Wash your hands, then water the veg plot

Given how frequently we wash our hands, we are all generating a lot more waste water, but which for the garden, is quite usable. We are generating at least two 10Kg sized ex Growmore etc tubs, invaluable in a dry spell like this. Water known thirsty plants first, but above all those in flower/pod, such as now winter sown broad beans

## Online gardening

Finally, like many other major events, the Chelsea Flower Show has been cancelled. However you can go virtually by visiting this link, clicking on the What's On tab and choosing the day you are interested in viewing. Sadly vegetables only seem to appear once, on Thursday but the Chelsea Pensioners showing us what they have grown. As they are our age group we might pick up some good tips. Saturday includes a visit to the UK's oldest orchid nursery.

<http://rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show>

Tip of the Week: Slugs apparently dislike coffee finings. Our Waitrose has a dustbin with it freely available, any Costa outlet will gladly give you some (saves you digging around in their dustbins out back of the cafe). It works to keep cats off borders too, and doesn't do the ground any harm either. Keeeeeeeep digging!!

John Kennedy's Book Club had spotted that this year's Hay Festival would be an internet based affair. He suggested that some Club members may also be interested and this note was sent out by Richard:

Our bibliophile John Kennedy wishes to draw our attention to the Hay Festival, an annual event which this year is being put on through the wonders of technology. The first event is at the end of this week, Friday 22nd May and it will end on Sunday 31st May.

You may like to visit the site and explore the programme. If there are events that you are interested in then you need to REGISTER and follow the instructions on the site. Having done so you will receive an email confirming you are booked in.

For those of you who would like to be involved in this we will hold a Club Zoom get together on Monday 1st June at 4.30pm when we can talk about the events we joined and our thoughts about them. I will send the Zoom details nearer the time.

A select but committed group of members enjoyed a good post-Festival Zoom chat on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June discussing what we had all watched.

Council had met on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May:

**THE THIRD ZOOM COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held at 4.30pm on MONDAY 25 MAY 2020**

**Present**

Richard Carter (Chairman), John Adams, Richard Blackiston, Mike Edwards (part), Andrew Green, David Hirst (part), Chris Kean, Peter Lomax, Steve Mursell, Bob Merrett, David Phelps, Ian Stockdale.

**Apologies**

Jeff Wickens and Steve Wyatt.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 28 April were taken as read.

**Matters arising**

RC had agreed to send separate notes to all members re Ringwood Foodbank and Phil Hoyle's initiative in providing lunches for key workers which he did. Phil had thanked those members who had contributed. We don't know whether he was able to organise matched funding.

**Correspondence**

None

**Chairman's comments**

The main issue for agreement is Jimmie's big birthday – see the Welfare report. RC and Richard B were invited to Round Table's last Zoom meeting and will be joining them for a meeting in June. It was good to see both Phil and James at our AGM although Phil drinking draught bitter seemed to be rubbing it in a bit! RC to invite Graham Hitchins, the incoming Chairman of Bournemouth 5, to become an honorary member of Ringwood for the year.

**Vice Chairman**

Bob has booked the Miramar for Ladies Night in February 2021 and paid the deposit of £150 which, should Covid-19 prevent the event from taking place, can be rolled over to a later date. Room rates for B&B are to be held at £100.

Council were impressed by and a little envious of the glasses of wine being brought to Bob's desk whilst he coped with the demands of the V-C role.

**Secretary**

Nothing of note

**Treasurer**

When AG started talking, he had collected 50 subs with 11 to go. Miraculously, in short order the outstandings were reduced by one as the immediate past claimed to have paid his debts moments prior to the meeting – AG promised to verify this with the bank!

## **Social**

Mike referred back to Jeff's note of 4 April.

Thoughts on booking Greyfriars for an October event.

The film night on the following evening with more to come, also Keith's concert nights. Ian mentioned an app called Squad (there are others) which would allow everyone to watch the same film together – Ian to liaise with Mike and Jeff.

A possible virtual cheese and wine with Ian providing all the wine (fat chance!).

A treasure hunt was thought to be a potential problem with police approval needed for the number of cars likely to be entered.

Another crack at cockling – see also Health and Safety.

## **Welfare**

It is intended that on 12 June, Jimmie's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, a small group will go along to his care home accompanied by our very own (Bag) piper, John, who hopefully has a different tune (per Ian S!). RC to organise gifts of single malt (Jimmie's favourite tippie) and chocolates, to be delivered to the home a few days before the day. RC was given approval to use his discretion to buy a good bottle (our treasurer, being a true Yorkshireman thought that £10 would be plenty!)

