

## DECEMBER 2020

Council met on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December:

### RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX-TABLERS CLUB

#### COUNCIL MEETING held at 4.30pm on Tuesday 1 December 2020

#### Apologies

David Hirst, and Gordon was a “meal apology”.

#### Minutes of previous meeting

Taken as read.

#### Matters arising

After some debate, it was agreed to put a recommendation to the club that:  
We put a pledge on our website to work towards the elimination of single use plastic.  
Pledge to encourage the elimination of single use plastic from club events.  
Provide help in the mass planting of trees.

#### Correspondence

A letter from Mimi Avery thanking us for the lovely flowers sent as a “Thank You” from 41 Club and Tangent for her talk (sensibly our chairman had not sent wine!). In addition, a letter to David Darts thanking him for helping to arrange the contact with Averys had been sent.

#### Chairman’s comments

Richard was sorry to hear about Jimmie Gordon being admitted to hospital.

Having just finalised the payments to the respective charities for the 2019 Xmas card monies, we now need to try and identify suitable recipients for the funds raised this year. There are likely to be needs arising from the pandemic which we could consider.

#### Vice Chairman

Nothing to report.

#### Secretary

The National quasi AGM is being held on 16 December at 7.30 to approve the 2019 accounts and the 2021 budget. Details of the meeting and how to join in via Zoom will be in the Cartier and as it may not be straightforward due to differences of opinion on some of the costs being incurred and the extent of the capitation, all those who enjoy blood sports might find the meeting entertaining!

The chairman is to be our voting delegate and is to vote as he feels appropriate at the time.

#### Treasurer

£855 received to date for the Xmas card with a further £20 in the pipeline; might reach £900.

## **Social**

Dec 7 - The Wicken's Wander is due to step out into a virtual London.

Dec 21 - Joint meeting; lots being organised through Richard and Caroline with images, stories, jokes and who knows, maybe even a live performance! And not to



forget loo roll Xmas art exhibits

NY Eve - All sorts of ideas in the melting pot; maybe meet up on Zoom at say 11.00 in fancy dress (?) with fizz, blowers, balloons and a good ole dose of Auld Lang Syne – watch this (or another) space for more information.

At the same time there are more bike rides, concerts etc to amuse.

Possibility of a Burns evening on 25 January 2021.

## **Welfare**

Jimmie is still in Bournemouth Hospital (Ward 4) with pneumonia. Richard C to send a card.

David Hirst is resting and recuperating. John Morgan seems to be doing remarkably well.

Christmas card distribution – the 73 cards are in envelopes ready to go. Mike C to liaise with Peter L, Ian S and Richard C to arrange hand delivery.

## **Speakers' secretaries**

John A has arranged for a surprise guest appearance. Could it be a give-away is that he would welcome questions addressed to [santaclauswelove@gmail.com](mailto:santaclauswelove@gmail.com).



??? A bit of

## **Meals secretary**

David P has volunteered for the National Buddies scheme which is designed to provide contact to lonely Ex-Tablers.

## **Editor**

Peter to publish all the events taking place in December and January in the forthcoming Cartier.

## **Membership and Press**

Jo Bonello will be back in Woodfalls this coming Thursday. His house purchase has fallen through so will now be renting.

Richard D is aware of a member living in Shanklin who will be moving to the mainland but exactly where is still to determined. Richard D to keep a watching brief.

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

Nothing to report

## **Website**

Gordon was greatly excited by watching Andrew Green's dance moves!!!

## **Immediate Past**

Nothing to report.

## **AOB**

Gordon volunteered to do the random draw at the next meeting.  
Richard D confirmed the date for the Regional Golf as 7 July 2021 at Crane Valley.  
Frogham 2021 is from 24 to 29 June 2021.

**Next Club meeting** – Tuesday, 15 December at 4.30 on Zoom.

**Next Council meeting** – Tuesday, 5 January 2021 at 4.30 on Zoom.

Round Table had planned their first Santa ride and the details were circulated to all members:

Santa's Sleigh will be touring Ringwood & Verwood starting on Monday 14th December, collecting curb-side donations for Ringwood FoodBank & also raising cash donations for local good causes. We've designed the whole thing to be as COVID-safe as possible through a variety of measures, including asking people to greet the Sleigh from their doorsteps, limiting ourselves to a team of six per night and avoiding rattling buckets in favour of JustGiving.

I wasn't sure how many of Ex-Tablers are on Facebook, so I thought I'd share our routes as well, just in case we go past their homes & they'd like to give us a wave or leave out any FoodBank Donations!

### **Day 1 - Monday 14th - West Poulner**

Northfield Road, Broadshard Lane, Meadow Road, Seymour Road, Southampton Road, Oak Lane, Highfield Road, Highfield Drive, Gorley Road

### **Day 2 - Tuesday 15th - East Poulner**

Holm Close, Croft Road, Ross Road, North Poulner Road, Kingfisher Way, Morant Road, Northfield Road, Seymour Road, Wessex Road, Wessex Estate, Southampton Road, Fairlie Park, Fairlie, Gorley Road

### **Day 3 - Wednesday 16th - Hightown**

Cloughs Road, Queensway, Spittlefields, Manor Road, Hightown Road, Addison Square, Eastfield Lane, Poplar Way, Hiltom Road, Parsonage Barn Lane, Southampton Road

### **Day 4 - Thursday 17th - Verwood**

Burnbake Road, Hainault Drive, Owls Road, Meadow Way, Claylake Drive, Newtown Lane, Springfield Road, Spring Close, Howe Lane, Margards Lane, Hayward Crescent, Church Hill

### **Day 5 - Friday 18th - Hightown & Beaufort Park**

Eastfield Lane, Hightown Gardens, Hightown Road, Forestlake Avenue, Ashley Close, Watership Drive, Lakeside, Swan Mead, Crow Lane, Pelican Mead, Beaufort Park

### **Day 6 - Saturday 19th - The Grand Santa Procession**

Southampton Road, The Furlong, Market Place, High Street, Christchurch Road, Castleman Way, Hightown Road, Eastfield Lane, Broadshard Lane, Northfield Road, Gorley Road

It was now time for the pre-Christmas edition of the Cartier Chronicle:

Issue 13..... December 5th 2020



## **The Cartier Chronicle**

*The One to watch!*



*As we approach Christmas here is a joint message from Richard and Caroline.....*

Here we are at the end of a very strange year. Clearly not the year we had envisaged but both Clubs have rallied round to provide what we hope has been an interesting and fun programme of Zoom meetings and the occasional socially distanced outside activity. Most of our members have now successfully mastered Zoom but it wouldn't be a proper meeting without the shouts of 'turn your microphone on!' or 'yes we can see you, can you see us?' and the entertainment provided by shopping deliveries. Our thanks to both our social committees for their creative ideas! Thanks also

to our Pod leaders who have done a fantastic job of helping people keep in touch over the last 9 months.

Some traditions have kept going though and this year all three Chairmen from 41 Club, Tangent and Round Table laid wreaths on Remembrance day. John Adams piped as the wreaths were laid and his presence certainly added to the occasion. (see page 5)

December will be a busy month for us with social events every week in December; Jeff's London Trip on 7th, Tangent's Bubbles, Baubles & Bingo on the 14th, Ex-Tablers' Christmas meeting on 15th and our joint Christmas party on 21st. For the creative amongst us and those who used to collect washing up liquid bottles and pipe cleaners (remember those!) to make Blue Peter's Christmas crafts, why not have a go at our very own Christmas toilet roll craft. Turn a toilet roll into a festive character to display on screen during our 21st Zoom joint party. No Blue Peter badges for the winner but you might get a Chairmen's Christmas treat!!



There will also be a New Year's Eve Zoom party and you will find more information on page 4.

Some have enjoyed the quieter pace of life the lockdowns have afforded whilst for others the changes in routine and lack of face to face contact have been difficult to deal with. But over Christmas there is a chance to meet family and hopefully opportunities to meet socially in greater numbers soon. Until then our fantastic Pods, Zoom meetings and the enduring friendships in 41 Club and Tangent will see us through!



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Yours in Continued Friendship

Richard & Caroline



## Club Charity Christmas Card

### DIARY

#### DECEMBER

Monday 7th : Wickens Wander on Zoom at 7.30pm (page 2)

Monday 14th : Tangent Christmas Party (page 5)

Tues 15th : Club Meeting on Zoom. Email to follow with details.

Wed 16th : National Club AGM 7.30pm on Zoom.  
Meeting ID: 875 6194 6202 Passcode: 41Club75

Monday 21st : 41 Club & Tangent Christmas Evening (page 5)

Monday 21st : Special Cartier Chronicle Christmas Edition

Thursday 31st : New Years Eve Zoom party from 11pm (page 4)

#### JANUARY

Friday 1st : Socially distanced walk in groups of six!! \* (page 4)

Monday 4th : Copy date for the January Cartier Chronicle

Tuesday 5th : Club Council meeting 4.30pm on Zoom

Monday 11th : Club Film Night.....' The Fourth Protocol'

Wed 13th : Joint Zoom meeting hosted by Tangent. Details to follow.

Monday 18th : Club Concert. Details to follow.

\* subject to Government Covid restrictions at that time

#### FEBRUARY

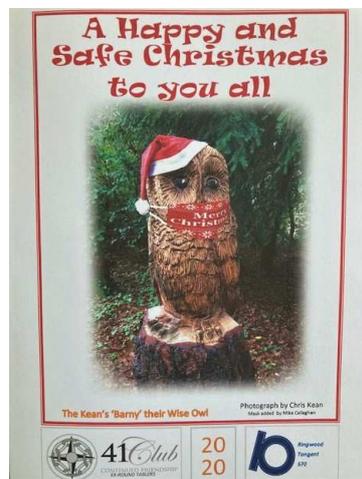


Fingers crossed!!

Thanks to Mike Callaghan's efforts you will very shortly be receiving your card.....in many cases by personal delivery to cheer you up this Christmastide.

Around £900 has already been raised for charity via this card and Council are looking for ways to distribute these funds. By the way, it is not too late to send a donation to our Treasurer!

Please pass on any suggestions you may have to Richard or any Council member.



### 2020 Wickens Wander - London

#### THIS MONDAY!!



Every year around this time a small band of hardy travellers have a wander round the lesser known parts of London and a few jars in a pub to shake the off dust and more often than not, warm up! This inevitably meant a train or coach up and back, some pretty hectic Underground and London bus trips and lots and lots of walking. Sadly this year I could not even do the recce with Dick Sheerin and had to abandon the trip - but who knows maybe we might be able to sort something out for the spring. In the meantime the plan is to show a 'wander' presented by a proper London guide, maybe have a few reminiscences and a quick quiz to round things off.

**So please join us on Zoom on Monday 7 December at 7.30 pm - courtesy of Richard Carter (Zoom link to follow)**



*Here is another gem from the Celtic Bard himself aka Mike Edwards.  
Thank you Mike. Ed*

## **MY TABLE YEARS – HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY**

During my Nationwide career when assistant manager at the Newport, Gwent office my CV needed two additions to advance to manager level. One was to pass the Building Society Institute exams, the other was to demonstrate community involvement. Even back in 1978 Nationwide was ahead of the game in promoting CSR – Corporate Social Responsibility.

I had already been looking at service clubs, so when approached to try Round Table I jumped at the chance and in November 1978 joined Newport 4 which was a very formal club, which I liked. For example at dinner meetings members took a raffle ticket allocated for their seat, as guest initially I sat with my sponsor, but soon as I joined I took a pot luck ticket. In case you think it a cumbersome, time consuming system I don't ever recall a meeting starting other than on time. Ringwood 41 has big number meetings, there were 60 members of Newport 4 and rarely less than 50 attending meetings, a mixture of lunches and evenings.

I passed the exams too in June 1979 and a few months later we moved on to my first manager's appointment at Wrexham. That was when our Table and Circle lives really took off, and we had almost 5 wonderful years throwing ourselves completely into all aspects of Table and Circle life – social obviously, fund raising, sports and so on. During those years there was a spectacular one off event, and an annual one that I still think back on every year.

The one off was the second running of a one day Wild West Festival which Table had first run in 1978. It had been a great success financially, raising £10K, but organisationally a disaster as it had taken traffic hours to get away from the event field. Table decided to repeat the event in 1982 and I was the organiser. After a year of planning, and satisfying the police (and public) that we wouldn't cause traffic chaos second time around, we had a gloriously sunny September day, a crowd of 10,000 and managed to make just £1500.

I apologised to the Chairman, he graciously told me the money didn't matter, the fellowship the event had created and the community spirit it generated were worth far more. I had intended to outdo the first event, but our outgoings were just too great, a valuable lesson learned.

Had it rained we would have made a huge loss, having hired a massive marquee for a darts competition in the afternoon, with locals playing against Eric Bristow, and a C&W concert in the evening, headlined by Miki and Griff!! I played darts against The Crafty Cockney to test the exhibition board, me off 101 and him off 501, needless to say he won hands down, as mine were shaking so much I could hardly hit the wall, never mind the board.

When the set up was complete I asked Eric if he needed anything else. "8 pints of lager please Mike" came the reply, and I nearly fainted. "You sure Mr Bristow" "Yes, why" "Well you are a great player, but can even you play after drinking 8 pints?" Came the reply "Don't be so effing daft, the beers are for the support crew!!". Raucous laughter, he really was a great bloke.

The annual event was the Xmas float, a really classy converted milk float that was taken round from the last week of November until December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Always the same routes on the same night, and if we didn't make a visit, no matter how foul the weather, there would be complaint letters in the local paper. We used to raise about £4000 (in the early 1980's), one year my tin included a fiver from Russ Abbot who lived in our village near Chester.

We also collected food, having been astute enough when ASDA opened a new store in Wrexham to ensure the manager joined Table. So we got free carrier bags, heavily discounted tea, sugar, Xmas puddings, crackers etc and with Circle made 1000 food parcels for the local needy, 20 to be delivered by each Tabler.

Now every time Romsey Table brings their float round our area I think of those great evenings.

Delivering those parcels was another life lesson in how fortunate some of us are compared to others (also made me a bit of a soft touch for mortgages for young applicants!!). The ASDA manager incidentally gave me another great moment – he and I played golf against Sir Jimmy McAlpine and Tom O'Connor who then was big on TV with Name That Tune. He had come to open the new superstore and though he and Sir Jimmy took a fiver of us both, Tom was very kind, a very good 10 handicapper, and very funny.

We enjoyed great Ladies Nights at a wonderful hotel called the Bryn Hywel, if you are ever staying near Llangollen make sure you stay there. I attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Charter dinner there in 2002 renewing old acquaintances and sleeping in the room next to the Pavarotti Suite!

We had many great speakers, one was a Spitfire pilot and the nearby Duke of Westminster had RAF connections and was invited as guest of honour. I hosted him, and when asked what drink he would like, requested a glass of red wine. So I have bought a drink for the man who was the wealthiest person in the UK (he never bought me one back which is probably why he was so wealthy!!).

We left Wrexham for Waterlooville and Petersfield in 1984, and then Southampton in 1988. Portswood and Chandlers Ford were equally friendly and welcoming clubs, Chandlers Ford especially I remember for the Eastleigh Beer Festival, which was a very big event in the late 80's, a great money spinner and the best event ever to volunteer for!! One year I was in the food galley selling the thousands of cheese and ham rolls the Circlers had made, and who can forget the meat samosas. I can recall the smell as if it was yesterday.

All great days, I was lucky to have 11 great years before being kicked out with my leaving tankard and into 41 Club at the 1991 AGM. Can it really be that long ago?!!

But even now the links with Round Table persist, and not just through 41 club membership. Through his church a close friend of mine knows John Marchesi who I have partnered in golf Catenians (Catholic charity) golf events. Louis Marchesi was John's uncle. Funny how life goes full circle, isn't it!!

# 2021 and the prospect of a far better year!!

## New Year's Eve



At the time of writing we do not know what the Covid situation will be over the New year. There could be a welcome relaxation which may mean many will be joining

friends and family celebrations but there may not be. Either way we thought it would be good to have an opportunity to see in the New Year together.

**So..... At 11.00 pm on New Year's Eve we will have the Ringwood Ex Table's Zoom Welcome to 2021 .**

Fancy Dress is purely optional but what about finding a previous New Year outfit – or maybe DJ, posh frock , best PJs (with Wee Willy Winky hat) frilly nightie or just a paper hat. BYO bubbly and nibbles , trumpets, kazoos – and a balloon to blow up and burst at midnight to see the New Year in with a bang. We want to hear about any hilarious stories from the past year, memories of previous New Years, your best New Year ever, any decent jokes and what you are wishing for in 2021. (*I think we all know the answer to that one!! Ed*)

We can finish off with a loud, spontaneous, disorganised, out of tune, somewhat drunken rendition of Auld Lang Syne and lots of air kissing.

## New Year's Day

Traditionally we had a walk to sober up after the night before and met up for the hair of the dog and to finish off the party leftovers. Alas we cannot do that and again we don't know what the situation will be but it is likely that the rule of 6 will apply. It is difficult but maybe the best option is to self organise a walk perhaps within your pod - Fancy Dress still optional !! – Ideas welcome.



Well done to Jeff Wickens for somehow managing to get us in the party mood.



**If you have any more ideas to help us celebrate over the New Year then please give Jeff a ring now.**

## MESSAGE TO OUR ADULT KIDS

**My children ask me each year.....**  
*"What do you want for Christmas? "*

After thinking about it, • I decided to give them my real answer:

I want you to keep coming around.  
I want you to ask me questions. Ask my advice.  
Tell me your problems.  
Ask for my opinion. Ask for my help.  
I want you to come over and rant about your problems, rant about life. Whatever.  
Tell me about your job. Your worries. Your classes.  
I want you to continue sharing your life with me.  
Come over and laugh with me, or laugh at me.  
I don't care, hearing you laugh is music to me.

I want you to spend your money making a better life for you.  
I have the things I need. I want to see you happy and healthy.

When you ask me what I want for Christmas I say "Nothing" because you've already been giving me my gift all year.

**I want you.**

## COPY DATES

Special Christmas Edition: Thursday December 17th

January Edition: Tuesday January 5th

Thank you for continuing to send me suitable (and not so suitable!) copy.  
Please keep it coming.

**Also, please don't forget to send your photos and any short videos to Gordon Knott not only for the website but also for this year's Covid special montage that he is compiling.**





**Tangent News**  
**MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2020**

(Tangent only) **“Our Very Own Christmas Party”**

**‘Bubbles, Baubles and Bingo’**

Dress: Christmas jumpers, hats, baubles and all things Christmassy!

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Zoom



Pour yourself a glass of bubbly, have your baubles handy, show off your best Christmas jumper and 'Eyes Down' for bingo!



**Contact Caroline to participate and receive your unique bingo card to print at home**

**Joint Clubs Christmas Party 2020**



**Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm on Zoom**

Ho Ho Ho.....you are invited to join our Zoom Tangent and Ex Tabler Party. Christmas Fun with festive photos and tales of December activities past. You might even witness some live seasonal performance!!!

**More details to follow** and will include a little Christmas Craft activity for you.

Get ready with red hat, sherry and mince pies for a smashing online party  
Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30 pm.  
Ink the date into your diary and if you need any more info call Jenny Stockdale!!!



**Talent Night co-organiser Richard Blackiston presents the winners trophy to Ian Stockdale**



  
Remembrance Day at the War memorial was a different affair this year. John Adams provided a piper's escort as Richard and Caroline as well as Phil Hoyle laid their wreaths from our respective clubs.



## Letters to the Editor



While passing Greyfriars I spotted this message on the back of a white van. I was so concerned, I took a photo so that you can warn your readers of the danger.

Best Regards  
Gordon

*I was quite shocked. Old people in Greyfriars. Really? Ed*

Dear Editor

Maybe this shot requires a caption!!!

Ian

*Maybe it does but I'm not even going there!!  
Ed*



Dear Sir,

While checking my food cupboard, I came across a can of beans and several tins of tomatoes.

It raises the question, why do beans come in cans while tomatoes come in tins?

Yours faithfully  
Easily Confused

*Have you considered changing your name to 'Needs help'? Ed*



We came across this in the outback about 500 miles north of Adelaide in January 2011. Who says Aussies don't have a sense of the absurd.

Will and Julie Parke

Dear Editor

I need to share with you the following as I would not wish this happening to befall any other readers of your Chronicle.

### **A Tale of Film Night, CoVid-19 and 14 Days 14 Nights**

Club Film Night was about to start. I was running late, hungry, just home after a day travelling and no film recorded. No worries, I have Netflix. Logging into Zoom, I arrived in the Waiting Room. I had time to search Netflix but failed to find the film. Before I could say "pandemic", I had been admitted to Rimbury Studios Film Night where Richard and Keith were presenting Harrison Ford starring in "6 Days 7 Nights".

No film recorded but I still had catch-up TV. I'll find it before the second part of Film Night. Hungry, I checked the food cupboard but chose unwisely. Dinner of an omelette (two eggs, a little milk, seasoning) was not enough after a day of travelling.

I had intended to return to the second part of film night, but 2020 had other ideas. Still hungry, I re-visited the cupboard as the "film goers" enjoyed the film. I settled for a packet of Thai Style Spicy Crackers, 80 grams, best before August.

I assumed the crackers would be fine, they just needed a Sweet Chilli dip. Keen to get back to film night, I quickly turned the cupboard upside down and found every spice except the chilli dip. But wait, there was one last bottle lying on its side. Quickly, I picked it up, only for the contents, palm sugar, to spill covering the shelf and everything else.

I know, I asked the same question. What is palm sugar?

It took the next hour to empty the cupboard and clean the mess. But good news, I found the Sweet Chilli Dip, it was in the fridge.

Hurriedly, I checked the "best before date", but without glasses, no chance. No worry, I removed the top, peered in, it looked okay. Double checking, I lifted it to my nose and inhaled deeply.

This was a mistake!

The chilli flew through my passages clearing all before it. Immediately I lost my sense of smell. Sweat rolled off my brow. I had a fever. Throat burning. I could not stop coughing. I had lost my taste, for Crackers. My year staying alert flashed before me, I had not one but every symptom.

I had become a statistic to be reported on the evening news. Before me self-isolating, "14 Days 14 Nights"

Name withheld in case Track and Trace has not contacted you, yet.

*Gordon, (whoops, I should say Anon). In a subsequent telephone conversation you told me that you have now recovered although I fear that this extended lockdown has taken its toll on you. I have informed your psychiatrist of your problem. He will be in touch very shortly. Ed*

### **Another Smile for Another Month**

I was terrible at spelling when I was at school  
Brilliant at Jografy though

And the winner of this year's award for "worst nest ever" goes to .....

Great to hear that David Darts is going back on stage in the New Year.  
He's landed a part in the next RMDS production about a man who has a strong attachment to his dog  
No surprise to hear that David's playing the lead



On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December Jeff Wickens led a Joint meeting based on his traditional London walks at this time of year. The trip to London, shopping and seeing the lights was not possible so we saw a video guided tour instead followed by a number of Jeff's photos from previous visits which he talked us all through. Then Dick Sheerin produced a London quiz:

### London Quiz

1. Big Ben is the bell, what is the clock tower called now? **The Elizabeth Tower**
2. What did the Romans call London? **Londinium**
3. Who gave Great Ormond Street Hospital the copyright to 'Peter Pan'? **The Author J M Barrie**
4. What is the minimum number of ravens to be kept in the Tower of London? **6**
5. When was the Great Fire of London and where did it start? **1666, Pudding Lane bakery**
6. How long is a circuit of the M25 (within 5 miles?) **c122 miles**
7. London hosted the Olympic Game three times 2012 and what other 2 years? **1908 + 1948**
8. On a Monopoly Board what is between Old Kent Road and Whitechapel Road? **Community Chest**
9. Which cricket ground has a Nursery End? **Lords**
10. What building has the post code SW1A? **Buckingham Palace**
11. What happened between Putney and Mortlake in 1845? **The first Varsity Boat Race on this part of the Thames**
12. The Eurostar leaves London for Paris from which Railway Station? **St Pancras from 2007; Waterloo from 1994 until 2007**
13. What is the largest public Park in London? **Richmond Park**
14. What canal goes past London Zoo? **Regents Park Canal**
15. What district of London is Harrods in? **Knightsbridge**
16. Name the arch at Hyde Park Corner? **The Wellington Arch**
17. Which Thames Bridge was completed in 1894? **Tower Bridge**
18. Who was executed at the Tower of London in 1536? **Anne Boleyn**
19. What Street is the Bank of England on? **Threadneedle Street**
20. 30 St Mary Axe (The Gherkin) was designed by which architect? **Sir Norman Foster**

Here are some of the photos which Jeff showed as a reminder of exploits in previous years:



On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December Tangent held their Christmas meeting with bubbles, baubles and bingo!

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December we enjoyed the Christmas Club meeting heralded by the usual Zoom communication from Chairman Richard with a Christmas flavour:

It appears that Santa 🧑🏻 has visited us all and we will be allowed to see the gift 📺 on Tuesday. No doubt there are other surprising ? merry 🍷 plans afoot so we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

In fact, Richard Blackiston and John Adams had distributed Christmas socks to all members to be opened on the night of the meeting. Remarkably, many seemed to have obeyed this instruction!



**RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX-TABLERS' CLUB  
MINUTES OF THE CHRISTMAS MEETING OF THE CLUB  
Tuesday 15 December 2020 at 16.30 via Zoom**

The Chairman opened the meeting with grace.

39 members logged in, many wearing outrageously festive gear. John Harper was “staggering”, Mike Edwards had his head up a reindeer’s bottom, Derek Matthews was clearly going through a “Fez” in his life, Derek Scott’s spooky glasses were sort of spooky, Martin Hardwick seemed to be by the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco, Brian Kinch looked remarkably like a witch, all great fun but best of all was that Hugh Edwards was able to join us.

Bob didn’t have to welcome any guests.

The Chairman proposed the loyal toast.

**Speakers/Professional (??!) Entertainers**

To the amazement of all, the REAL Santa  together with his trainee fairy



, Suzi, and his chief elf who goes by the name of Alf  and his lovely lady, exploded onto our screens and welcomed us to their magic world in Lapland. There was a sort of rendition of White Christmas which was slightly painful on the ear but less so than had the Secretary not muted himself!

We all received a wonderful present from Santa in a fine pair of Christmas socks although the reindeer on the side looked as though he was stretching after having previously been molested by Mike Edwards. Santa is so intuitive; how did he know to choose exactly what we all coveted most?!

Throughout, there was fine repartee with Santa and Alf keeping everyone entertained for a long while but eventually they had to get back to work as Christmas was getting closer.

The Chairman gave a brilliantly well-earned vote of thanks.

Well done John and Richard for putting together and delivering great entertainment.

### **Minutes of the last meeting**

As Santa had made reference to loads of minutes that nobody ever reads, the Secretary felt that he should not disappoint members so on this occasion he would now go through all 27 pages of the November minutes; strangely club members wanted to continue to maintain the mystique of the minutes; they were taken as read!

### **Matters arising**

The National meeting to approve the 2019 accounts and the budget for 2021 is taking place over Zoom on 16 December at 7.30 pm

The Chairman had previously been elected as our voting delegate.

RACE – we are looking to support Ringwood's efforts in combating climate change.

Members will hear more in due course as to how they might be able to contribute.

### **Correspondence**

A letter of thanks had been received by our Treasurer from a lady called Katie, thanking us for our donation to MHA (part of the 2019 Xmas card proceeds).

### **Chairman's remarks**

Club was reminded of the film night on Friday, 18 December at 7.30, to watch The Holiday.

All is set for the Joint Xmas party next Monday including images of Club Christmases past and also some more live seasonal entertainment.

New Year's Eve's Zoom will be from 11pm.

### **Vice-Chairman**

No report, but he would have welcomed Jo Bonello at the beginning of the meeting had he known he was with us.

### **Treasurer**

Together with the raffle money we have raised about £1000 from the 2020 Christmas Card effort.

### **Social**

Jeff reminded us about the film on Friday and also there may be some sort of Burns Night early next year.

Will is organising a walk on 22 December.

### **Welfare**

Mike Callaghan confirmed that Jimmie seems to be on the mend and is now having treatment for his eyes.

Peter Lomax said that Derek Scott had recently undergone a new hip operation (is that where the phrase Hip Hop comes from?!)

### **Editor**

Look out for an extra Christmas edition of the Cartier.

### **Speakers' secretaries**

Nothing to add

### **Meals**

David asked us to give a thought over Xmas lunch for members who are no longer with us. He also told the Club a little more about his involvement with the National initiative to support lonely ex-tablers.

### **Publicity and membership**

Ian will be following up with Jo Bonello.

### **Lay membership/ health & safety**

Had a better offer!

### **Webmaster/immediate past**

Once he has edited the recording of last month's meeting Gordon will upload it to the website on a member only page. A link will be provided.

### **Any other business**

Raffle – Gordon drew out number 28 which our Treasurer informed us was Gerald Carter – well done Gerald!

Richard Dyson confirmed Jimmie's appearance in the Newsletter and also reminded us that there is a National carol service on 23 December.

John Morgan thanked all those who had been in touch and that he hoped to be back on the golf course in the New Year.

### **Next meetings**

Council – Tuesday 5 January 2021 at 16.30 via Zoom

Club – Joint meeting on Tuesday 13 January 2021  
at 19.30 via Zoom

### **Final Toast**



given by The Chairman.

National 41 Club held their Extraordinary General Meeting on Zoom on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December in order to pass the accounts and approve the budget for the new year. This had to be done by the end of December following the cancellation of the Cardiff National AGM. All key votes were passed and the Capitation fee remained unchanged at £14.50.

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December the Club Film was, 'The Holiday'.

