



Merretttable



Times



Another month gone and still no face to face meetings. However, July is looking promising and, subject to the Government not doing a 'U' turn, we will be meeting at the Three Tuns, Bransgore on the 20th to have a meal together. We will be outside mostly and using their barn for eating so let's make this informal first meeting a good one.

Unfortunately, those who were planning to attend our re-arranged Ladies Night, on the 16 July know that it has been caught by the extension to the Covid control measures and, sadly, has had to be cancelled. This is a great shame particularly for Richard and Susie, but also for the team who had been planning the event and working on the extravaganza that was to be this year's cabaret. I hope we can make up for it during this year and we can at least look forward to the 2022 Ladies Night being planned by VC John for the 11 February at the Captain's Club, Christchurch. (See page 6)

The last meeting was another triumph for our Speaker team of Richard Blackiston and John Harper who persuaded three more members to tell us a bit about their pasts. Firstly, Paul Thackray regaled us with stories from his time during National Service when he was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals. His stories focused on his time working with the Household Brigade and taking part in the Royal pageantry that is the annual Queen's Birthday celebrations. Paul's role at Buckingham Palace along with two signallers, radios and a flag was to indicate to the team at the other end of the parade route when things were happening so that Her Majesty wouldn't notice any errors of timing and in particular could smoothly ride between two groups of marching soldiers, who couldn't stop. Even more intriguing was the process of shutting Big Ben from ringing until the Queen arrived in Horse Guards, as the Queen 'always arrives on time'.

Next speaker was Colin Read. The Golden Jubilee took place in Colin's year in the RT Chair and he had to attend an Area 1 meeting which involved a boat trip to France and Colin was not a sailor, especially on a night time crossing. His Cap'n, one Roger Bettle, took to his bunk leaving Colin crossing two shipping lanes in the dark! But they lived to tell the tale and ironically those who had been seasick always seem to be first for breakfast. Lots of other adventures befell Colin on this voyage: this was also the first time Colin had eaten steak tartare, although he didn't realise what he had ordered at the time; the boat broke from its moorings; bruises from cranking the engine; losing his special RT tie to a French lady; losing his specs when hit by the boom. Things didn't get better when Colin went again another year and had an airline pilot as navigator. Unfortunately navigating at sea is somewhat different and they spent 5 hours trying to get into port.

Our last speaker was Murderer Mystery entrepreneur, Graham Hoyle, who gave a quick history of his time in Ringwood Table. The Club (or was it Graham) was very good at coming up with innovative fund raising ideas: Football v The Black & White Minstrels or against a team of 'All Stars' which consisted of the chap who had his arm up Basil Brush's bottom and ten others that didn't exactly meet the trade description; Beaujolais Nouveau runs to France and back and auctioning the wine; the Ringwood Horse Show disaster when Graham and JK, the security, spent the night together in a very small caravan, leaving both scarred and somewhat reluctant, intriguingly, to talk about it.

Graham's exploits and collection of jackets and blazers just went on: National Conference in Bournemouth where he was a Convener and where the 10,000 guest limit was exceeded by about 2,000. His greatest achievement, arguably, was Jailbreak raising money for Children in Need. One team got to Alcatraz in the 12 hours and so many teams rang Peter Bath of Bath Travel for free flights he ended up giving the prizes instead. And Graham can still wear his jackets all these years later.

Great memories and another set of splendid talks. Before I leave writing about the last meeting I must comment on the decision we took about the 'Dress Code' that we will adopt on the return to meetings. For those who haven't caught up with this yet, it was decided to become a little more flexible in what we wear at meetings given that we have spent more than a year meeting at home where anything goes. However, flexibility will only go as far as not wearing a tie with your suit or blazer, but only if that is your wish of course. There will still be an expectation to wear a collared shirt and not to go so low as to wear a polo or tee shirt, nor jeans. This is a gentle, modest move in the direction that the new, younger members of the future will already have taken at work &/or Round Table. So let's give it a try.