Those attending will be RC, JA, Graham and Jackie to be asked, David Phelps, Ian S to take photos and possibly another longer standing active member. Sadly, David H is unable to join the happy throng.

RC to speak to Dick Sheerin and the home to co-ordinate timing.

Editor, in the June Cartier, will encourage members to send Jimmie cards.

## **Speakers' secretaries**

At our June Club meeting we will have the pleasure of two speakers. Ian S will regale us with BBQ things; he might even spatchcock a chicken live on Zoom (hopefully the poor bird will have been dispatch(cocked) prior to the event), whilst John A will talk about his last visit to Wuhan and also about being in Beijing at the start of the SARS outbreak. It was thought that a talk of 15/20 minutes was as long as the attention span of the ageing audience could manage with questions giving a total time of 30 minutes. Ian and John will send details to The Editor for the magazine.

In July, a forensic scientist, Gez Mellers, will be entertaining us over Zoom for 20 minutes + questions. Three other speakers are lined up. Details to go to the Editor. Just how our first meeting post lockdown will work remains to be seen; perhaps in a field or someone's garden with or without PPE and much will depend on members' appetites for contact.

## **Meals secretary**

David P is trying to think ahead and looking into the possibility of us using the Arndale Centre in Wimborne with food being brought in; this may be some way off. Members to be asked, via a plagiarised questionnaire, which Bob had received from his gym, whether they would want to meet.

## **Editor**

Copy for next edition as early as possible before the 4 June deadline, except Gordon who would like to wind up Peter by sending it through at the last moment (he might have been joking, but can't be certain given his track record with the treasurer!) Peter to include a piece on the AGM.

## **Membership and Press**

Ian is still liaising with Tim Airey who is keen but doesn't want to join the Poulner Pod at the moment. It has been difficult to make contact with Leslie Jones but apparently, he will join RC's pod.

There is little in the way of local press at the moment. Thoughts are turning to radio and TV. In respect of the latter, ITV Meridien has slots on interesting local events which Ian will follow up.

We might want to think about VJ Day on 15 August.

Peter enquired about Ringwood TV. Ian will speak to Jeff W as he knows the man behind it.

## **Lay member/Health & Safety**

Nothing to report other than thoughts of cockling and the risk assessment. Whilst Ian regaled the meeting with the first time that we trawled Poole Bay for the little treasures; thankfully everyone was too kind to mention our second exploit in Poole Bay when Ian (that old salt) got the tide times wrong – digging was decidedly exciting?!! So, we'll not talk about that.

## **Immediate Past**

Nothing to report.

## **Website**

Gordon needs content. Richard B to provide the Jailbreak story, Jeff something on Carnival (if you are not at the meeting you get volunteered!). David P to give thought to events over the years.

## **AOB**

Everyone was too exhausted at this stage.

**Next Club meeting** is 16 June at 4.30 on Zoom.

The next evening 26<sup>th</sup> May the first Club Film Night went live with 'Brief Encounter'. Arthur's email, providing the Zoom details together with Keith's promotion, was a typical piece of Arthur humour:

To all those members who contacted me after the distribution of the original information I can confirm that it is definitely a film set in the early 1940s. Unfortunately, it is definitely not an invitation to visit the knicker counter in Marks and Spencer after lockdown.

May I also take this opportunity to confirm that Keith Anderson's "Trouble with your drawers?" evening after lockdown also has nothing to do with M and S but will be a tour of a furniture repair centre.

**FILM NIGHTS ARE VIRTUALLY BACK**

*BASED ON AN IDEA BY JOHN KENNEDY FOR: :*

**'RIMBURY STUDIOS'**

RICHARD JOHN & KEITH ARE PROUD TO  
PRESENT

A NEW SEASON OF MOVIES



*Brief Encounter* is a 1945 British [romantic drama film](#), directed by [David Lean](#), about a passionate extramarital affair in pre-[WWII](#) England. The protagonist is Laura, a married woman with children, whose conventional life becomes increasingly complicated following a chance meeting at a railway station with a married stranger with whom she subsequently falls in love.

**YOUR OWN RECORDED MOVIE PLAYBACK TO BE ON:**

**Tues 26th May 2020 at 7.15pm (*joining ZOOM*)**

Keith and Sue started as they carried on with an appropriately dressed introduction to the film:

