

# Merrittable Times



It is almost June and the weather has suddenly remembered that it is supposed to be getting warmer. Let's hope the cold winds and rain of Spring are finally behind us. The photos of my garden from a year ago remind me how far behind we are this year. I wonder if the garden has lost a year of its life just like we have?

Partly as a result of the weather I decided I needed to hone my DIY skills and luckily for me a job came along which would put my expertise to the test. It may not seem so much to you DIY wizards, but a window handle falling to pieces as Sara tried to close it was up my street. Having looked at the YouTube video, the go-to place for us aficionados, I picked up what I needed to do. Clearly a new handle was required and noting the type, an Espagnolette not a common or garden Cockscur, Monkey Tail, Hook Nose or Spade, I set off to Screwfix to pick up my prize. It took me a little while of opening and closing the new handle to realise I had bought a Right Hand Espagnolette and I needed a Left Hand. Having cut the metal bolt down to size I knew I had to buy another rather than get a refund so I set off to Screwfix again (other DIY stores are available) for the new handle.



When I got back and tried to remove the wrong handle I realised that my time and energy saving approach, ie using the original screws, backfired when the cross thread screws were rounded and wouldn't come out. But I found on-line the ideal tool to remove the said screws, an intriguing device like a normal drill bit but which by reversing my drill/driver would magically unscrew the rounded screws. They had a set in Screwfix so off for my 3<sup>rd</sup> trip of the morning. Well whatever it said on the tin, this tool had no impact on my stuck screws. Back to YouTube and my final resort was to drill out the screws. This is where I discovered that I had no metal drill bits in my tool box. I couldn't go back to Screwfix for the 4<sup>th</sup> time but Toolstation had a set and yes it worked, eventually. So now I have a window with a gleaming new handle which actually opens and if anyone wants a right-handed espagnolette albeit with a short bolt, I'm your

man. Just a thought do we need a regular DIY spot in the mag? I can provide lots of other tips.

*(Thanks for the offer Bob, but I'll pass on that! Ed)*



Although we still haven't been out much, I have to mention and thank Sue and Keith Anderson for all their efforts in entertaining us. We've had movies, concerts and even a cycle trip overseas, the Isle of Wight in this case (*see photo left*). With more movies and concerts to come before the Summer recess, my knowledge and enjoyment of classical music concerts has been enriched in the last few months. Many thanks Sue and Keith. Thanks also to Richard Carter for hosting the last two Zoom events as I was otherwise engaged.

The May Club meeting had a guest speaker, Malcolm Bentley from the Sailability charity, based at the

Spinnaker Sailing Club, Blashford, one of more than 200 sites around the country. Many members will be very familiar with their work with disabled young people and adults which allows them to feel the freedom and exhilaration of sailing. At that meeting we also heard about the sterling work being done on our behalf by the Poulner Pod in their efforts to get Jimmie's Bench sited. Some compromises to try and get a bench sited inside a bus shelter are being explored but it may be that the Club will have to consider an alternative form of commemoration. John Kennedy and the Pod team are doing a great job and we look forward to the next report on how this project is progressing.

Council and the next Club meeting will now be starting at 7.30pm. Look out for the Zoom joining details.

Finally from me, some sad news. Simon Taylor let me know that his father, former Ringwood 41 Club member, David Taylor, sadly died on the 23 May. David and June Taylor left the Ringwood area some years ago to be nearer their children in Scotland. It was at his home in Banchory where David died. Our thoughts are with the family.



# The Tangent Telegraph



So, pubs are open! We can sit inside and thank goodness given the recent heavy downpours. The Poulner pod is taking advantage of this and meeting at the London Tavern for lunch. Perhaps it will mark the end of the pods, a shame in some ways as they have provided a valuable means of keeping in touch and for us in the Poulner Pod, at least, they have been a source of entertainment and a good start to the weekend – glass of wine essential! I'd like to thank John Kennedy (for Poulner) and all the other pod leaders for making such a success of the 'pods'.

Tangent started the year with a talk by Ken Griffiths on Orchids. He was extremely knowledgeable and gave an interesting talk, helped by the fact that he was so well know by many of our members. If anyone is interested in seeing some orchids, there is a fabulous display at Badbury Rings - according to Ken. They should be at their best over the next couple of weeks (end of May, beginning of June). During Ken's talk, he showed photos of a variety of orchids that resembled animals, birds, monkeys etc. If anyone spots one resembling a Tangent member at Badbury Rings, please photograph it and send in!!! The theme of flowers continues in June with our trip to Mottisfont to see the roses. There is still time to book in; contact me, Lesley or Barbara by 7 June. Be quick as this was mentioned in Saturday's Times as one of the best gardens to visit!