**'RIMBURY STUDIOS'**  
*CHAIRMAN RICHARD'S CHOICE FOR CHRISTMAS*



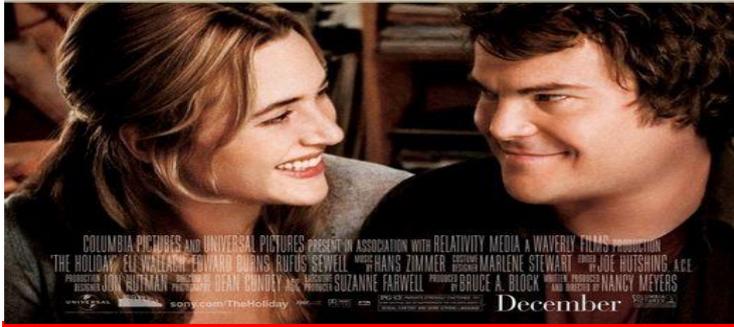
ITV 2 (Freeview Ch 006)  
FRIDAY 18th Dec at 8pm

Cameron Diaz · Kate Winslet · Jude Law · Jack Black

a film by Nancy Meyers

# the Holiday

from the Director of What Women Want and Something's Gotta Give



COLUMBIA PICTURES AND UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A WAVERLY FILMS PRODUCTION  
THE HOLIDAY. ELI WALLACH EDWARD GIBNS RUFUS SEWELL MUSIC BY HANS ZIMMER COSTUME DESIGNER MARLENE STEWART EDITOR JOE HUTSHING A.C.E.  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JON RUTMAN PRODUCED BY DEAN BRINDEY AND PRODUCED BY SOZANNE FARWELL PRODUCED BY BRUCE A. BLOCK WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY NANCY MEYERS

**WE WILL ALL WATCH THIS MOVIE LIVE ON OUR OWN TV**

ITV2 LIVE BROADCAST FRIDAY 18th December Starting at 8.00pm (split two part movie)

**Please Join ZOOM first on Friday 18th December at 7.30pm**

As if all this activity wasn't enough out came the latest Dirty Dibber from Mike Edwards, revealing what gardeners do when the days are short:

[BACK TO THE PLOT from THE DIRTY DIBBER](#)

ISSUE 7 December

## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

As usual no rest for the wicked, and though there is not much left to do on the plot itself there is plenty to be keeping us usefully occupied. The days get shorter (though they start getting longer from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>), so we need to make the most of the drier and relatively warmer ones.

Top of the jobs list is ensuring the soil is in the best condition possible so we get off to a flying start in the early Spring next year. Two important jobs here – dig or rotavate when the ground is firm and dry, then spread compost which you can now dig in. Nature in the form of frosts and worms will do the rest.

Next clean the glass in your greenhouse, I waited far too many winters to do mine, which is now gleaming and frankly looks like a new one. Whilst some shade is always needed under glass to avoid scorching tender plants, dirty glass not only cuts out too much light, but can be a breeding ground for diseases.

Same with tools, make sure they are clean before being put out of sight for a few months, and that any moving parts are lightly oiled. Stainless steel tools will of course simply scrape clean, but if you have any ordinary steel tools, probably prized old friends, they need to be thoroughly cleaned and oiled.

If you have the time, and patience, this is also a good time to clean any plastic pots and seed trays you will be using next season. Dirty pots are another source of potential disease.

Garages and sheds can be much damper than is realised, so lawnmowers and power tools may rust, or at least deteriorate. If blades need sharpening professionally, now is the time to get that organised, rather than next April when everyone else has the same idea.

Lawns are now best left alone, too late to apply a winter feed, and they are best not trampled on when excessively wet, and above all must never be walked on when there is a ground frost. Ideally if you have any drainage issues, as evidenced by moss even when the area is not shaded, the problem is best attacked by forking and aerating the lawn, then filling the holes with sharp sand. Pain of a job, but this simple work will pay big dividends when you add an early feed next Spring.

One crop that can be sown now is broad beans, they are far better overwintered and provided they can survive the conditions, especially too much damp ground, you are far more likely to avoid the blackfly later in the season that can so easily spoil a promising crop. They are best sown outdoors by mid November, but you could still chance it. The alternative is to plant them in trays of cells and bring them on ideally under glass, or in as sheltered a position as you can give them.

We love broad beans, but have had poor results the past two years mainly because the young plants have rotted off in saturated ground. This time I have planted 55 seeds in trays, in three different positions within the cell – laying on their side, on their edge, and upright. Frankly it doesn't really matter, as they are sown so deep, at least two inches, that they will sort themselves out.

My favoured method is on edge with the brown scar on one side, called the Hilum, facing upwards. Mine were sown on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and have just started showing. Nothing to choose between the different sowing position methods yet, but will monitor. So another gardening year comes to a close. Have a wonderful Christmas and hopefully a happy and healthy New Year, it can surely only get better but as I write this Boris is about to address us again and probably tell us where we are, the end of another about tier 4 or a complete new lockdown.

Keeeeeeeeeeep digging!!

Peter had promised a special Christmas edition of the Cartier Chronicle and it duly appeared on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December:

Issue 14..... Christmas 2020 SPECIAL EDITION



## The Cartier Chronicle

*The One to watch!*



Are you hanging up a stocking on your wall?  
It's the time that every Santa has a ball.  
Does he ride a red nosed reindeer?  
Does a ton up on his sleigh?  
Do the fairies keep him sober for a day?



So, here it is, Merry Christmas, everybody's having fun.

**Look to the future now, its only just begun.**

Welcome to this special edition of The Cartier Chronicle. I hope this finds you in good cheer and ready for Christmas. Yes, it will be very different for many of us this year but with firm resolution we can, no.....we WILL enjoy ourselves with the prospect of soon receiving our vaccine. Indeed, I know that at least one of our members has already received their first dose.....and she's still smiling!!

The Editorial team (that's me and the proof reader) send their very best wishes to you all this Christmastide.



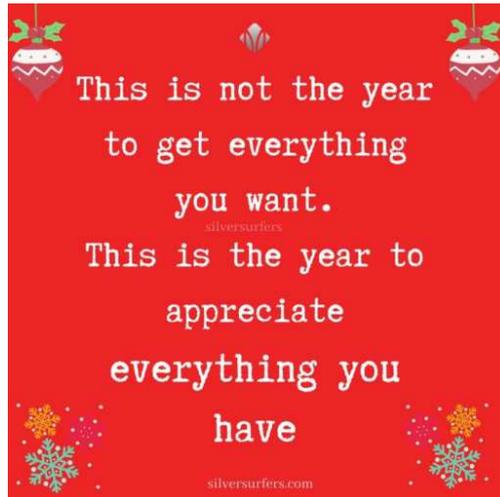
Please understand that all Covid 19 safety precautions were undertaken in the re-creation of this Council nativity scene. Sadly, we have been unable to release David Phelps from his angel harness and Gordon Knott is still trying to extricate himself from underneath the donkey and the oxon. Take no notice of the cherubic looks of Steve Mursell and Jeff Wickens as they had just been surprised by Richard Blackiston's stick which is now surprising our Vice Chairman too! Or is it Bob 'surprising' Richard?' Glad that David Hirst was able to make the photo shoot. He is looking very much better now although he appears to have taken a shine to our Chairman's backside!.

**Your 41 Club Council and Tangent Chair Caroline wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a super 2021!**

*This was created with grateful thanks by Arthur Robins from an original idea of the Editor who nicked the original from Google!!*



You can still join in the fun **this coming Monday (tomorrow!)** at the joint 41 Club and Tangent party being held on Zoom at 7.30pm. Arthur has sent the Zoom link to your mailbox!



And then there is the Zoom get together on **New Years Eve** from 11pm onwards. Join together to welcome in the New Year (probably the most welcomed ever?) Stay on Zoom as long or as little as you wish.



**Round Table** achieves yet another milestone with a hugely successful return of Santa cruising the streets of Ringwood and Verwood. After just four days they have already collected well over 2000kg of food for the Ringwood FoodBank and the feedback from residents has been incredible. These boys are doing the RT movement proud.

**Well done guys!**

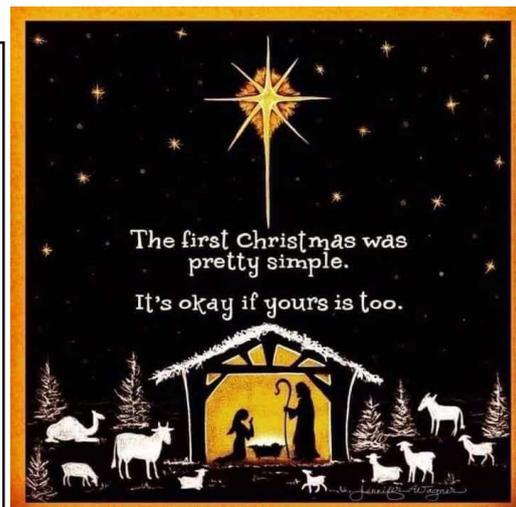


I am reminded of the occasion when my old RT (Ruislip) decided that instead of a having a plywood cut-out reindeer pulling the sleigh, we would have a real horse. Great idea! The horse was safely installed in a field at a member's dairy farm and we would merely drop by the farm, attach him to the sleigh and off we'd go.

All was fine until we had a foggy evening! You try finding a horse in a two acre field on a dark foggy night. It took around ten members to join hands and systematically sweep across the field shouting for 'Rudolf' before we set off about an hour late! We reverted to the plywood reindeer the following year!

### A Seasonal Quiz (answers next month!)

1. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have?
2. In what country did the custom of putting up a Christmas tree originate?
3. In which European country was the original St. Nicholas born?
4. Name Santa's reindeer.
5. In what country did Silent Night originate?
6. Who composed the songs for the film White Christmas?
7. The film "Miracle on 34th Street" centres on what real-life department store?
8. In which James Bond film would you find the character Dr Christmas Jones?
9. Which is the only English county you can spell without using any letters in the word CHRISTMAS?
10. Christmas Crackers is cockney rhyming slang for which part of the male anatomy?



The Joint Christmas meeting was enjoyed by all on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December with 40 screens participating on Zoom. The feedback was very positive with a number of emails thanking those arranging the evening, especially Ian Stockdale, and those taking part.

## Joint Clubs Christmas Party 2020



Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm on Zoom

Ho Ho Ho.....you are invited to join our Zoom Tangent and Ex Tabler Party for.

Christmas Fun with festive photos and tales from Decembers past.  
You might even witness some live seasonal performance!!!

This Party will really need your input with memories of Christmas Meal Disasters, Worst received presents and other amusing tales.  
To ensure you do not get missed please let us know in advance if you have a tale to tell.  
(Contact Jenny or Ian)

Feeling crafty?? Turn an empty toilet roll into a festive character to display on screen at the end of the party. No Blue Peter badges for the winner but you might get an Ex-Table Chairmen's Christmas treat!!

Get ready with Christmas head gear, sherry and mince pies for a smashing online party

Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30 pm.

Zoom Meeting link will be sent to you next weekend  
Ink the date into your diary and if you need any more info call Jenny.



The evening concluded with a short Panto discovered for us by Richard Blackiston.

The parts were taken as follows: Narrator : Richard Blackiston;  
 Cinderella : Tricia Kean; Prince Charming : Caroline Gill;  
 The Ugly Sister : Richard Carter; The Fairy Godmother : Will Parke.

N - The story of Cinderella, I am the Narrator.	N - Scene 2 - The kitchen	N - Scene 4 - The kitchen
C - I am Cinderella	C - I am sad	C - I am sad
P - I am Prince Charming	F - Why are you sad	N - Enter Prince Charming
U - I am the Ugly Sister	C - I am not going to the Ball	P - Try this
F - I am the Fairy Godmother	F - You may go to the Ball	U - It fits
C - I am beautiful	C - All right	P - It doesn't
P - I am handsome	N - Appear one coach	( P Sits then stands)
U - I am ugly	( N Sits then stand again)	P - Try this
F - I am good	N - Plus accessories	C - It fits
N - Scene 1 - The kitchen	F - Be back before twelve	P - It does
C - I am sad	C - All right	( P Sits then stands)
U - I am going to the ball Clean my shoes	N - End of Scene 2	P - I love you
C - All right	( N Sits then stands again)	C - I love you
U - Press my frock	N - Scene 3 - The Ball	P - Marry me
C - Alright	U - Who's that ?	C - All right
N - End of Scene 1	P - She's beautiful	( C Sits then stands)
( N sits then stands again )	( P - Sits then stands again)	C - I am happy
	P - Will you dance ?	U - I am sad
	C - All right	P - I am married
	N - DONG	F - I am still good
	C - I must go	N - The end
	P - She has left her slipper	C - All right
	N - End of Scene 3	( All stand )
	( N Sits then stands again)	

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December Richard Dyson issued his second Region 23 Newsletter:

December 2020

## REGION 23 *Keeping in Touch No.2*



In this issue:

- Christmas Carols Get-Together
- 41 Club Connects
- Dates for your Diary
  - Region 23 Golf 2021
  - Region 23 Quiz 2021
- Shanklin 41 Club
- 41 Club Buddyline
- Public Liability Insurance
- National Conference 2021
- Members' Handbook
- Members' Benefits

Thank you to all who responded following the circulation of "Keeping in Touch" No 1. Intended to be a means of communicating activities, experiences and comment through Region 23, it certainly appears to have struck a chord. There is so much happening in 41 Clubs up and down the land, both Nationally and locally, so this newsletter will distil such detail into bite size chunks, signposting to information.



Creativity through the Region has been amazing, many clubs continuing meeting with our usual fellowship, albeit virtually. A few Clubs have not adapted to the pressures of the moment and have not met for some time. If this applies to your Club and you would like some help, please let me know.

Yours in continued friendship  
**Richard Dyson**  
**National Councillor Region 23**

### 41 CLUB CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

WEDS 23 DECEMBER 7.30 PM

A Welsh Choir with professional choir master will lead our virtual Christmas Carol concert. Bring a glass of something and join National President Peter and fellow 41ers for an evening of fellowship and music. Your family is encouraged to join.

There's no need to register but make sure you join early as there is a limit of 300 guests on the Zoom call. Join the meeting here:

<https://zoom.us/j/91451966048?pwd=bW5UTTh1VlIxOktBSjllcEVRlRFWOT09>

If you can't join the Zoom meeting, the concert will be streamed live at 7.30 pm on Facebook. More details at: <https://41clubconnects.co.uk>

### PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

*Several Clubs have asked me if Clubs & Members have public liability insurance cover with the payment of their 41 Club subscription.*

*The arrangements regarding public liability insurance are set out in the Members' Handbook and on the National Treasurer's page of the 41 Club website*

<http://41club.org/pages/insurance-details>

### Statistics

We have 14,500 41 Club members in UK of which more than 3,500 have already zoomed in to 41 Club Connect.

Round Table has approx 3,500 members.

### Members Benefits

Were you aware that as members of 41 Club, we have over 18, growing fast, different member benefits available which can save individual members money? Look in the National Newsletter and recent Handbook for more details.

What else could possibly go wrong this year?



