



Merretttable



Times



The Autumn meeting season is racing ahead almost as if we were back to normal - but of course we are not. **At the last Club meeting it was agreed that it would be sensible for us in future to each take a Lateral Flow test before attending a meeting or social event. It's not compulsory but is the least we can do to protect our fellow members and guests and I trust you all agree. Let's hope the new South African Covid variant doesn't disrupt our plans. (Take a look at the guide on Page 2 if you are not familiar with these simple COVID tests.....Ed)**

We held our last Club meeting at the St Leonard's Hotel and it may indeed turn out to be our last meeting there. The food was again not at its best. My chicken was a bit shriveled and covered in some sort of brown goo that I hope, several hours earlier, was a sauce. Gravy seemed to have been an afterthought, hence its lukewarm temperature. So let's look forward to better stuff at the Old Beams in December; see below about numbers.

At least the speaker at our November meeting was excellent. Richard Hartley, a retired British Airways Captain, who lives in Ringwood, went through his career in long haul civil aviation and explained how complex a job it was. I was particularly struck by the technical skill required to take-off and land a big plane, which seemed to require his concentration for all of half an hour, followed by eight to ten hours of auto-pilot, which allowed him to entertain the passengers, award prizes to new members of the Mile High Club and then snooze before landing in The Seychelles. The final trial it seemed was then spending a week sunbathing before coming home. I am sure Richard made it sound much easier a job and more attractive than it actually was, but I'm not sure if Richard persuaded some of our nervous flyers to take the plunge (forgive the pun) to fly again. Please also forgive the hint of sarcasm which is not a criticism of Richard or his talk but a reflection of my own inadequacy for not thinking about the benefits of becoming a BA pilot when younger. Many thanks to Martin Hardwick for inviting Richard to be our speaker.



On behalf of the Club I had the honour to lay a wreath at the War memorial after the Remembrance Sunday service. Thanks go to John Harper who each year organises our attendance.

And more thanks go to the Parkes for their continued warmth (from the bonfire!) at another excellent evening of great fireworks and fellowship. Take a look at the pictures on page 3.

Thanks also to Keith & Sue Anderson for putting on another Zoom concert night, this time the traditional Christmas ballet, The Nutcracker. I am extremely jealous of the fitness of the dancers as I hobble about having tweaked my back from simply sifting compost at the week-end. Still the paracetamol seems to be working, albeit slowly.

Before I sign off, some good news. Planning for New Year's Eve at Greyfriars is well under way with the theme "The Great British Staycation". Ladies Night at the Captains Club is sold out and we have started a reserve list but I can confirm that National President Peter Good and his wife Lesley will be joining us. We also have a good number coming to see Wayne the Weird at our December meeting with at least nine coming from Bournemouth 5.

Before all of that we have the Chairman's Christmas Drinks at Greyfriars on the 4<sup>th</sup>. By the time you get to read this the event will be over, but I hope all who came enjoyed the get together.

I note from their Facebook site that Table are doing a number of fund raising and charitable events over Christmas. I am sure we all wish them well and it looks as though they are getting great publicity and support.

Finally, Sara and I are hoping to attend the Bournemouth Forty One Joint Presidents Night at the Dudsbury Golf Course on the 5 March. This is their equivalent of our Ladies Night and if anyone wishes to join us, please let me know and I will send you the details.

So until we meet, stay safe and let's have a great Christmas and New Year.

Bob



November has been a relatively quiet month for Tangent but our November meeting took a different form this time with an evening of Beetle Drive rather than the traditional speaker. Unfortunately, I could not attend but by all accounts it was a great success with lots of rounds played. It's certainly worth considering having a similar games themed night in the future particularly if speakers are hard to find.



Bob and I and other club members attended the Remembrance Day service on Sunday 14 and laid wreaths at the war memorial. A quick sherry at the Bettles afterwards was a nice way to end the morning.

December is booking up quickly with the trip to Winchester Christmas Market on 16<sup>th</sup> and our Christmas meal on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Sian Elen and Juliette have been doing a great job with the organisation and so we are all set for a lovely evening at the Vitality Stadium. Prizes for anyone who manages to sneak on to the pitch or can sing 'Come on you Cherries' all the way home!

YICF Caroline

## Reassurance for yourself and also reassurance for those around you Lateral flow testing

Lateral flow testing (Rapid Antigen) is a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give an immediate result. If you test positive you must immediately self-isolate to avoid passing the virus on to others.

### What you need to know

If you're collecting tests from a pharmacy, you can collect 2 packs at a time (14 tests in total). You need to get a collection code before you visit the pharmacy. This is obtainable online from [www.GOV.UK](http://www.GOV.UK)

**BUT**.....

If you cannot use the online service, call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open from 7am to 11pm.