Our next meeting is 2nd June where our speaker, Ann Featherstone will be talking about a "storm in a teacup" – a story about a waitress strike and the suffragette movement.

Yours in continued friendship

Caroline



## Impromptu BBQ'S reminder

**Saturday 12 June - Ian & Jenny at 12.00 with early walk at 10.30 if desired.**

Ian writes " excited punters are now joining the waiting list as the Covid ceiling of 30 has been achieved. We currently have three on the waiting list. Full details will be emailed out in the next few days to all booked in."

**Sunday 25 July - Chris & Tricia Kean at 12.30.**

**Sunday 22 August - John & Barbara Kennedy at 12.30**



## From The Meals Shack.

Although St Leonards Hotel should be opening generally from June 21st to comply with Boris's Road Map, on speaking to them they are not taking any firm bookings until after that date..

They did inform me that they are very keen to welcome us back as well as Tangent for our future meetings.

I am hoping we may be able to arrange an outside meeting for our July meeting. I will keep you well informed.

There is still uncertainty about the future..... and are we heading for another lockdown?

David Phelps



*This photo was taken on top of "The Remarkables" which are a mountain range in Otago in the South Island of New Zealand.*

*Located on the south eastern shore of Lake Wakatipu, the range lives up to its name by rising sharply to create a remarkable backdrop for the waters of the Lake. The range is clearly visible from the nearby town of Queenstown, where we were staying.*

*Christine and I had travelled by coach to Milford Sound which took 5 hours. The helicopter ride back took 40 minutes, not including the snow break on the top of the snow-covered mountain.*



**WISH YOU  
WERE THERE**

Please keep your photos coming for future editions.

Thanks to Barrie Vincent for these great images (the mountains, not Barrie!)

And below are Andrew and Ro Green's memories of a wonderful trip to Venezuela.

***And there's more on the next page too!***

*In 2007 we went to Venezuela with a small medical group. We journeyed 100 miles up the Orinoco River (in a fast but dicey boat with a drunken driver) into the rainforest to present a water pump to the only school there so that the pupils could have a shower. The photo shows how the children go to school in a dug-out canoe.*

*One of the highlights was to fly to see Angel Falls. At a 1 kilometre drop, it is the longest waterfall in the world and the only access was to fly from Ciudad Bolivar to Canaima in a Cessna. We wondered where the aviation fuel was coming from for our next flight to the Falls and as can be seen from the photo, it was siphoned from the wings of the next plane to arrive!*

*Going to the Falls in separate planes, Ro's pilot held the door of the plane shut with his elbow until the outside pressure was enough to keep it shut. The plane had to land on gravel as the brakes were not working well enough to land on tarmac!!*

*The Falls themselves however were well worth the risks, and it was an experience we shall never forget.*





More..... **WISH YOU WERE THERE**

### Och Aye...they're back from Glen Stockdale

*With 2400 miles under our belts and clothing still perfused with Arbroath Smokie I felt a need to report on the great standing stones from the north of our kingdom.*

*Last month Chris Treleven regaled us with his warm glowing stones from the tropics. Ours were very grey and very cold this May on the island of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. The Callanish Standing Stones, unlike Stonehenge, can be run amongst and stroked, which we did. Impressive but still unsure about their reason for being. The most folk tale is that each represents a petrified male non believer!!.*

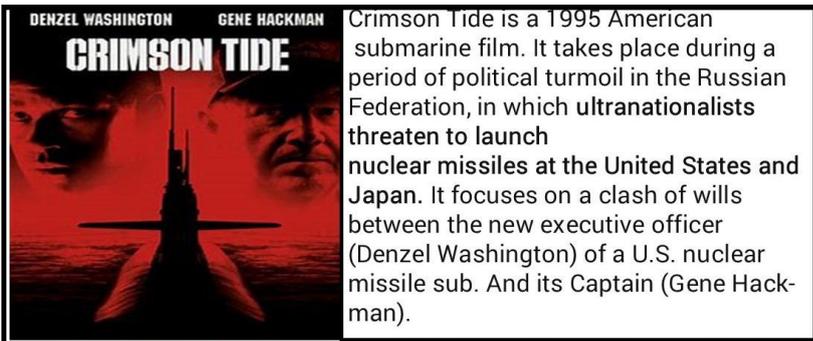
*Our favourite stone was just along the way towards Stornaway (of shipping forecast fame). Outside a tiny summer croft in a pen for cattle we found this handy Scratching Stone. Worked like a dream and kept the midges away.*