Christmas 2020

### SHANKLIN 41 CLUB -go from strength to strength-

In 2016 Shanklin 41 Club had lapsed into a very small "Old Tabler's Dining Club" with members of their 'feeder club' Isle of Wight Round Table no longer interested in joining them. When Brian Bradbury was elected chairman in 2017, he reinvigorated the social aspect of the Club with a variety of activities, including clay pigeon shooting, visit to a lighthouse, and petanque. The Club has now grown to 19 members and has attracted former IoW Round Tablers.

A great success story which illustrates how Clubs can, with energy and enthusiasm, build a great future.



Shanklin 41'ers visiting a Shipbuilding facility in East Cowes on the Island where they build High Speed Catamarans

**Isn't it strange that any fish caught in the English Channel belongs to the EU but any humans found there belong to the UK 🤔**



#### MEMBERS' HANDBOOK

All paid up members should have had a visitation from Postman Pat in the last few days, bringing both the Winter copy of our 41 Club Magazine, as well as a new Members Handbook.

The Handbook, a new development, has been produced as a service, giving every member much useful information about their Association, events, and services available.

This is a very welcome addition to Association detail, and warrants attention.

#### 41 CLUB BUDDIES

In the true spirit of fellowship, a National "Buddyline" was launched this month.

Lockdown has been challenging for many of Region 23, bringing isolation and loneliness. Clubs in the Region are supporting their members, but occasionally, 41ers need social contact beyond their own circle. They may have lost contact with their Club because they don't zoom or are just feeling down and want a chat with a friendly voice.

Buddyline is staffed by over 20 volunteer 41ers from around the UK (including at least one from our Region) who have offered to be available to pick up the phone, between the hours of 10am to 10pm. They have undertaken befriending training and developed protocols for the safe and smooth running of the Buddyline service. All calls are anonymous and will be answered in rotation. Especially with this weekend's latest news that Christmas has been temporarily postponed due to the pandemic, pressures arising from not being able to see family and friends, especially grandchildren, will never have been greater.

**THE BUDDYLINE NUMBER is 03301 070740**



#### REGIONAL EVENTS



#### EARLY DIARY DATES

(covid-19 permitting of course)

#### Region 23 Golf competition

9 July 2021 Crane Valley GC

#### Region 23 Annual Quiz

13 October Hamworthy Club, Wimborne

Contact for both above  
Gerry Gallop

[leogmg@ntlworld.com](mailto:leogmg@ntlworld.com)

Bloody hell Alexa, I ordered baby cheeses



### National Conference 2021 Aviemore 17/18 April

With 400 booked in, the decision to go ahead or not is in limbo due to changing circumstances with Covid, a decision will be evaluated early in the New Year. Steve James (National Fellowship Officer) is trying every which way possible to come up with the right decision.

## 41 Club Connects

Since Summer, National have put a lot of energy into creating a feature of guest Zoom talks, with an array of fascinating speakers, attracting up to 330 participants each week. To date, we have enjoyed celebrities including BBC Commentator John Inverdale, a solo Atlantic adventurer, Premier League footballer and an intrepid explorer. We have even had a launch of 41 Club Gin (Supplies still available) and a structured beer tasting by zoom.

*All of these and more are available to watch again on [www.41clubconnects.co.uk](http://www.41clubconnects.co.uk)*

After a short break, a newly formed committee has put together a powerful weekly programme for the membership to enjoy:

Beginning with the Virtual Carol Concert this week (23 December), a programme up to Easter has been agreed, including:

- Footballer Stan Collymore
- Virtual visit to the Spitfire Museum
- Virtual Burns Night
- Jonathan Agnew (cricket commentator)
- Welsh rugby referee
- And a few exciting surprises

With a current maximum of 300 attendees, be early to avoid disappointment.

The full programme, the Zoom link for each event, and details on the Facebook livestream will all be published on [www.41clubconnects.co.uk](http://www.41clubconnects.co.uk)



Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December had been logged by Will Parke for a walk to Studland after crossing by the Sandbanks Ferry. Will and Julie were there but no members joined them, a combination of Covid caution and pre-Christmas preparations. Sadly, over Christmas Will and Julie and their family contracted the virus. Will was hospitalised for a few days before both began a steady recovery. John and Barbara Kennedy were also infected but fortunately had only mild symptoms including loss of taste and smell.

Very sadly after the celebrations of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in June Jimmie Gordon died over the Christmas period. He would be remembered at our forthcoming February Club meeting.

Also, we were saddened to hear that Ann Pierson had died and Brian contracted the virus and was hospitalised for a while before returning home to make a steady recovery with support from immediate family and much concern amongst members.

On Christmas Eve Richard sent the following message to all members via Arthur:

Hello Everyone,

I hope you will all be able to enjoy the best Christmas you can and wish you and your families well.

Yours in Continued Friendship,

Richard



Just in case everyone was wondering what to do after Christmas an extra Club Film Night was held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December:

# 'RIMBURY STUDIOS'

*CHAIRMAN RICHARD HOPES THAT YOU WILL ALL WANT TO WATCH THIS MOVIE*



## The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Mon 28 Dec 20:00 - [REDACTED]  
Channel 5 HD

**CHANNEL 5 HD LIVE BROADCAST Monday 28th December**

**Starting at 8.00pm**

Genre: Movie

Comedy starring Judi Dench and Bill Nighy. A group of British pensioners retire in India, but their accommodation is not quite how they pictured it. (2011) [S]

*PLEASE LETS WATCH THIS LIVE BROADCAST MOVIE ON YOUR OWN TV*

**Please Join ZOOM first on Monday 28th December at 7.30pm**

**Judi DENCH Bill NIGHY Dev PATEL with Tom WILKINSON and Maggie SMITH**



Round Table also held a Christmas Quiz for Charity on 29<sup>th</sup> December:



Stuck for things to do before New Year? Come and enter a team in The Great Round Table Christmas Quiz! As a fundraiser for our new Round Table's charity account, We'll be hosting a Quiz live on our Facebook page - Tuesday 29th December at 7pm. As ever, we'll be supporting local Charities and 100% of donations you make will go straight into our local community.

What to do on New Year's Eve had been an ongoing discussion for a number of weeks. It had become clear that we would not be able to have the usual party and so once again we turned to Zoom and Chairman Richard sent out the invitation:

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE : ZOOM : 11pm TO 12.30am**

Please join us tomorrow to bring in the New Year. Our hosts for the evening have a variety show lined up as we prepare to say goodbye to 2020 and to welcome 2021.

No doubt you will have a glass in one hand and paper and pencil may be helpful by the other.

Posh frocks and DJs will be worn by some to welcome the New Year in style, but this is not compulsory! Wear what's comfortable!

We look forward to seeing you.

Peter and Ann Lomax with much technical help from Anne Dyson produced a memorable programme. The Happy Birthday was especially for Keith Anderson who

was 80 on New Year's Eve. DJs and posh frocks turned out to be the order of the day.

Introductory remarks Richard Carter	<b>Manage Waiting Room</b> Leave all unmuted	5 mins	23.00
Toast absent friends and....Happy 80th to Keith.	“Spotlight video” Richard if needed “Spotlight video” OFF <b>Spotify – Happy Birthday</b> Sound share		
Quiz – first 4 questions Ann Lomax	<b>Powerpoint</b> – 1 <sup>st</sup> 4 questions & answers Screen share Stop Screen Share	5 mins	23.05
Holiday – where do we want to go : Peter Lomax Chris Treleaven Lesley & Chris Bob & Sara Merrett Richard & Susie Carter	<b>Powerpoint</b> – start screen share  Stop screen share	15 mins	23.10
Quiz – part 2 Ann Lomax  Quiz questions	<b>DROP THIS SECTION IF RUNNING LATE – straight to Richard &amp; YouTube clips</b> Start screen share <b>Powerpoint</b> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> set of 4 questions Stop screen share	5 mins	23.25
YouTube Clips Peter Lomax	<b>Richard C will screen share – 2 YouTube clips</b>	15 mins	23.30
Quiz – part 3 Ann Lomax	Start screen share – <b>Powerpoint</b> Stop screen share	10 mins	23.45
Richard/Peter fill-in Charge Glasses			23.50
Peter Lomax  Richard C – Raise a Toast	<b>YouTube – New Year Countdown</b> Screen share Stop screen share		11.59
	Spotify – start <b>Sound</b> share Auld Lang Syne Happy New Year  Stop Sound share		24.00
Richard/Peter say goodnight  <i>If you want to stay on 'til 00.30</i>	Start sound share - Spotify – NY Dance music playlist		

The dancing continued beyond 12.30am when Anne announced the last song and we all departed for the New Year!

## JANUARY 2021

And, when he woke up Richard sent a New Year message to all members.

### A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

With all best wishes for a healthy year and may all your hopes and dreams for the year ahead become reality.

Yours in Continued Friendship,

Richard



Council held its first meeting of 2021 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January:

**RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX-TABLERS CLUB  
COUNCIL MEETING  
held at 4.30pm on Tuesday 5 January 2021**

The meeting began with a moment's silence whilst we remembered Jimmie, followed by members raising a glass to both Jimmie and Ann Pierson, whose funeral was taking place at 5pm.

### **Apologies**

David Hirst and Jeff Wickens.

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

Taken as read.

### **Matters arising**

We had agreed to recognise our support for **RACE** (Ringwood Actions for Climate Emergency) on our website with the following statement:

“We are supporting the Plastic Free Ringwood Community in its journey to remove and reduce single use plastics”, together with the RACE logo.

Discussion continued as to who might benefit from the **Christmas Card** monies. Children's mental health, Ringwood Food Bank and The Fortune Centre were all put on the table for follow up.

The Chairman gave a brief overview of what transpired at **The National AGM** which lasted some three and a half hours of constipated debate; all “motions” were eventually passed. The Chairman and Richard Dyson were congratulated for their stamina; others, including the Vice Chairman and secretary, had lost the will to live and logged out after “enjoying” a “scintillating” time but feeling there was only so much excitement a chap could take on one evening!

(Shame we didn't have a Master at Arms as Mike Callaghan would have been a

prime target following his ringing phone  taking over the whole meeting!!).

### **Correspondence**

A note informing us of the passing of Ann Pierson.

### **Chairman's comments**

The Chairman talked about the passing of **Jimmie Gordon**. The notification had come to us via Rotary. Richard C will ask Graham Hoyle to say something about Jimmie at our February meeting; a few select words will also be said at the joint January meeting.

He also reflected on the various events during December (and indeed the rest of the year) which had kept members entertained and had put smiles on our faces, and thanked all those who had been involved.

## Vice Chairman

Nothing to report.

## Secretary

The new Club year is fast approaching with the **AGM** scheduled for Tuesday, 16 March 2021. Formal notice of a minimum 3 weeks is required and hence this will be sent out with the February edition of The Cartier (thank you Peter).

## Treasurer

£905 of Christmas Card money and £885 of Capitation are sitting in our account,



after which (and a few other costs) the Treasurer thinks we have about £1800 in club funds.

Andrew is liaising with those whose names went into the card but have still not paid,



before invoking the next stage ??

## Social

Jeff could not be with us but the Chairman confirmed:

Monday, 11 January the film night,

Wednesday, 13 January The Tangent organised joint meeting,

Monday, 18 January Concert Night

Thursday, 7 January National talk by a motivational speaker, Richard McCann, who was also the son of the first victim of the Yorkshire Ripper. Other National talks to follow over ensuing weeks.

There was discussion about a Burns evening but it was felt that we have plenty on already in January and there is a National Burns Night event on 26 January which members can log into. (*Perhaps a reminder to members closer to the time?*).

New Year's Eve was excellent and those involved in its staging were warmly congratulated. There was a brief inquest as to whose "dog" had grabbed the limelight by its slumber. It was thought to be "one belonging to" SUCK RAWHIDE (anag)!

Volunteers were sought to participate in ***Would I Lie to You*** which will be part of the joint clubs meeting on 13 January. Andrew Green volunteered both himself and Arthur Robins to relate stories, whilst to ask questions of other clubs we have Bob Merrett and John Adams.

## Welfare

Mike had spoken to David Hirst and John Morgan, both of whom are making good progress.

Will and Julie are suffering from some breathlessness; they are at home but being monitored by the clinic.

Derek Scott is recovering from his hip replacement and had been spied walking (with sticks) in Ringwood.

## Speakers' secretaries

Our February meeting is our fellowship night when, inter alia, Melvyn's Mug will be played for. John A and Richard B will get together to discuss how this might work. It was proposed that we invite Steve James, the National Fellowship Officer and Glen Lyon, National Membership Officer, to be the judges. ***Richard C to action.***

### **Meals secretary**

The National Buddies scheme is working and David is on call 2 days each week but so far, the lines have remained silent.

### **Editor**

Peter to ensure that John Adams receives copies of the newsletter in future.

### **Membership and Press**

Our contact details with external magazine have been updated.

Ian will keep things going with Tim Airey and Jo Bonello.

A proposal will be put to the February meeting to offer honorary membership to Phil Hoyle and automatically each year to the incoming chairman of Round Table.

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

Nothing to report

### **Website**

Nothing to report but Gordon will upload the RACE statement when he has the words.

### **Immediate Past**

Nothing to report.

### **AOB**

Richard C will do the draw at the next meeting.

Gordon confirmed that Jeff is in charge of putting together "Our Covid Year" in video; pictures of what we have all been doing during lockdown are needed.

**Next (Joint) Club meeting** – Tuesday, 13 January at 7.30 on Zoom.

**Next Council meeting** – Tuesday, 2 February 2021 at 4.30 on Zoom.

National 41 Club, under the banner of 41 Club Connects, had been running a series of Thursday evening Zoom events with invited speakers including a Gin event, an evening with John Inverdale and National President Peter's Christmas Carol evening. On 7<sup>th</sup> January the speaker was Richard McCann, the son of the Yorkshire Ripper's first victim, and so what looked a 'maybe' interesting evening turned out to be an absolutely riveting ninety minutes from a man prepared to be very open about his story, inspiring in terms of what he had achieved, and the interactive elements added to the excellence of the event.

Council had decided not to attempt to organise a virtual Burns Night but that we would promote the National 41 Club Burns Night on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Quite a few members joined in, some scoffing their haggis, neeps and tatties whilst listening to some remarkable contributions from Scottish Ex-Tablers including the Address to the Haggis and a rendition from memory of 'Tam O'Shanter'.

On 5<sup>th</sup> January Peter issued the January Cartier Chronicle which included a tribute to Jimmie Gordon:



# The Cartier Chronicle

*The One to watch!*

Issue 15 5th January 2021



Welcome to 2021 and thank you to all who helped to see 2020 out in fine style with our various December events. The strength of our Clubs was shown off to great effect and gave us all enjoyment in these continuing trying times.

We were all very sorry to know that Jimmy Gordon had died. As the founder of Ringwood Round Table in 1960 he was the fount of all the community activity, fun and fundraising which the Club and our Ex-Table Club has enjoyed. There is a tribute to Jimmy in this edition.

Our thoughts are also with Brian Pierson and his family, and with our other members who have recently contracted the virus.