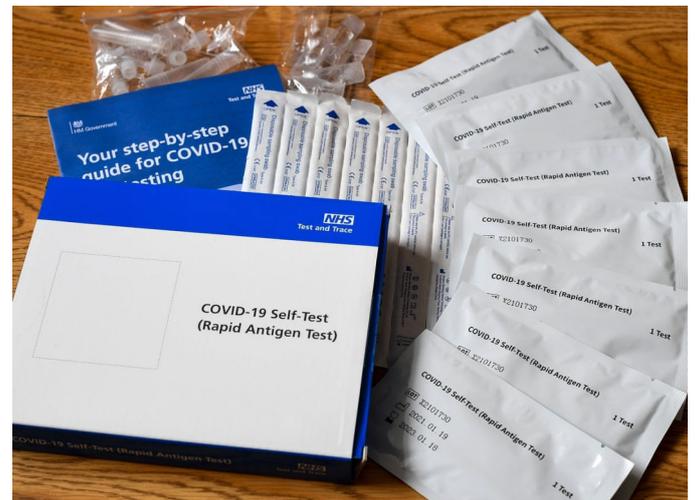
### How to take the test

Taking a lateral flow test usually involves taking a sample from the back of the throat near the tonsils and the nose, or from the nose only, using a swab.

Most tests now require a swab just from your nostrils. The swab is dipped into an extraction solution. This is then dripped on to the device's paper pad, producing the reaction that gives the result.

The tests give a quick result, as the sample does not need to be sent to a lab.

The whole process takes less than 5 minutes.



# BONFIRE NIGHT

## What a 'do' that was !!!!

Julie & I wish to congratulate and thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening.

All the Ladies and Derrick Lynas who contributed to the feast; Baked Potatoes, Sausage Suppers and all those puddings. These deserve special mention for their variety, presentation and taste; so much so, that very little was left at the end of the evening. Thank you, Ladies.

It would be difficult to mention everyone but a big thank you to Ian and Jenny. Ian for his two gazebos and lighting. Jenny for her help in setting up things in the house. Also to Helen Blackiston for her help to Julie and all those others who tidied up, washed up and generally put our house back to normal at the end of the evening.

The suppliers of wood, without their contributions the fire would not have been so spectacular. Mike Callaghan, Bob Merrett and Ian Stockdale.

Our band of wood movers, Steve Wyatt, Mike Callaghan, Richard Blackiston and Richard Carter. Not only did they clear piles of wood that I had accumulated over the years, but they built the fire to specification. The end result was spectacular. Virtually nothing of it now remains. They also helped in clearing the patio of BBQ, log store and Wendy House.

Thanks to Richard Carter for being the Lighter of the fireworks, until we discovered that some needed to be half buried in the ground! To Keith Anderson for his additional supply of sparklers and fireworks, including the Domestic Demolition Ordnance that went off with such a bang !

Finally, thanks to Malcolm & Angie Lee and Colin Read for coming on Saturday to help with the final restoration to normality of our garden.

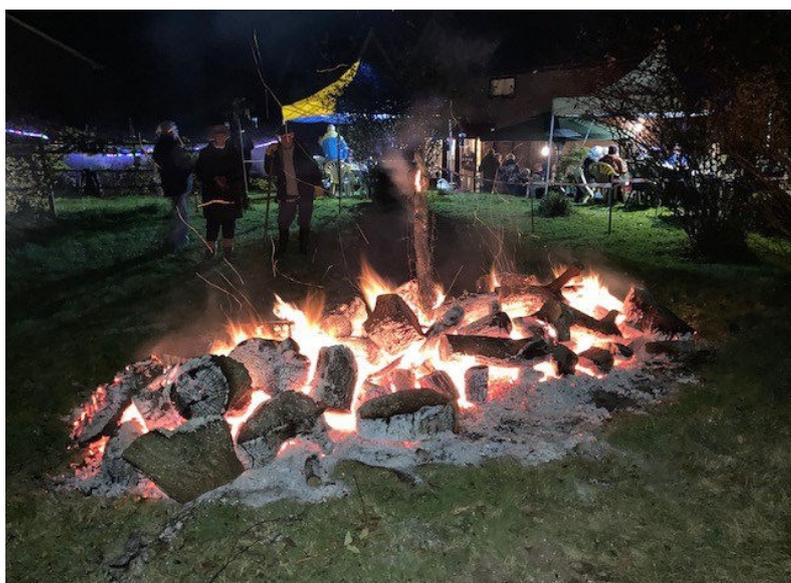
Who knows what next year will bring. If we are lucky, there will be no Bonfire Party. If we are unlucky, you all will have the chance of another November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, thanks to all who attended and contributed to a very enjoyable evening.