*Next month we will relate details of our ancestral home alongside Stalker Castle in Appin: Glen Stockdale. As a bonus we uncovered the remains of the Monarch of the Glen and brought him south.*



If you have some travel memories that you would like to share with us then please send them to the Editor now for insertion in future editions of Merrettable Times.

## FILM NIGHT NEWS



**Crimson Tide** is a 1995 American submarine film. It takes place during a period of political turmoil in the Russian Federation, in which ultranationalists threaten to launch nuclear missiles at the United States and Japan. It focuses on a clash of wills between the new executive officer (Denzel Washington) of a U.S. nuclear missile sub. And its Captain (Gene Hackman).

**Crimson Tide** will probably be the last ZOOM Film Night hosted by Sue and Keith, subject to probably reverting to the traditional RIMBURY Fish & Chip Movie Nights in late October through to February. Thus said Sue and Keith would be very pleased if anyone else in the club were willing to take on the ZOOM Film Night presentations. Bob and Keith will review this together anyway, in due course.



YOUR OWN RECORDED MOVIE PLAYBACK FOR CLUB FILM NIGHT:  
Monday 14th June 2021 at 7.15pm ZOOM JOINING TIME

Concert Nights on ZOOM, will continue for most months during Bob's year with, probably, a recess in just the Summer months.

## CONCERT NIGHTS for your diary.....last of this season!!

**CONCERT NIGHT with Richard, Sue & Keith**  
Monday 28th June 2021  
Joining ZOOM at 7.00pm  
YouTube linked PERFORMANCES



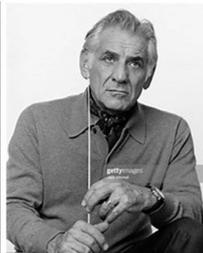
FIRST CONCERT

<https://youtu.be/5NvUyCdKAxM>



SECOND CONCERT

<https://youtu.be/arKoBwtmuX0>



Leonard Bernstein

A NIGHT AT THE BALLET

With Sue and Keith ZOOM MASTER Bob Merrett

A STUNNING RECENT PERFORMANCE

# THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

TCHAIKOVSKY

BOLSHOI BALLET THEATRE

[https://youtu.be/HcQtQ\\_fzkT0](https://youtu.be/HcQtQ_fzkT0)

Monday 12th July 2021

Joining on ZOOM at 7.00pm

A FULL PERFORMANCE COMPRISING OF 3 ACTS

Its that time of year again – the Annual Region 23 Quiz organised by Gerry Gallop from Bournemouth North 41 Club will be held on Wednesday 13 October (covid permitting!!). Gerry has asked me to circulate the details and booking form to all region 23 Clubs.

You can access Gerry's invitation for you to participate here

<https://41club.org/cms/media/download/5335>

The full details are here <https://41club.org/cms/media/download/5336>

and the booking form here <https://41club.org/cms/media/download/5337>

Yicf

Richard D



### From your nagging Treasurer

A final reminder for the few who have yet to pay their annual subs (£30) and/or their donation to Jimmie's bench (£10) to get their payments to me if paying by cheque, or bank transfer as soon as they can.

Reminder of bank details:

Ringwood Ex-Tablers Club

Sort Code - 543045

Account number 14033003

Please mark the payment with your name

Many thanks

Steve



Think Specsavers need to reposition the sign



## 'It's just not Cricket!!

This year Lashings are unable to secure Chapel Gate but will be holding an event which will be similar at Burrigde, Botley Road, Southampton, SO31 1BS on Friday 20 August.

There will be the normal charity cricket plus lunch and banter which Club members, wives and friends have attended in the past; there will be an opportunity to meet some 'veteran' celebrity players. Yes..."it's just not cricket!"

The Burrigde event will be in aid of Lashings as well as the Hampshire Cricket Foundation; their causes include assistance to smaller clubs. Burrigde is off the M27 and on the other side of Whitely. There may be arrangements for transport but if not we can double up.