Please join our Club events to help roll the days on. The winter restrictions with the cold and short days seem harsher than last Spring and summer. I guess we just have to be patient, and with the vaccine hopefully not too far away for all of us we can begin to look forward even though this period has seemed to be never ending. If it was warmer I would clear out the garage again!

When Susie and I completed our 500 miles each for National President Peter's Charity, Dementia UK, we were challenged by Tom Atkins, the initiator of the challenge, to join others who were going for 500+500 (1,000) miles each. We decided to do so and when the November lockdown came we were pleased that we did. We completed the 500+500 each on 29<sup>th</sup> December and had a little celebration on returning home. The pictures we are holding in this photo are of The Proclaimers, the mascots of the challenge, for their song but we didn't fall down at the door!

Keep safe and keep smiling with Arthur.

Yours in Continued Friendship,

Richard

*Dear Richard and Susie....On behalf of both Clubs I have to record massive congratulations to you both on this tremendous achievement and also for putting the rest of us to shame. Well done! Ed*



## DIARY

### JANUARY

Tuesday 5th January : Council meeting 4.30pm on Zoom

Monday 11th January : Club Film Night : The Fourth Protocol : 7.15pm on Zoom

Wednesday 13th January : Three Clubs meeting hosted by Tangent : 7.30pm on Zoom (see page 2)

Monday 18th January : Club Concert : Summer Night Concert from Schonbrunn : 7.15pm on Zoom (see page 4)

### FEBRUARY

Monday 8th February : Club Film Night : Dirty Rotten Scoundrels : 7.15pm on Zoom. Details to follow

Sunday 14th February : Tip for the blokes.....Valentines Day!!



## Caroline's Corner



Firstly, I must say a big thank you to the social committee, Anne D, Richard Carter, Jeff W and of course Jenny and Ian Stockdale for putting together a great string of Christmas evenings. From a tour of London, to bingo to memories of past 41 Club events, we were all thoroughly entertained although I'm not sure about the pantomime. Oh yes I am!

2020 has not been easy and has been particularly challenging for many, however we have remained resilient and I am pleased we have still managed to keep in touch albeit via a screen.

And how sad to learn of the sudden passing of Ann Pierson. Our thoughts are with Brian and the family at this difficult time.

Our next social diary date is 13 January when the 3 clubs will meet for some friendly competition with our 'Would I Lie to You' game show. See below for more details.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2021

Yours in continued friendship.

Caroline



This Tangent member was obviously enjoying the bingo!

Some familiar faces from our Tangent Bingo Night!

It's Tangent's turn to organise the 3 Clubs meeting 2021.

OUR VERY OWN Zoom



Next Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

You will be asked to vote on whether each outlandish tale, presented by members of Tangent, EX Table and Table, is TRUE or FALSE.

The Zoom link will be sent on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January

**Honestly!!!!**



### ***Jimmy Gordon***

*It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Jimmy Gordon on December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020.*

*Jimmy reached 100 years of age last year. Despite Covid 19 he enjoyed his birthday with many Ringwood friends, and welcomed the Queen's telegram.*

*He was the Founder Chairman of Ringwood and District Round Table in 1959 and Chairman of Ringwood and District 41 Club just a few years later.*

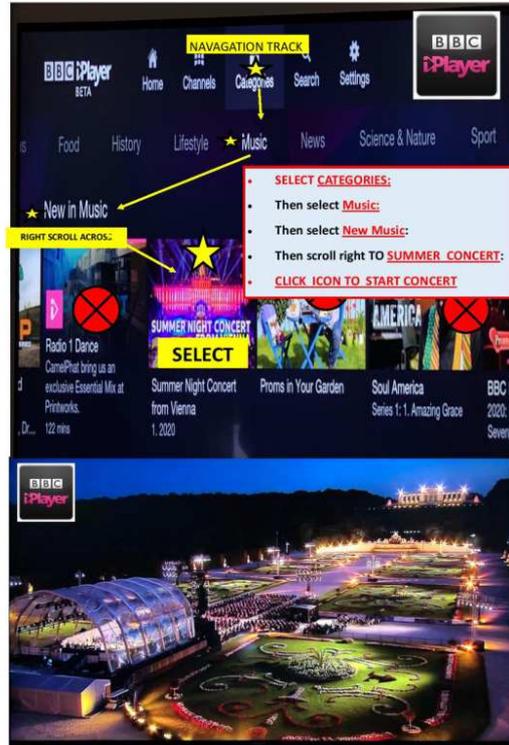
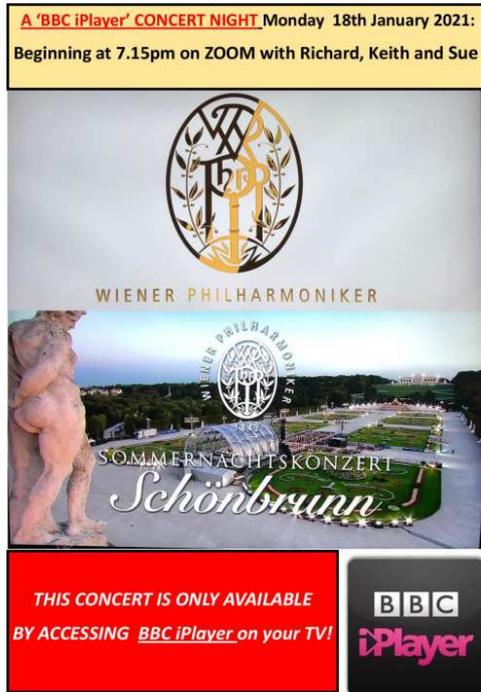
*From his decorating store in Ringwood Jimmy was always actively involved in the Ringwood community from the carnival and procession plus multiple local projects while personally raising over £200,000 for Cancer Research UK.*

*In 2014 he became a Life Honorary Member of Ringwood Ex Tablers Club and continued attending social events and meetings into 2019.*

*Jimmy Gordon was a popular and active Ringwood person who leaves many fond memories of his personal and community contributions over the years.*



If you would like to see this fabulous concert but maybe unfamiliar with BBC iPlayer, then Keith has produced this guide to help.



### **A (fantastic) message from Ringwood & Verwood Round Table**

(This article was first shown on their Facebook page)

As we sit here on the first afternoon of 2021, we thought that we'd take the opportunity to look back over our first year as a re-Chartered Round Table. When the first few of us began talking about reforming a Round Table in our local communities in the winter of 2019 & spring of 2020, little did we know what the year had in store for us all.

Against the backdrop of COVID-19, which saw so many things cancelled, delayed, or massively altered, we're really proud of all that we've managed to achieve in our first year:

- 17 New Members
- 2.8 tonnes of food donated to local foodbanks
- Over £3750 raised for local charities & good causes
- Re-chartering in the 60th year since Ringwood Round Table was originally formed
- 46km of roads visited by Santa's Sleigh
- Round Table Woods founded in Crow
- 42 Roast Dinners funded for Key Workers
- 10 organised litter picks
- 650kg of litter collected
- 5 raised beds built to help RACE found their own Tree Nursery

We've managed to rise to the challenges that coronavirus presented by echoing the motto of Round Table; Adopt, Adapt, Improve. Whether it's by Adopting video-conferencing as a way to meet up during lockdown & to keep moving forwards, by Adapting to the restrictions and still growing as an organisation or Improving what we do to make our first time of welcoming Santa Claus to town a roaring success, we've shown that you can still come together (Tier restrictions permitting), make new friends and Do More in the local community in the last year - Just imagine what we'll achieve in 2021!

[#exciting](#) [#newchallenges](#) [#domore](#) [#community](#) [#ringwood](#) [#verwood](#) [#roundtable](#)  
**WELL DONE BOYS! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS!**

**It is John Quint's turn to regale his former Tabling days in Shropshire**



Oakengates Round Table held their fun day at Horseshill Park. Trying out a new style of wheelbarrow race is table vice-chairman Barry Charlton, being pushed by John Quint, chairman.

I joined Oakengates and District Round Table number 908 Area 5 in 1972 due to pressure from one of my pals who was already a member extolling the virtues and great times he was having and I've never regretted it. Fun, fellowship, charity events and formal evenings became the norm. We made new friends many of whom we are still either in touch with, or see every year. Our Table was known in Area 5 as being one of the most active and boasted 50 active members in its heyday and over the years promulgated two Area Chairmen from our ranks. Having held most of the offices and been on council almost continuously since joining it eventually became my turn to stand for Chairman and in those days it was by election from several candidates. 1984/5 became my year in the Chair.

I'm sure every Past RT Chairman remembers his year with some clarity even after all this time, and I recall the Oakengates Fun Day we had in one of the local parks. A Donkey Derby was a favourite of the day and young children were dumped onto a poor unsuspecting animal, a sharp smack in its backside (the donkey, not the child...although sometimes...) and off they went around a pre-set small course with squeals of delight. One of our members was a young P.E. teacher who offered to do a ski jump! We

helped him build a very shaky ramp about 25ft, high. The slope was covered on plastic streamers pointing downwards and a hosepipe at the top gave a running stream of water that worked as a sort of lubricant. I took the hose to the top and fixed it for him and was extremely pleased to get down safely as even in a slight breeze it wavered unsteadily several inches back and forth, so much so I got one of our solicitor members to make the teacher sign a form absolving us from any blame in the event of any injury! However, in ski gear he climbed to the top and skied down, did a backwards somersault landing on a large inflated bag of air. He repeated this three times before common sense kicked in and we grounded him. A double page spread in the local paper gave us wonderful publicity.



Sponsored bike ride, pistol shooting, clay pigeon shooting, barn dance, sports competitions, kinky craft race on the Severn, and many other events which all Tablers would be familiar with. However, for my Birthday.... a Round Table treat! We had a visit to the Long Mynd Gliding Club on the Cleve Hills. All was well, it was a comparatively comfortable twin seater stunt glider and the pilot an award winning professional. Or at least it was until at about 2000 feet I asked him how fast the plane could fly. His response was to put it into a vertical dive. The whole plane shook the wings flapped and vibrated with the control wires making pinging noises and he only pulling out at 130mph 50 ft above my fellow Tablers who ran for cover thinking (as I did!) that we were going to crash.

It was traditional for us to have a Chairman's away visit to another country so I chose Amsterdam.....but I can't remember what or if anything happened to our party of eight! Probably the most rewarding charity action we set up was to build a holiday bungalow at Fairbourne on the Welsh coast. It would house a family of up to two adults and six children. Each year we would interview deserving families and take them free of charge for week at a time, dropping off one family and picking up the ones already there and bringing them back. Always taking plenty of sick bags as many were not used to car travel. Several wondered why we hurried back, it was because we always made the journey on a Sunday and Wales was dry so getting back to civilisation was imperative to meet friends for a few beers in England.

Many more memories but over a glass of wine maybe, when we get over this abhorrent disease and lockdown. Happy New Year.

(Thanks John....so reminiscent of my RT Days! Ed)





RACE ("Ringwood Actions for Climate Emergency")

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*This could be an opportunity for the Club to do something within the community – much like the "good old days" in Table.*

Recently I received a phone call from Colin Andrews who is a prime mover within RACE asking whether we would like to/could help with a project related to their tree planting programme. As you may know, recently they planted their 20,000<sup>th</sup> tree (as seen on Ringwood TV) but there are plenty more to come!

Apparently, because of social distancing rules it had not been possible to do as many as they would have liked just using clubs like Round Table, Rotary, Scouts, Schools etc so a commercial contractor did a chunk. I think they now need to demonstrate even greater Community involvement and have asked whether we can help and if so, could we please wear 41 Club tabards for a photo shoot – I feel a publicity opportunity coming on for Ian!! What we are being asked to do is some or all of the following:

A lot of support posts have been put in place but to make sure the farmers don't cut them all down when they are doing their hedge work, all the tops need to be sprayed red. I feel sure we have some budding graffiti artists in the club who might like to have a go.

The second project involves securing the sentinel trees which have been planted every 20 metres. Wooden posts have been "planted" around the trees but the trees themselves now need securing with strapping which Colin will provide, together with instruction on how to fix them.

The third part is to mulch the trees that have already been planted; a bit more laborious I suspect but could be fun.

I'm not sure when the work can be carried out given present restrictions but it would be good to have a team ready willing and able as and when we have a green light. To that end would you please drop an email to the Club secretary, Chris Kean, who is co-ordinating our involvement, if you would like to be part of the chain gang.



### Will's Wednesday Walk held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Julie and I arrived at the Sandbanks Ferry in good time to meet the hoped-for other intrepid walkers for a stroll to Studland Middle Beach. The tide was low, firm sand for smooth walking was abundant, the weather was pleasant with a gentle breeze. What more could a walker/nature lover want? I admit that no-one had phoned me before hand as asked in Jeff's message to all via Arthur, but sadly no-one turned up.

We had a very pleasant 45 minutes watching the ferry trundling to and fro. Other boats going in and out; the Pilot going out to a gravel boat making its way in, small boats with worm-drowners hoping to catch something; others just enjoying being on the water. We could only see two cruise ships anchored in the Bay. We then left to buy whatever we had forgotten to get for our various descendants for Xmas. Is this a Chinese Pox thing? Is Christmas to blame? Am I in the right job for arranging walks? Are Walks a thing of the past? Are they for Summer only?

The tide would definitely **not** be favourable on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January for this walk; High Tide Springs at 09:50, so no firm sand.

*What a pity. Will's comments must be followed up with a decent open debate. In the meantime we all hope that they are recovering well from this virus and send our very best wishes. Ed*

### Another Smile for Another Month



An exciting new Talent Show starring Fern Britton and Chris Tarrant starts next week.

It's called "Brittons Got Tarrant"

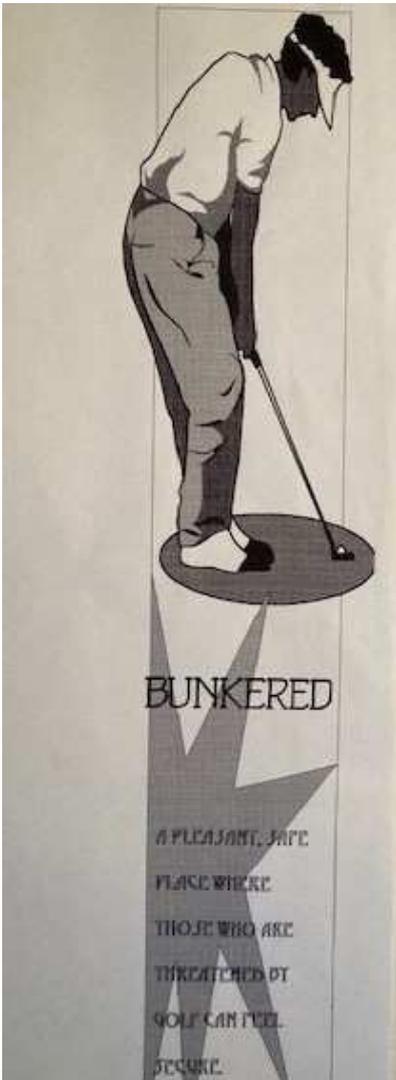
### Letter to the Editor

Just one this month. Perhaps all the others are stuck in the Christmas post?