Sara and I missed the first BBQ of the year hosted by Jenny and Ian Stockdale. Limited to 30 by the Covid rules everyone seemed to have had a great time especially in the impromptu swimming pool, although diving looked a little tricky. (See page 6). We hope to be at the other events and, as a former Chairman once said, it's really hard work being the Chairman!

The sad news in last month's Times was the news of the death of David Taylor, ex Club member who had moved up to Scotland with June to be near their family in 2012. At the funeral, David's son Andy gave the Eulogy and his other son Simon told those present and the rest of us watching on YouTube about David's favourite pastimes. 'Baba' was a proud Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather and spent many happy hours with his family and he was obviously loved by the young ones. Gerald & Delia Carter had sent a note to Simon and he was able to tell the congregation of David's life in Ringwood 41 Club, helping set up the Golf Society, Badminton Club, Ski Group and also ran the Investment Club.

On a happier note I hope you all now have heard of the book, the history of *The Pandemic Year 2020/2021* written and compiled by IPC Richard Carter. Richard's magnificent work is a great read and a fine memorial to this most strange year. Richard has kindly donated a copy to the Club and it will be in the archive for future reference. (See page 5)

Finally, Ringwood and District Round Table are going to have a Re-Chartering and 60th Anniversary party in September. The main event will take place at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton on Saturday 4th September. The black-tie occasion will see attendees treated to a sumptuous three-course meal, with entertainment provided courtesy of casino tables. There are special ticket discounts for tables of 10 and I hope a number of Ex-Tablers will join me on at least one table of 10 on the night. Could those interested in attending please let Brian Kinch know. (See page 5)

Bob



The Tangent Telegraph



Tangent had an interesting talk at the start of the month on the subject of a waitress strike in the London tea shops. I think most of us concluded that the 'me too' movement was nothing new! Our Zoom master was on holiday so the meeting was hosted by the apprentice (me). Normal service will resume for future zooms although hopefully, it won't be long now before we are meeting in person again.

A trip to Mottisfont gardens provided an opportunity to meet and admire the roses and I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed it – see the special Mottisfont report from the social committee. (page 3)

Next up is walking netball on 19 July at Poulner Junior School. Time to dust off those plimsolls and sort out your wing attacks from your goal defence. Having watched the netball Superleague championship final last week I am confident we can make our old PE teachers proud! Although, being tall helps, so perhaps not much hope for me!

After the netball, time to soothe those aching muscles with copious amounts of alcohol (the drinking type, not the rub) at the Tangent BBQ on Wednesday 21st July at Barbara Kennedy's house. The Social girls have a lovely evening planned, we just need some good weather. Fingers crossed. Please see the invitation below.

Finally, many of us might now be off on holiday. We have just returned from a lovely week in Cornwall staying in a large house with friends. Gardens featured quite heavily with trips to Lanhydrock, the Eden Project and St Michael's Mount with its lovely rock garden. All worth a visit if you happen to be down that way. We also fitted in a wander around Padstow and a trip to my favourite beach, Treyarnon Bay. Dad used to go there every year with his parents and we went almost every year with mum and dad so now my children are fourth generation Treyarnon Bayers! Still looks the same! If you are off on your travels, I hope you have a super time!

Yours in continued friendship

Caroline

TANGENT BBQ ON WEDNESDAY 21 JULY AT 6.30PM

at Hangersley House, BH24 3JU

Ladies, you are invited to a Summer BBQ!

No cooking required!!

Provided by our special chef

Hot sizzling pulled pork bap with sides

Dessert Treat!

Coffee or tea

Any Special dietary requirement-let us know



Tables & Chairs provided.

Please bring your own: cutlery, plates, cups, drinks, glasses, napkins.

Charge will be advised.

Please reply by 13 July to barbara@stanhopeuk.com

Numbers will be taken in order in case any Covid restrictions in force.

