



# 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



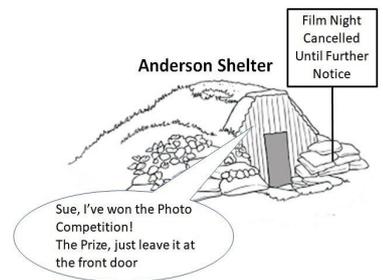
### 2019 - 2020 Photo Competition

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 chairing 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, stafe 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