Dear Sir,  
When is negative, positive and positive, negative?  
When receiving your CoVid-19 test result.  
What a year!  
Best Regards

GK

I found this article recently in the loft! It brought back many happy memories of a time when the Sharps, Warnes, Brunts and Vincents used to meet regularly in each other's houses for 'an eights dinner party'. At the time John, Keith and Barrie were all magistrates, John and Keith often walked together putting 'the world to right' and came up with articles like this: a gentle poke fun at the Golfers amongst us!  
 Tony and Maureen, Christine and Barrie played golf: Lesley and Keith, Ann and John did not!  
 Read this edition of Bunkered as well as Lesley Sharp's reply and the spoof application for membership form.  
 I hope you enjoy it! Reproduced with Lesley's kind permission. (Ann L)



Ringwood Ex-Tablers Golf Society

**Application for membership**

I, ..... Hereby apply for membership of the above Society and I agree to abide by the rules of the Society.

**Please supply the following Club merchandise:**

- Xtra Large Pringle Sweater (Pink)
- Silly Trousers (Rupert Style) Yellow
- Golf Shoes (White - D. Taylor pattern)
- Niblick: Harrogate type CV
- Putter: Acocks Green Patent Ref: MB
- Video: Spam Weekend - October 1923
- Designer socks: Customised RETGS
- Truss: Old stock K. S. Pharmacy Ltd.
- Zimmer Cart Mains Adaptor D.C.
- Cap: Sponsored by Stanner Lifts PLC
- Glove: Half pair pack

'Bunkered' is for those who wish to fight back, who feel assaulted by the relentless onslaught of Pringles, Woods, Drivers and Putters. For those to whom a fairway is another way of saying there is a long way to go and for whom a tee is a misspelling of an afternoon meal, should turn to our refuge. 'Bunkered' provides a warm pool set in delightful gardens with curvaceous paths and dappled woods. Positively no golf is permitted though conversation can turn to rugby, railways, English Literature, food and drink and walking. Judicial matters are discouraged though permitted. If you think you and your partner need us, just call. We'll always be there to help! Our motto 'Tee off' is self explanatory and the severely afflicted are encouraged to shout it loudly at intervals during their day as a form of aversion therapy. Be 'Warned' though, success is far from guaranteed: this form of addiction is dangerous and the pushers will constantly try to supply the addict with substances which are seriously habit forming. Trolleys, check trousers, silly sweaters and restricted language are danger signs. Seek help early!

13 Alyth Road,  
 Bourne-mouth,  
 BH3 7DF.  
 01202 295837

5<sup>th</sup> March, 1997

BUNKERED,  
 17 Bushmead Drive,  
 Ashley Heath,  
 Ringwood.

Dear Friends of Bunkered,

Yes, please! I desperately need your help. I obtained your Bunkered brochure at our local Fireside club and found it of great comfort. My partner is about to retire from prolonged, active life and is already beginning to exhibit alarming signs of Premature Pringability. He today actually admitted sharing a mint Kit Kat (obtained from the esteemed members of Ferndown Golf Club) with mutual friends suffering from Advanced Pringability of the Harrogate Variant. My partner allegedly took advice on professional tuition and he is clearly on the verge of Total Collapsed Personality syndrome (TCP). I need your help soonest. Yes, please! Reserve me a place at Bonkers.

Yours Sincerely,  
*Lesley Sharp*  
 Lesley Sharp.

P.S. I sneaked the enclosed copy while he was out!

**Editor's comment**

As a member of the Ringwood Ex Tablers Golf Society I can assure my proof reader (who supplied this copy) that the above remains true to this day and members are proud of the fact that whilst others feel excluded from the joys of golf, we continue to play the game and worry for those who fail to understand the logic of hitting a small hard ball over one hundred times over a period of four hours in sweltering sun, lugging a huge golf bag but with the prospect of verbally replaying every single shot once again in the clubhouse afterwards with a pint of cold beer. Now, what's wrong with that? QED.



### Club Christmas Party on Zoom

Ian Stockdale writes.....  
 To produce Decorative Toilet Rolls to display at the party was from an original idea by Mike Edwards.

The works of art were produced by the following:  
 Clockwise from top left  
 Lomax, Anderson, Treleaven, Merrett, Green, Gerald and Delia Carter, Wickens and Blackiston.

And this one was from the Wyatt's. Being singled out is not intended to confer any hint of superiority over the other great pieces!!!



And the Edwards offerings.....



Hang on in there because there is a light at the end of the tunnel

### Useful tip from Anne Dyson.....

Possibly worth including in Cartier? The clue is that all government websites end in .gov so don't click on the link!

Monday, 4 January 2021



You may have seen this in the National Newsletter but it is worth repeating.

## 41 Club National Newsletter – December article



### Launch of the '41 Club Buddies' Service

All members should have received a letter from National President Peter Good on 1<sup>st</sup> November, in which he warned that whilst a Summer lockdown had been bad for people, the Winter lockdown including the new 'Tiers' would be a lot worse due to the cold dark nights and limited social contact. He urged members to ensure they kept a lookout for their family, friends and fellow 41 Club members who could be struggling.

Following this, a request went out for volunteers to become 'Buddies' whom any 41 Club members could contact if they felt lonely, isolated or just wanted a chat. Around 20 volunteers came forward and have joined me in setting up the 41 Club Buddies service. *(Did you know that David Phelps has volunteered? Ed.)*

The team of volunteers have done a great job working together in a short period of time to agree processes, undertake some befriending training, review and agree relevant support documents, as well as successfully testing out the new 'Buddyline' telephone service for all members.

I am please to inform you that the 41 Club Buddyline is being launched on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December and will operate from 10am until 10pm seven days a week. Outside of these hours, a message will be heard informing the caller of the Buddyline hours as well as hearing the contact numbers of specialist befriending and support organisations.

**The Buddyline number is 03301 070740**

**From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 – 22:00 every day**

All calls to the Buddyline will be anonymous and answered by a friendly and helpful 41 Club Buddy, who will simply be there for any member who wants to chat about anything that is worrying them. Members may be lonely or feeling isolated; they may have lost touch with their old Club; or may be just feeling down.

A Buddy will not judge, but will be respectful, patient, empathetic and understanding of every caller. Buddies are friendly fellow 41 Club members who will speak with any caller as a distant friend; may help provide contact numbers of Clubs within our Association or perhaps signpost a caller to a specialist support organisation.

Buddies will answer Buddyline calls in rotation so a caller will not necessarily speak to the same Buddy if he calls again.

In these challenging times, it is important to remind all Clubs that ours is a fellowship association and that consequently we should all ensure we support our own members. So if one of your members hasn't attended Club meetings recently or hasn't been in touch – then maybe it would be helpful to reach out and make a call just to see if they are OK.

At the end of the day, we are all buddies to each other – and I would ask every Club to please ensure we are all living up to our Association's Toast – "To Continued Friendship".

**Peter McBride**

**Region 24 National Councillor**

### Answers to Quiz in Xmas special edition

1. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have? **SIX**
2. In what country did the custom of putting up a Christmas tree originate? **GERMANY**
3. In which European country was the original St. Nicholas born? **TURKEY**
4. Name Santa's reindeer. **BLITZEN, COMET, CUPID, DASHER, PRANCER, VIXEN, DANCER, DONNER**
5. In what country did Silent Night originate? **AUSTRIA**
6. Who composed the songs for the film White Christmas? **IRVING BERLIN**
7. The film "Miracle on 34th Street" centres on what real-life department store? **MACY'S**
8. In which James Bond film would you find the character Dr Christmas Jones? **THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH**
9. Which is the only English county you can spell without using any letters in the word CHRISTMAS? **DEVON**
10. Christmas Crackers is cockney rhyming slang for which part of the male anatomy? **TESTICLES (KNACKERS)**



**I think nine pages is enough for the time being!!  
The next edition will be published in early February.  
Please continue to forward suitable material,  
BEFORE 4th February.  
Thank you  
and a very Happy New Year to all our readers  
Ed and Sub Ed (promotion from proof reader!)**



More great news for Phil Hoyle as 'The London Tavern' was awarded the British Institute of Inn keeping's Heart of the Community award and this article was in the New Milton Advertiser & Lymington Times.



*A PUB which fed NHS staff and hungry school children and kept locals entertained in lockdown has won an award for its efforts. During the first lockdown the pub provided free Sunday roasts for [NHS](#) workers by asking customers to nominate deserving individuals. Phil and his team also kept locals happy with a takeaway service and he hosted a weekly Facebook quiz to keep them entertained.*

*The pub even set up its own village store, selling local produce and basics so everyone in the area had access to essentials. Locals were able to place a click-and-collect order with the pub or have their items delivered if they were self-isolating. Over Easter half term, the pub was one of many local businesses to offer free food. Families were able to send a text message to Phil with their addresses and number of packed lunches they needed and he delivered them.*

*Phil said: "We're so proud and honoured to have been awarded this accolade. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone in our amazing team for all their dedication and continued commitment to helping us be the pub we are today. I am incredibly proud to be part of this community and we'll do everything we can to continue to support everyone here and we want to make sure that no one feels alone."*

*As previously [reported](#) in the A&T, the pub was one of 11 businesses hit by thieves in November, with more than 50 bottles of alcohol taken from the London Tavern and damages of around £1,000. Despite an online fundraiser from well-wishers raising more than £5,500, kind-hearted Phil decided to use the money to buy a defibrillator to benefit the community.*

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January Keith and Sue introduced 'The Fourth Protocol' on the Club Film Night.

**'RIMBURY STUDIOS'**  
*RICHARD SUE AND KEITH ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT*



**THE FOURTH PROTOCOL**  
Frederick Forsyth

MICHAEL CAINE  
PIERCE BROSNAN

16  
DVD

MovieStillsDB.com



**Fourth Protocol**  
Sat 14 Nov 21:10 - 23:30  
TalkingPictures TV

**PLEASE SET YOUR HOME FREEVIEW RECORDING AS ABOVE**

**STORY BOARD:**  
**Cold War thriller adapted by Frederick Forsyth from his own bestseller. When Soviet spy Valeri Petrofsky (Pierce Brosnan) is charged with bringing about the demise of NATO, he decides his best bet is to detonate an American nuclear bomb at a British air base. The only man who can stand in his way is veteran counter-espionage expert John Preston (Michael Caine), but he must fight the opposition of his bosses before they agree to take the threat serious-**

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

**CLUB FILM NIGHT:**

**Monday 11th January 2021 at 7.15pm ZOOM JOINING TIME**

The January Club meeting is traditionally a joint one with Tangent and each Club takes it in turn to host. This year it was Tangent's turn and on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> they arranged an excellent evening which this year was a three Club event including Ringwood & Verwood Round Table and it was based on the TV panel show 'Would I lie to you?'

**3 Clubs Meeting....."Would I lie to you"  
7.30pm**

**Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup>**

**STORYTELLER**

**QUESTIONER**

**CLUB**

**First round**

Andrew Green

Jean Phelps

Tangent

Martyn Holdsworth

Round Table

Tricia Kean

John Adams

Ex Table

Shaun Guppy

Round Table

Phil Hoyle

Ro Green

Tangent

Bob Merrett

Ex Table

**Second Round**

Arthur Robins

Jean Phelps

Tangent

Shaun Guppy

Round Table

Sally Johnson

Bob Merrett

Ex Table

Martyn Holdsworth

Round table

James Marley

Ro Green

Tangent

John Adams

Ex Table

**Advice to Storytellers**

Your story should be slightly outlandish, intriguing, potentially true and last for 3-4 minutes.

Also have an A4 paper with True or Lie as appropriate. Don't show until asked!!!

**Advice for Questioners**

Each questioner asks two questions.

The story will then be put to the floor for a mass vote.

The evening was a great success with a record 42 Zoom screens enjoying the entertainment. Most of the votes from those watching were very close, which must say something about both the storytellers and the listening members. Sally Johnson's unwaveringly certain performance was believed even though it was a lie!

Keith and Sue were in action again on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January to introduce the Club Concert:

**A 'BBC iPlayer' CONCERT NIGHT Monday 18th January 2021:**  
**Beginning at 7.15pm on ZOOM with Richard, Keith and Sue**



WIENER PHILHARMONIKER



***THIS CONCERT IS ONLY AVAILABLE  
BY ACCESSING BBC iPlayer on your TV!***



The Dirty Dibber made a reappearance on 19<sup>th</sup> January and also announced that he was setting up a Club WhatsApp group for gardening aficionados:

## **BACK TO THE PLOT from THE DIRTY DIBBER    ISSUE 1 January 2021**

# **2021 GET GOING AGAIN SPECIAL – part 1**

No rest for the gardening wicked, time to dust off the tools, forget Xmas, and get organised for the new season, which has already started (oh yes it has!!!). There is much to be done, and as with December if the weather is not very nice (in which case we send the Lady Dibbers out onto the plot!!) there is plenty to be doing, so we must support them!!

### **PLANNING**

First and foremost have a good think over a cup of coffee. What do you want to grow this coming year, and where? What worked well last year and what didn't, and why. Were we too ambitious, did we overcrowd the plot, was our watering regime as good as it needed to be, did we plant too early, or too much. No excuses for not getting out on nice days, you can still go for a lockdown walk, but just have a think and perhaps map out a rough plan of where what you most want to grow will be located. This will also ensure you leave enough space for the later crops, like runner beans.

### **CROP ROTATION**

I'm not a great fan of this, in other words I've never practised it as much as I should have, and indeed with a small plot it can be very difficult. However there are some crops that if grown 3 years in succession in the same spot are much more likely to suffer problems.

A simple rotation is in year 1 use one third of the plot for early spuds (or grow in bags which saves space as well), in another third brassicas/greens, and in the final third, everything else mainly root crops like carrots, beetroot and onions. In year 2 they all move along one slot, so put the brassicas where the spuds were, everything else where the brassicas were and so on. Bit of a pfaaf I grant you, but if you can do it at least in part if not completely, it is worth it.

Definitely try to plant spuds and onions in different areas every year (or spuds in gabs which we'll do in March), especially spuds if grown in the ground, but basically all crops are best moved around except asparagus beds.

### **DIGGING**

Frosts are bad in many ways, but are a great help in breaking down soil. Even if you can only get out and twiddle the fork around to loosen the top 5" or so and leave the frost to do the rest, it helps. Then when conditions are hopefully better in February you can dig properly or use a rotivator. I was given vouchers when I left an employer about 10 years ago and bought an electric one for about £150, best garden investment I ever made. If your plot is same size as mine (about 3+ fence panels so about a 20 foot x 20 square), definitely worth getting one. *(Editor note to Lady Dibbers rotivators make a great wedding anniversary or birthday present. Lads for her new marigolds are always appreciated)*

## **WASHING AND CLEANING**

If you followed the December advice your greenhouse glass will now be sparkling – if it isn't prioritise it as an inside job for a lousy day. Follow that up with really good housekeeping by giving the main pots and trays you will be using a good wash. Just dunk them in warm water in an old fertiliser or feed 10Kg tub, no chemicals but gloves and a good rub. Take the opportunity to use the same water to clean spades, forks, rakes and hoes etc. This is an ideal job for the Lady Dibber sporting stylish marigolds but that should only be suggested in the strongest of horticultural relationships!!