Will & Julie



The 'official' lighting of the bonfire by Chairman Bob



The above picture was taken before Richard very nearly went up with a box of fireworks!! He wasn't smiling then!!

From the Meal Shack.

## We have a new venue for our Christmas Meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December – The Old Beams at Ibsley

We have also booked the Two Clubs Meeting at the same venue on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

They have a large room at the rear which will be reserved solely for ourselves and has a capacity of 70 plus.

We are sorry not to be going to St Leonards Hotel but with their staffing problems etc etc I personally felt we had no option but to try the Old Beams. I have kept open the option to return to the St Leonards Hotel in the future and it will be the Club's decision where we go. They have provided us a good option of menus and obviously we will be giving them a good trial run.

Those not conversant with the Old Beams, there is plenty of parking to the front of the building and I would advise you all to approach the car park from the Church end.

We have chosen a two course menu of Roast Beef and Christmas pudding (with Cheese and Biscuits as an option) and coffee.

The cost on this occasion will be £25 per head a little more than we have been used to paying but at least we will not be having the bar snacks menu! This cost is inclusive of a £2 raffle ticket.

A contingent from Bournemouth 41 Club will be joining us also.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

David Phelps  
Meals Monitor  
(still on probation!!)



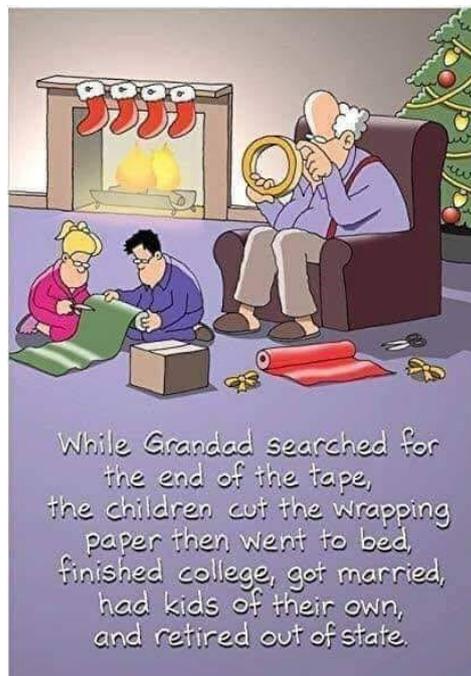
### Entertainment too at this meeting with a return visit of Wayne the Weird.....comedy, magic, stupidity!!!

If you missed him last time then come along but.....

**Remember to book in with David Phelps unless you are on the Permanent Diners list.**

### Arthur's "WEEPY FOR THE MONTH"

I had a very sad childhood. One day I heard my mother say to my father "I would like to have another child". I shouted out "Yeh! I've always wanted a sibling!" "That's not what I had in mind" replied my mother.



I said to the baker, "How come all your cakes are 50p and that one's £1?"

He said, "That's Madeira cake!"

Getting Old Should Require Training ...



Just seen a sign in Tesco's saying Turkey £29

That's £300 cheaper than Thomas Cook

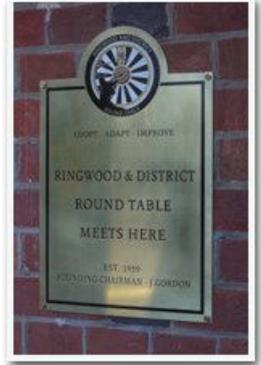
**THE GOLF SOCIETY** celebrated the end of its 49th year in style with dinner including partners and guests at Ferndown Golf Club on 12th November. President David Darts and Captain Richard Carter distributed the trophies and prizes. Three new members had played their first year, Bob Merrett, Gordon Knott and Mike Edwards so we are thirteen Club members strong. Next year's Captain for the 50th year of the Society was announced as Bill Field. Bill and David were two of the original party who formed the Society in March 1972 and along with Gerald Downer, a member from the first year, remain current players. The Society visited Devon for many years for a long weekend and after a few years gap David has arranged a trip there again next year which we all look forward to. (RC)

*Your Editor adds.....*Richard is far too modest to mention that he (once again) won the coveted President's Trophy (the best four score-cards of the season) and is seen here being presented it by President David Darts. How good it was to see Brian Pierson at the dinner and present the Pierson Trophy to the winners of the mixed Texas Scramble competition held every August.