Tangent's June visit to Mottisfont

Having been given instructions from the National Trust that we would have to book our time slot the Friday before to secure tickets for the following Wednesday, we were all on our computers at the crack of dawn. Lesley was in the lead, booking hers at 4.30 am and by 9.00am all tickets for the day had gone!! Twenty of us met up at the entrance. We must have done something good for the Gods to bless us with our last day of sunshine for a while . The sun shone all day, in fact we were grateful for a shady seat for lunch .

The walled Rose Garden was magnificent, the roses at their best, we marvelled at the amazing range of colours and scents as well as many other beautiful plants . We also enjoyed walking around the grounds and some of us also visited the house .

All in all a good day was had by all .

(Missing from our group picture are photographer Ian, Chris Gee, Gill & Roger, Sara & Lynne M .)



Words by Jenny Stockdale and photos kindly supplied by Ian Stockdale.



WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?.....

Impromptu BBQ'S



25th July Sunday - Chris & Tricia at 12.30

(If Covid regulations remain in force, numbers may be restricted & bookings will be first in)

22nd August Sunday - John & Barbara at 12.30

3rd September Friday - John & Lindy Quint at 12.30

Please book directly by email with hosts asap who will contact you before the day with arrangements.



FROM THE MEAL SHACK

**Hooray !! We all meet on Tuesday 20th July 2021
at The 3 Tuns , Bransgore.**

A slight change in format for the meeting at the 3 Tuns. Originally we hoped to have a Boules evening but for some reason we are unable to use the Boules rink as the pub have had to erect a marquee on the rink. (They are blaming Boris, for what reason I am not sure!)

So we will meet at 7pm for a general get together and we will be served a 'meal in the basket ' at 8 pm at an approx cost of £10 per head.

We will follow afterwards with a short business meeting. I am sure our Chairman would welcome some personal experiences of Covid as well!

I will be circulating all members by e-mail shortly for a choice of basket meal and would ask if you would confirm your attendance and meal choice by the Thursday (15th) prior to the meeting at the latest. Please.

David Phelps
Meals Secretary

ADDENDUM

Not wishing to put a damper on the event BUT - if Boris decides to extend the lockdown period after 19th July the event will have to be postponed. I am assuming this date will be confirmed on or about 12th July.

CONCERT NIGHT

.....last of this season!!

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

Monday 12th July 2021
Joining on ZOOM at **7.00pm**

A FULL PERFORMANCE COMPRISING OF 3 ACTS

Jimmie Gordon Commemorative Bench



The Poulner Pod are progressing a number of possibilities for Jimmie's Bench with good prospects of obtaining a reasonably visible location.

Thank you to those members who have already submitted their voluntary £10 donation toward this, together with the other donations from Jimmie's sons and Ringwood Round Table.

We would be grateful if others could submit their £10 voluntary donation to the Treasurer, Steve Mursell at Ringwood Ex-Tablers Club: by transfer to Sort Code 54-30-45, Account Number 14033003 marking their payment with their name, or by cheque to his address. We will then know how much the Club has available.

John Kennedy

ATTENTION ALL 41 CLUB MEMBERS!!

**A message from Round Table Chairman James Marley
ROUND TABLE 60th ANNIVERSARY
Saturday 4th September from 7pm**



Join Ringwood & Verwood Round Table to celebrate both 60 years since our founding in 1959 & our Re-Chartering! Get your Tux out & join us at the stunning Ageas Suite at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton for a night to be remembered with a 3 course meal, casino tables & more! With hotels at the venue and a golf course to get ready for the event or to let your hangover pass the next day, we'd love it if you could join us to help celebrate this special occasion!

At £55 per head, we'll make sure that you have an evening to remember! Book a whole table for 10 at the event & save yourself £5 per head!

Please be aware that the event is for Gentlemen only.

Follow this link: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/RVRT60>

Brian Kinch has kindly offered to coordinate numbers and possibly arrange transport to and from the Ageas Bowl. Watch this space but in the meantime put the date in your diary and let Brian know if you wish to attend.