## **START BUYING SEEDS and TUBERS etc**

This is really important, especially in case garden centres get closed down again. Now is the ideal time to buy seed potatoes, for earlies you can't beat Charlotte, and for a later crop, Desiree is always good. Get them chitting now in egg boxes, just letting the chits grow at one end of the tuber, rub out any others. Also get your onion sets as soon as possible. Mid April is the best planting time, but in the South we can plant in late March or even start them off in seed trays next month and then transplant. I have never done this but will try as few as an experiment. Red onions are better planted slightly later as they tend to bolt more if planted early.

Part 2 – more early action – follows soon, there is much to do and a flying start always helps.

Keeeeeeeeeeep digging!!

In mid-January came the news that the National AGM planned for April in Aviemore had to be cancelled and that a form of virtual AGM would take place with arrangements announced in due course. The 500+500 walkers who were continuing their march to Aviemore did not deviate and continued in true Table/Ex-Table tradition!

Sadly, Lyn Wickens had to undergo significant surgery over Christmas and during her recovery period afterwards Jeff found himself doing all sorts of things he hadn't had to do before and thought members might find this information of value in case the same thing ever happened to them:

- **Housework Guidance - Tips for the Domestically Challenged**

Gentleman, there may be occasions when you suddenly find yourself thrust into the unknown world of Housework. It is obviously best avoided as it needs a lot of skills, knowledge and experience with which we are not familiar. But with a bit of perseverance it can be dealt with at least on a temporary basis.

There is a lot of equipment involved. It comes in all shapes and sizes, many pieces white and box shaped. There may have been instructions on how to use them but they have probably have been lost or put somewhere safe where you are very unlikely to find them. Even if you do find them they are unlikely to make much sense and the author has it on good authority from an experienced primary operator that they have never read them, most of the buttons, switches, dials, lights and screens are entirely superfluous and are only there to confuse. You could look on line for information but good luck with that!

First thing to talk about is a big white thing called a washing machine which you put clothes and things in. Warning - avoid if possible. It has lots of buttons and lights which if pressed in the right order will turn the thing on and clean clothes, towels and sheets – remarkable. Get it wrong and it will ruin anything put in it so always seek advice or supervision from an experienced primary operator before getting anywhere near it - most buttons are never used. It is no good for cleaning things like bike chains or carburettors but it is understood from sailing gentlemen that they are perfectly OK for cleaning mooring ropes, sails etc (not that they would ever try it!) Sub note - Cleaning clothes apparently has to be done on fairly regular basis ie probably more than once a month and you may find that you will get accustomed to the intricacies of the device over time.

When the clothes come out of the washing machine they are still wet. Associated with the washing machine is a drier. They can be incorporated into the washing machine but often they are separate white boxes close by although they can be found in garages. Again, seek advice before using. You could avoid their use by "hanging out " the washing but it takes longer to dry than you might think. There are alternatives to the above - you could throw away the clothes when wearing them becomes intolerable and buy new ones - or - seek out your nearest laundry service provider.

Then there is a small flat thing which you plug in called an iron – careful ‘cos it gets mighty hot. You push it over the clothes etc. to flatten and burn holes in them, which having gone to the trouble of washing them seems odd but there we are. You may have difficulty finding this device and first try looking under the stairs. You will also find an ironing board which is like a thin collapsible surf board shaped table designed to lacerate your fingers when raised or lowered. It is best to use this board as trying to iron on the kitchen worktops is likely to cause considerable damage. Do not forget to switch it off and do not leave it unattended for too long, for example if you have to answer the phone or watch an interesting item on the TV .

There is also an electric pusher thing which you run over the carpets etc and it picks up all the bits (it will not touch beer bottle tops or corks). Apparently it was invented by a guy who built dams and became a US president. He should have stuck to the day job as it has to be one of the most infuriating bits of kit ever made. It is noisy, unstable, heavy, the wire gets tangled and the add on bits are almost impossible to use. Be especially careful if using on stairs. If it stops working it probably because it needs emptying, a fiddly but necessary inconvenience. Whilst looking a bit like a lawnmower it is no substitute and should not be so used.

Sub note - Apparently the device should be used on a regular basis ie probably more than once per month otherwise the build up of debris will fill the thing up too quickly and it is liable to break.

There is also a small oblong box with a glass door and a rotating plate inside. At first it is difficult to know what it does but it turns out that many have similar devices in their kitchen. The author's device has a label saying says Sanyo and another worn one which says Mic O Wave who I guess was a previous Irish owner who passed it on ‘cos he had no idea what it did either. When switched on it heats things up and causes significant interference to the radio when the plate goes round. It is in fact very useful for heating ready meals and left overs and those bean filled substitutes

for hot water bottles. You cannot put metal objects in it and it is no good for drying things or animals.

The toaster is an interesting piece of equipment. The idea is to put bread in it turn it on and it makes toast. If you stand and watch it virtually nothing happens but as soon as you take your eyes off it will immediately incinerate the bread or even set it alight. There is a dial on it but it makes no difference to the operation of the thing. No good for drying socks.

Refrigerators are not just devices for keeping your beer and wine cool. Another white box it can store food for some time but milk for example will go off after a week and should be removed. Associated but not to be confused with it is the freezer. Again this is not just for keeping the ice for your G&T. It will keep food for much longer and is good for storing frozen ready meals. It will even freeze surplus or leftover food but it is as well to keep an eye on what is in it. If the door or lid will not close or the food thaws it probably because the ice has built up around the seals and wants chipping off. A small pick axe may come in handy.

Dishwashers, another white box thing used to wash dishes and cutlery. The author does not have such a device and can offer no guidance but apparently primary users develop a particular protocol for loading and unloading these things and woe betide you if you do not comply.

Ah then we have the "cooker" but that is another story. Apparently the primary users have known about these devices for some time and it may be best if you avoid them. They could be the subject of separate guidance. These things are associated with "shopping" which is another minefield best left for another occasion.

There is an alternative, ie eat out or bring in.

Recommended reading: "Keskins, Curry Garden or McDonalds - a Man's Guide to Foraging in the New Forest".

Finally, there are lots of chemical compounds in different shaped containers which are used for a multitude of uses, far too many to report on here. Primary users seem to have an innate ability to figure out which compound is used for a particular job. Again, best to leave these things to the experts but if you do find yourself getting involved always try to make sense of the label, do a full risk assessment and wear the appropriate PPE.

Gentlemen are advised not to become too good at operating any of the above. Primary users have spent a lot of time with them and it would not be right to try and take over. How would you like it if someone less able than you muscled in on your domain - no we must be fair. Apparently recent research shows that primary users actually enjoy practicing and honing their skills operating these things and I am sure they would agree that it would be very unkind to deprive them of such pleasure.

The author does not accept any responsibility for any mechanical or physical damage, flaming rows, divorce or other proceedings arising from following this advice.

END

## **FEBRUARY 2021**

By now many members had benefitted from their first Covid vaccination and some had already had their second. The post-Christmas/New Year lockdown was still in place and had become very tedious for everyone, particularly during the winter days with little light and poor weather. In this time the PODs that were meeting on Zoom were a real boon for those taking part and numbers joining were strong and in some cases members were joining more than one, especially if they had friends they could see in more than one POD.

The number of Covid cases and deaths had been falling rapidly across the country which was very good news and the start of a feeling of greater confidence that the Government announced Roadmap out of lockdown might be possible. This would see schools return on 8<sup>th</sup> March, followed by the rule of six able to meet outside from 29<sup>th</sup> March when golf (yippee), tennis and other sports could resume as well. This would also enable people and two families to meet over the Easter period. Non-essential shops could open on 12<sup>th</sup> April, excellent news for everyone needing a haircut! Could this really be the beginning of the end?

Council met on 2<sup>nd</sup> February:

### **RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX-TABLERS CLUB COUNCIL MEETING held at 4.30pm on Tuesday 2 February 2021**

#### **Apologies**

David Hirst

#### **Minutes of previous meeting**

Taken as read.

#### **Matters arising**

The following statement will go on the website shortly:

“We are supporting the Plastic Free Ringwood Community in its journey to remove and reduce single use plastics”, together with the RACE logo.

After much debate and careful consideration of where our charity funds should go, it was decided in principle that £800 would be given to Ringwood Junior School as part of their role out of Chromebooks (or their preferred technology) to the pupils and that it should be linked with the name of John Salsbury who was the Chair of Governors for a number of years. David and Ian to follow up with the school to ensure we can go to the club members with a complete picture at the February meeting. The balance of our funds (circa £300) will be donated to the Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery.

Richard C to let Caroline know of our decision.

#### **Correspondence**

Nothing received

### **Chairman's comments**

No further comments

### **Vice Chairman**

Nothing to report.

### **Secretary**

The Club **AGM** is scheduled for Tuesday, 16 March 2021. Formal notice is being sent out with the February edition of The Cartier (thank you Peter).

### **Treasurer**

Andrew thought we would end the financial year with circa £1800. He will circulate the draft accounts and the budget for next year in a few days; these will be discussed at the March Council meeting. Andrew will ask Paul Thackray to be the independent examiner again.

Andrew's first thought was that we should reduce the subscription by £5 to £30. This generated differing views; some feeling that we should at least keep it the same and build a fund to help celebrate the end of lockdown and/or the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ringwood RT (which was actually 2020) or pay for better speakers; John Adams apparently runs a fine business supplying deadpan speakers from beyond the grave at £1000 a time; he doesn't have many overheads as he runs with a skeleton staff



### **Social**

Jeff outlined the social agenda for the next few weeks, including:

8 Feb – Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

22 Feb – Beethoven

24 Feb – What's your background? – a Joint Social event.

8 March – Blues Brothers

Dirty Dibbers WhatsApp group

Other thoughts on the stocks are:

Horseracing

Treasure hunt

Desert Island discs

### **Welfare**

This was Mike's final outing as "Welfare" supremo as David Hirst will be repossessing his former role.

Will and Julie seem to be mending and John Morgan and Mike Fraser seem to be doing well.

### **Speakers' secretaries**

The Club meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> February will be the Melvyn Mug debate. The motion is: "This house agrees it would be good to be famous, as celebrities are ruling the world". Steve James, the National Fellowship Officer, will be awarding the mug to the winning team.

### **Meals secretary**

The National Buddies scheme is active and they have had their first call.

## **Editor**

February's newsletter is ready to go. There will be a second circulation in March shortly before the AGM carrying the reports of Council Officers.

## **Membership and Press**

Ian is still in touch with Jo Bonello and Tim Airey. There is some doubt as to the current whereabouts of Stephen Butterfield.

Each year the new chairman of RT becomes an honorary member of 41 Club and vice versa. Likewise, we have a reciprocal arrangement with Bournemouth whose AGM is in April.

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

Nothing to report

## **Website**

Gordon will upload the RACE statement.

## **Immediate Past**

Nothing to report.

## **AOB**

Chris K will do the draw at the next meeting.

**Next Club meeting** – Tuesday, 16 February at 4.30 on Zoom.

**Next Council meeting** – Tuesday, 2 March at 4.30 on Zoom.

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February came the latest 41 Club Connects evening with Jonathan Agnew and David Miller which proved to be a fascinating series of tales about their past and current cricket lives.

This was followed on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February by a Charity Chinese Cook-Along in aid of Leukaemia Care, and on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February by a Virtual Tour of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

Lastly in February came the one which all rugby enthusiasts had been waiting for, an Evening of Rugby with Wayne Barnes, which was very well supported by Club members and a very entertaining evening.

David Hirst had made a great recovery and sent this note out via Arthur:

Hello everyone, this is just to let you know that I am resuming my Welfare role responsibility from now on until the AGM – albeit only 5 weeks away. So, if there is anything I should know about, or can help with, then please let me know (by email preferably, or phone) rather than contacting Mike Callaghan, who very ably stepped into my shoes when I was hospitalised at the end of last year. (Thanks Mike, you've done a great job.)

There's nothing new to report at present, and hopefully nobody else will catch the virus from now on as we continue to isolate and go for our jobs.

And so to the latest edition of the Cartier from Peter:



# The Cartier Chronicle

*The One to watch!*

Issue 16 4th February 2021



We had snow up here in the Forest which made for an invigorating walk and a change from the generally wet and gloomy weather which makes this lockdown seem tougher than the others. However, birdsong is starting, the days extending, daffodils appearing, and other buds bring the expectation of warmer days and colour in the garden.



A good number of members have had their first vaccine jab, our unwell members all seem to be in recovery mode and we are all no doubt thinking ahead to a life more ordinary! This edition (page 4) includes the notice for our AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> March and we all hope that our next Club year will be rather different.



The diary for the next couple of months is included below and I hope there is something for you to enjoy. Our February Club meeting is traditionally our Fellowship Night when we have a speaking competition, this year a debate, for Melvyn's Mug. So please join us on 16th February when our judge will be 41 Club National Fellowship Officer, Steve James. (see page 3)

I am sure we were all saddened to hear of the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore. As an ex-Round Table he continued to exemplify our desire to "improve in thought, in word and deed" into and beyond his 100<sup>th</sup> year. His positivity and determination inspired us all and we will remember him with great admiration and affection.

Yours in Continued Friendship



Richard



## DIARY

### FEBRUARY

- Thursday 4th : 7.30pm : 41 Club Connects with Jonathan Agnew and Geoff Miller
- Monday 8th : Club Film Night : Dirty Rotten Scoundrels 7.15pm on Zoom. We will be watching a recording from Freeview made some weeks ago.
- Tuesday 9th : Tangent Birthday Afternoon : 3pm on Zoom. See page 2.
- Thursday 11th : 7.00pm : 41 Club Connects Chinese New Year Cookalong
- Tuesday 16th : Club Fellowship meeting. Debate for Melvyn's Mug. Zoom from 7.30pm. See page 3
- Thursday 18th : 7.30pm : 41 Club Connects : North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- Monday 22nd : Concert Night from 7pm on Zoom. Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 (Choral Symphony) YouTube. Page 6
- Wednesday 24th : What's your Background? : Joint social event on Zoom from 7.30pm. See page 3.

### MARCH

- Tuesday 2nd : 4.30pm : Council Meeting
- Wednesday 3rd : Tangent's Hollywood Proms via YouTube and Zoom from 7.15pm: See page 6
- Monday 8th : Club Film Night. 'Blues Brothers' from 7.15pm on Zoom. We will be watching a recording from Freeview made last week.
- Wednesday 10th : Tangent Business meeting and speaker : 7.30 pm via Zoom. Details to follow.
- Tuesday 16th : Club AGM via Zoom at 7.30pm. See Notice of AGM and nomination form on Page 4.

### APRIL

- Wednesday 14th: Tangent AGM : 7.30pm via Zoom



## Caroline's Corner



What a start to 2021! Not quite what we had wished for but nevertheless plenty to be hopeful about, many of you will have had your jobs by now and, its getting lighter in the evenings! (a bit).