## In Memory of Jimmie Gordon

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December was a special night for Ringwood & District 41 Club and Table. Out in the cold at the front of the London Tavern, a special invited group of 'VIPs' unveiled the Round Table Meeting Place Plaque in the name and memory of Jimmie Gordon. Organised by the Poulner Pod, the splendid Plaque positioned at the entrance to the Tavern, was given a very smart curtain to enable the 'unveiling' to take place. The curtain, superbly made by Helen Blackiston, was duly unwrapped by a variety of those present as our own David Bailey, Ian Stockdale, snapped the various guests.



It was splendid to see the actual VIPs: 41 Immediate Past Chairman Richard Carter, Table Chairman James Marley, Table Immediate Past Chairman and Mine Host, Phil Hoyle, Town Mayor Tony Ring and special guest Neil Gordon, Jimmie's son.

The Poulner Pod, most of whom were there, with the obvious exception of holidaying leader, John Kennedy, gathered round the Plaque for the final photo, who were looking rightly pleased having given Jimmie a splendid send-off.



Once the external ceremonies were completed it was the turn for IPC Richard and me to join Table for their business meeting. We heard from Chairman James of all the activities Table had been involved with as well as the many fund-raising events coming-up during the Christmas period. It was really pleasing to hear of the substantial sums being raised and presented to Ringwood groups. The name of Ringwood & District Round Table is being held in high esteem in the area and in the Round Table Family nationwide. This was brilliant news.



The other reason for attending the Table meeting was to present, at long last, the Jimmie Gordon Tabler of the Year Trophy. Presented by 41 Club to Table, the first winner of the Trophy for the last Table year was the then VC James. So it was fitting that the two Club Chairmen from last year, Richard and Phil, presented the Trophy, a Scottish drinking horn, to James. It had been filled to the brim with Ringwood Best and James, very bravely, drank the whole pint and a half in one go and still managed to speak without slurring for the rest of the meeting.

A really good night. The 27 Ringwood & District Round Tablers are a fine bunch in the true traditions of Round Table. In a moment of exuberance or possibly weakness, I volunteered as many fit and able 41 Club bodies that were capable of standing and drinking, to help at Table's fund raising events. Let's gear up our loins and get ready to support Table. I also sent out a welcome to those Tablers about to be chucked out on the age rule, to come and shake up 41. I hope they are not put off by the fact that most of us are old enough to be their Dads!!



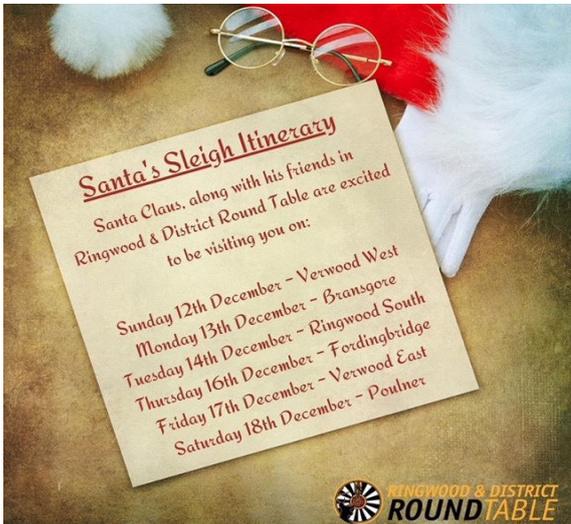
Bob



## And with Christmas fast approaching.....

Here is a taste of what can be seen in Ringwood (despite all the traffic chaos!), how Round Table are raising funds with the help of Father Christmas and his sleigh and how we should also be thinking of Christmas in these difficult times.

The Editor and staff wish all our readers a very **Merry Christmas**



Let's not forget the only Christmas present we wanted last year was to see family and friends.

Don't let the hustle and bustle of a commercial Christmas make you forget what's really important.



**Last chance to book in with Mike Edwards who is coordinating.**  
**The theme is 'The Great British Staycation' so get your thinking hats on for the outfits and cabaret!!**

### DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### DECEMBER

- Thursday 16th.....Tangent trip (with partners) to Winchester Christmas Market and optional Cathedral tour.
- Tuesday 21st.....Club Xmas meeting **at The Old Beams** with Wayne the Weird, magic entertainment. See page 4.
- Friday 31st.....'The Great British Staycation' NYE Party at Greyfriars. Contact Mike Edwards for a last minute place!!

#### JANUARY 2022

- Wednesday 5th.....Copy date for edition 10 of The Merretable Times.
- Tuesday 18th.....Two Clubs Meeting (or hopefully 3 Clubs if Round Table are able to join us).  
A dinner evening with entertainment.....'Call my Bluff'. Booking in arrangements to be advised.