The pandemic, a difficult year for all but we had a Chairman who was up to the challenge.

Read his Year Book here :

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

This is a truly excellent read and shows just how hard Richard worked to make sure that the Club survived the Covid crisis that befell us.

Well done Richard (and Susie) for your brilliant efforts and we all hope that one day soon we can thank you in a manner that you both deserve.

Alternatively.....why not be our Chairman again very soon?!!!! (Ed.)

A little known fact for lovers of Winnie the Pooh.

Did you know that AA Milne had a smaller brother AAA Milne?



First Impromptu BBQ since 2019... or our first Club COVID breakout Social event ever!

The BBQ planned for June 12th at Stockdale Acres had a Boris limit of 30 so bookings were registered on a first come first serve basis. Quickly numbers hit 30 with a short waiting list. On the day the sun shone, the charcoal BBQs all lit, the shading worked and the Ex Tabler chefs were awesome.

Limits on persons per table and hugging were largely followed and everyone had a great time including cooling off in the nautical paddling pool.

To get things started at 11.00 am Richard Blackiston and Chief Scout Helen led an intrepid group off on a yomp to Poulner Common with metal detectors.

Most were surprised at the lovely and interesting woodland on the doorstep of Lower Hangersley. No treasure trove was located but everyone returned.

Apart from meeting up with friends to enjoy relaxed alfresco dining and drinking, the memorable feature of our day was being able to incessantly chat in 3D. It was just wonderful after the restraints of Covid and Zoom.

All revellers were great at taking home their own stuff, helping clear the garden and the party closed at 7.00pm....pheeew!!

Bring on the next one.



Ian and Jenny x



Ladies Night 2022

Please put this date in your diaries!

We have now booked Captains Club Hotel in Christchurch for Chairman Bob's Ladies Night. We have to finalise band prices, etc., but will be holding the ladies night dinner dance on

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11TH 2022.

We are anticipating holding the same price as the cancelled July ladies night this year. The rooms are being offered at £135, quite a hefty discount!
We have promised to let the hotel know numbers by the end of October and the contract has a Force Majeure clause, should the country prevent the event from happening!
20 rooms have been reserved, first come, first served. The rooms can be reserved by ringing the hotel and leaving your card details, mentioning Ringwood Ex Tablers club.
It would help me, if you also e- mailed me, to say you have booked in.
Many thanks,
John (Mr Vice)



Speakers Secretary John Harper writes.....

Our September speaker will be Shelley Lozano, an experienced speaker who delivers her talks with passion and enthusiasm (her words, not mine) !!
She will be talking about her life as an entertainer having worked as a limbo dancer, belly dancer, illusionist and DJ. All apparently amusing and entertaining. [https:// Shelley Lozano.wixsite.com/website](https://ShelleyLozano.wixsite.com/website)

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- Monday 12th.....Concert Night on You Tube / Zoom (see page 4)
- Monday 19th.....Tangent's Walking Netball at Poulner School
- Tuesday 20th.....Club Meeting at the 3 Tuns Bransgore 7pm (see page 4)
- Wednesday 21st.....Tangent BBQ hosted by Barbara Kennedy (see page 2)
- Sunday 25th.....Impromptu BBQ hosted by the Keans from 12.30pm

AUGUST

- Friday 6th.....Round Table Children's Wish Charity Golf Day at Dudsbury GC
- Friday 20th.....Lashings cricket at Burrige
- Sunday 22nd.....Impromptu BBQ hosted by the Kennedys from 12.30pm
- Wednesday 25th.....Copy date for September Merretable Times. Note the earlier date!!

SEPTEMBER

- Saturday 4th.....Round Table 60th Anniversary Dinner at Ageas Bowl. (See page 5)

COPY DATES

For the next edition please submit copy to me by July 31st.

Due to my holiday commitments please submit September copy by Wednesday 25th August.

Thank you

Editor