There is a limited opportunity for you, your partner or guest to be one of our table and benefit from the 5 free tickets won at a previous Lashings event by John Saunders, friend and regular attendee; John is kindly donating these to reduce the price for the table of 10. Therefore, the price per person will be reduced to just £25; five of the 10 tickets have already been taken up in the last few days by members from our previous attendees. This is a limited offer and please email asap to secure your place(s). After these five, the price will revert to £60 and therefore this is a real bargain!! These will be allocated on a strictly first come basis.

Want to know more? Please phone me.

Howzat!! John Kennedy



## Chelsea v Brentford !!

*In case you didn't know*....your Chairman is a big Chelsea supporter and your Editor a keen Brentford supporter from his original Chiswick boyhood days. And I discover that Derek Scott is also a Bees fan and was raised in nearby South Ealing. Chelsea have done well this season and apparently won some prestigious cup or other. However, the headline news surrounds Brentford FC who will return to the Premier League next season after a 74 year absence! All just a little too late for me as I have now retired from top flight sport but could be called upon to make

the tea or offer advice on Match of the Day perhaps?

Or maybe not.

Come on you Bees!!



### The Stockdales are **Calling all you Folk Lovers**

As part of our summer break out Ian and Jenny are taking their caravan to the New Forest Folk Festival at Plaitford in July. Some of you might think we should leave it there!!

However we will be there from Wednesday July 7th until Sunday July 11th enjoying live entertainment and real ale in the open air. Why not come and join in for a day or an evening.

Take a look on Google at the line up which includes Show of Hands and Matt Black (folk???)

Jenny....**Jenny** ..where are my Morris bells???



### A short smile from Arthur

#### A Question for the Club's Dirty Dibber

I have just read that Pete Compost has been banned from all Garden Centres. Do you know what he did wrong?

#### David SwainstonTaylor

(picture taken in 2007 at

'Autumn Leaves' Extravaganza).

Gerald and Delia Carter write.....*David Taylor was 87*

*when he died peacefully on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*May in hospital following a fall at*

*home the previous day.*

*He was a member of*

*Ringwood Ex Tablers*

*Club for over 20*

*years, having transferred*

*into our club*

*in 1989/90, until he moved to Scotland in November*

*2012, to be close to his family after his wife, June,*

*developed dementia. Unfortunately June's condition*

*deteriorated and she moved into a care home close to*

*where they lived. David would visit her every day. June*

*died in December 2018.*

*He was active in the Club, being on council on at least 4*

*occasions, including a stint as Social Secretary. He was*

*also a member of the Ringwood 41 Golf Society, played*

*in the 41 badminton group and was part of the 41 club*

*ski group. In addition to these activities he also put a lot*

*of effort into running the Ringwood Ex Tablers*

*Investment Club.*

*Outside of 41 Club he was very actively involved as*

*Treasurer with the League of Friends of St Leonards*

*Hospital. In 2006 he persuaded me to use the League of*

*Friends Xmas Card for our 41 Club Xmas greetings*

*which increased sales for the League of Friends and*

*provided a very nice card for us to use. We continued*

*using League of Friends cards for 7 years until David*

*moved away. David generously continued supporting*

*the 41 Club Xmas Card.*

*He was also a very keen and talented painter and*

*enjoyed reading, usually taking several paperbacks on*

*holiday which he would have read before coming home.*

*We will miss him.*

#### Ashley Heath Pod tea party

We almost dodged the showers on Tuesday May 25th when the Lomax's hosted the Ashley Heath pod for afternoon tea and scones. It was great to see everyone in the flesh again following our weekly Zoom meetings each Wednesday afternoon.

### What's coming up this month?

#### June

Wednesday 2nd: Tangent meeting with speaker on Zoom at 7.30pm. See page 2.

Saturday 12th: Walk (10.30) and BBQ (midday) chez Stockdale. Currently a waiting list is in place! See page 2.

Monday 14th: Film night. 'Crimson Tide'. Zooming from 7.15 pm. See page 4

Tuesday 15th: 41 Club meeting on Zoom at 7,30 pm. NOTE NEW TIME!

Wednesday 16th: Tangent trip to Mottisfont. Book your ticket before June 7th! Contact Jenny, Lesley or Barbara.

Monday 28th: Concert Night on Zoom from 7pm. See page 4

Wednesday 30th: Copy date for July newsletter