After some wonderful Christmas events organised by both clubs there is still much to come including Tangent's 40th Birthday tea celebrations. See the promo flyer below. But what lesser events also happened in our inaugural year, 1981? Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer were married, Bucks Fizz won the Eurovision song contest, the Ford Cortina was the best selling car, Chariots of Fire, Raiders of the Lost Ark and For Your Eyes Only were released, The Police, Queen and Adam and the Ants (my favourites) all topped the charts, John McEnroe won Wimbledon, Only Fools and Horses, Cagney and Lacey, Tenko, Bergerac and Dynasty were all popular shows. Who remembers all that if it were yesterday?! I do! *(We can all remember those but you can't remember Dixon of Dock Green, Double your Money and Z Cars!! Ed)*

Looking forward to seeing you all again at our Zoom meetings – Don't forget, if you haven't yet taken the plunge with Zoom but would like to join the meetings, please let me know; there are lots of members who would be very willing to talk you through setting it up and how to use it.

Yours in continued friendship.

Caroline

**TANGENT      BIRTHDAY      CELEBRATIONS !!!**





**Ladies --- please join us for**





**Afternoon Tea (with surprises)**





**Tuesday 9 February at 3pm**



**Tea   Cake   Bunting   Hat   White   Gloves   Sparkle  
Pen & Paper   Serviettes   Flowers   Fizz**

**Our next Club Meeting is on  
Tuesday 16th February**

**4.30pm on Zoom. No need to book in, just click on the  
Zoom link that will be emailed to you.**

**Debating competition for Melvyn's Mug**

The motion is that.....

***This House agrees it would be good to be famous,  
as Celebrities are ruling the World.***

For the motion: Mr Colin Read, Mr Derek Scott.  
Against the motion: Mr Richard Sheerin, Mr Chris Treleven.  
Each team are allotted 10 minutes to put their case (5 minutes each)  
After both teams have spoken, each team are allowed a further 6 minutes (or 3 minutes each) to  
ask questions of the other team before their closing address.

To be judged on the night by Mr Steve James from National 41 Club and to award Melvyn's Mug to  
the winning team (virtually!).



**What's Your Background ?**



**We are blessed with some amazing  
members in our clubs but have you ever  
wondered about their background ?  
Now you have the opportunity to find out  
more and you will be enthralled  
- but not in the way you might expect!**

**All will be revealed at the joint social event on  
Wednesday 24th Feb 7.30 on Zoom**

**Watch out for the link from Richard Carter.**

**All welcome to join in.**

Ann and I have been redecorating the study and sorting out the huge amount of books in there. We came across a number of excellent Lonely Planet travel guides. Not sure whether you have ever used these but we decided that another read was very worthwhile. Take a look at this wide range of recommended guide books.





## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Ringwood and District Ex-Tablers Club will take place over Zoom on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 4.30 pm.

### Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Guests
3. Notice of Meeting
4. Minutes of last AGM
5. Council Reports (including budget proposals for 2021/22)
6. Chairman's Report (including Chairman's Choice Award)
7. Election and induction of Chairman for 2021/22
8. Incoming Chairman's Remarks
9. Election of Officers
10. Any Other Business
11. Final Toast

### Nominations for Officers 2021/22

Nominations for the following Club positions, duly proposed and seconded and signed by the nominee (*in the present circumstances email confirmations will be accepted*), should be forwarded to the Hon Sec, Chris Kean, by 2 March 2021.

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder	Signature of Nominee
Chairman				
Vice-Chairman				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Social				
Meals Secretary				
Welfare				
Membership and Press and Publicity				
Speakers' Secretary				
Editor				
Lay Member/ Health and Safety Officer				
Webmaster				



**Now it's my turn to recall my Tabling days. Thank you to all previous contributors to this page. I now realise and appreciate just how much research and time goes into compiling these pieces! Ed.**

It seemed almost inevitable that I would join Round Table. My Welsh uncle was a tabler in Tredegar, my brother joined Newmarket RT in the mid 70's and my brother in law was a member in Billericay. It was something that always appealed to me and with a young but growing family Anna and I were keen to expand our social activities but it was not until 1978 that the opportunity came along to join Ruislip RT. A work colleague had just joined Willesden RT and kindly offered to make an introduction. Ruislip met at the restaurant alongside the Lido and had around 40 members from all walks of life. I remember having fish at the first meal I attended but was a little surprised that it was accompanied by gravy! We didn't have many more meetings at the Lido !!

Ruislip RT 124 was a very active club (around 40 members) and yes we took part in all the usual activities that you've read from these pages over the last 11 months, but we also did a few other different things too, such as fundraising at local fairs and schools with our miniature Triang railway, lucky numbers board and inflatable bouncy castle. Just about every Saturday in the summer months saw us at local events typically raising around £150 in an afternoon.....that was a good sum in the early 80's.

Another major fundraiser was taking part in the annual Beaujolais Nouveau day. We soon realised that the logistics were against us participating on the Thursday of 'BN' day so we just conned our friends and families to purchase a case or two of this wine (loosely referred to as wine!) which we had bought in large quantities upfront for delivery during the following week. We applied a small margin and given that we were making money for charity we had little problem selling the cases. Our wives understood that we would need to go across the Channel to collect all this wine but little did they know that it was already in a warehouse in Dover waiting for the duty to be paid before release! About a dozen of us had a jolly overnight stay in Boulogne where we also bought (and consumed) some more wine. The success of that fundraiser meant a similar event the following year when we also sold white wine. On this occasion we travelled to Paris where we were royally entertained overnight by our French RT 124 in St Germaine en Laye, a wealthy district. The evening meal was sumptuous and extremely well accompanied by many, many grape varieties! As a gift we took our hosts a yard of ale which their Chairman did his very best to consume. The boot was on the other foot when he promptly filled it with red wine which our Chairman then had to drink down. Let's just say that his white shirt wasn't white by the end of the evening! From Paris we drove south to the Loire valley where we were hosted overnight by Tours RT and the following day they took us wine tasting. That year (1983) we raised in excess of £5000.

I was Chairman in 1986/7 when the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow appeal through National was at its peak and Ruislip took part in the nationwide effort to find 100,000 donors in a matter of weeks. With the help of Ladies Circle we merged a number of ideas together which worked well. At a local supermarket we sold raffle tickets over two weekends to customers as they loaded their trolleys at the checkout. One lucky winner would then have the opportunity to do a five minute trolley dash. The supermarket donated the food so the raffle proceeds were used to buy apnoea mattresses, a project that we jointly fulfilled with Ladies Circle. At the same time as selling tickets we successfully encouraged shoppers to sign the volunteer blood donor list. I guess we must have collected around 100 names. I persuaded the local GP practice to open its doors on a Saturday to take blood samples from these donors and my garage was full to the brim with cardboard boxes containing all the blood testing kit sent from the Nolan appeal! Such a worthwhile project and from Ruislip alone we found six matching donors (including one of our Tablers)



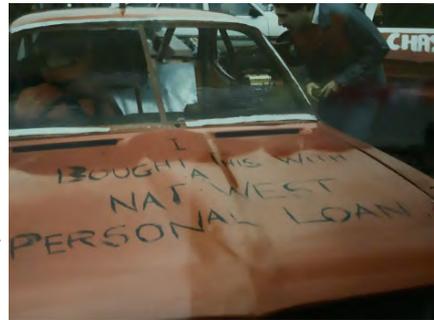
On the social side Ruislip always participated in International weekends hosted every year in turn by Ruislip, St Germaine, Culembourg (Holland), Schweinfurt (Germany), Vejle (Denmark), Norrtälje (Sweden) and Rothervale RT (number 1124). I never managed the Sweden or Denmark trips but those I did attend provided much fun with a cramped itinerary over nearly four days. I had the honour to organise the Ruislip weekend in the summer of 1987 when nearly 100 members and wives took part. Ruislip members acted as hosts with a dinner party for around a dozen on the Thursday night, and then on

Friday a trip to Windsor on two London buses followed by a river cruise along the Thames with a jazz band on the deck. Back home around 5pm before a party in a village hall with dancing and a cabaret performed by each Table. Saturday was a 'free' day where hosts would check their guests' hangovers before suggesting either a sleep in the garden, a visit to see the sights of London or maybe a quiet walk in the woods! Saturday night was a black tie event which we held at the Rose Room Function Suite at Twickenham Rugby Ground. Sunday brunch was available at a local theatre from around 11am where we said our goodbyes and nursed our hangovers (although some members were volunteer taxi drivers to take our guests back to Heathrow, Stansted and even East Midlands airports!).

Sporting events were fun too. We heard about the Rowlock Rally from Gordon Knott and that event featured in my early RT days as did the Ascot Grand Prix.



This was a glorified soapbox derby around the car park of Ascot Racecourse. Ruislip took this very seriously indeed with extra fitness training for the team of drivers. There was one cart to pedal and a team of around ten drivers. As a new member I was not included as a driver but asked by the team coordinator to act as a 'motivator' for our drivers as they headed up a long uphill stretch just before the final bend. My job was to run alongside and 'encourage' some harder pedalling! I wasn't popular with the drivers! The Ascot Grand Prix attracted clubs from a fair distance including the Isle of Wight. Indeed, Ryde RT (where John Warne was a member) were regular attendees and Ann tells me that we were quite possibly (and unknowingly) at the very same venue back in 1979! (and I actually took part in a race! Sub - Ed)



The Ascot Grand Prix was a regular on our radar for a few years until Banger Racing in Stourport on Severn replaced it. Brilliantly organised by the local table and scrutineered by the local Banger Racing Club to ensure proper safety regulations were followed. We purchased an old Vauxhall Viva (with some money I 'solicited' from NatWest as 'sponsorship') and then we went to work strengthening the interior with scaffold poles, putting the radiator in the boot and other 'reinforcements'. We towed the car to Stourport on the Friday night together with a caravan which slept five of us.

We raced Saturday and Sunday with regular repairs between each race. The car we took there bore no resemblance to the one we came home with! But what a great weekend. Other memories include my Founders Night dinner with Ken Livingstone as our speaker (we saw his other side!) and being in Germany on a RT International trip on November 9th 1989 when the Berlin Wall came down. We were just a few miles from the old East German border and were shocked by the poverty shown by some East Germans who came to see what life was like in the west. Yes, joining Round Table was one of the best things I have ever done. It helped my career to give me confidence, team and organisational skills, fun, laughter and of course my second wife, Ann! Thank you Round Table. PWL

## Monthly Raffle



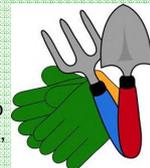
The winner in the December draw was Gerald Carter and the January winner was Jeff Wickens. We have two more draws in our current Club year and perhaps you could ponder if we wish to carry on next year as I cannot see us being able to meet in person for a few more months yet. Thank you to everybody who joined this year. Chancellor Andrew will no doubt keep us informed on how much we have raised shortly in his forthcoming Budget.

David Phelps



## DIRTY DIBBER GOES DIGITAL!!

A Dirty Dibber Gardeners What's App Group (DDGWAG and no it doesn't stand for Dirty Dibber Gardeners wags!!) has been launched with DD himself coming out (\*\*) from the garden shed and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century to administer it!! Open to all recipients of Dirty Dibber, it will be a closed group for members of Ringwood Table, ex Tablers, Circle and Tangent.



Not intended as a source of constant chatter. Instead it is aimed at urgent contact and advice (such as weather warnings!!), timely reminders of things that must be done, photos and videos of successes (and disasters!!), online competitions and much more, including anything a member thinks might be of interest to the rest of the group.



Anyone interested in joining please  
What's App Dirty Dibber Mike on 07780-474897

*\*\* I think it is very brave of our Dirty Dibber to 'come out' after all these years. We wish him (and especially Monica) our best wishes in his new found existence. Ed*

## CONCERTS GALORE!!

From a grand choral piece to a much lighter sing a long concert with a massive orchestra.....the choice is yours!

MUSIC NIGHT CONCERT Monday 22nd February 2021 :  
Beginning at 7.00pm on ZOOM with Richard, Keith and Sue

Live Concert in December 2020  
26 million views 1hr 21mins

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

<https://youtu.be/rOjHh55MtvA>

**Riccardo Muti**  
Conductor

Symphony No. 9 in D minor op 125 (Choral Symphony)  
Ludwig van Beethoven  
one of the most famous pieces of music ever written.



SUE'S HOLLYWOOD MUSICAL FEATURETTE  
BBC 2013 PROM with John Williams Orchestra  
Joining ZOOM at 7.15pm Wednesday 3rd March 2021

From an idea by Peter & Ann

**BBC Proms**  
Hooray for Hollywood

<https://youtu.be/i8KC-ZmwtOQ>



### A message from Will and Julie

Dear Friends

Julie and I have been deeply touched by all your good wishes, cards, emails and phone calls. The offers of help have been tremendous and much appreciated. It would be invidious to name anyone but Mike and Lynne Callaghan, Keith and Sue Anderson, Julie's sister Alison and Chairman Richard have been most kind. We intend to reply to each and every message when my energy levels and concentration have improved sufficiently.

A brief summary of our Covid experience may help you and us to understand what actually happened. On the Sunday before Christmas we had a family bubble get together here and it is probable that we were infected then by one of the party. By Christmas itself, Julie and I were very much under the weather. We went to the Test Centre near Old Sarum on Sunday 27th Dec. Julie was positive; I was negative.

Thereafter I went downhill rapidly and on Wednesday evening 6th, the ambulance medics took readings for oxygen. Very low (92-93). Off to Salisbury Hospital; Pitton Ward was my home for the next 6 or 7 days.

A shifting population of 4-5 elderly men, all suffering from Covid. How many, if any, actually survived and were discharged, I do not know. It was very distressing to hear and see their difficulties.

The nursing staff were absolutely brilliant; run off their feet all day but amazingly cheerful and helpful throughout. No praise is too high for them.

My oxygen returned to normal (97-98) so late on Wednesday evening 13th I was taken home. Since then I have been extremely tired and listless; no concentration or ambition to do anything socially useful. Julie has suffered a continuous cough but she also is gradually recovering.

My oxygen levels have stabilised at 97-98 so I imagine the worst is over. Just a question of taking things gently over the next few months.

We are aware that other members of the family have been similarly affected and we can only hope that no one has had the bother that we experienced.

Here's looking forward to the broad sunlit uplands of the summer. It will take more than a Chinese pox to carry me off.....

Best wishes to you all and many thanks from Will and Julie. (And on behalf of all Cartier readers, get well soon!! Ed)

## Some light relief in these darker times



Everyone who received the first smallpox vaccine in 1798 has died. Makes you think.



<p><b>First day of homeschooling.... we're having an inset day for staff training 🤗</b></p>	<p>If you see my kids locked outside today, mind your business. We are having a fire drill. <b>#HomeSchool</b></p>
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**amazon**

**When we go into another lock down just train all the Amazon delivery drivers to give the vaccine. Entire population immunised by Saturday. Wednesday if you've got Prime.**

Another Smile for Another Month



**COPY DATE**  
The next edition will be published in early March. Please continue to forward suitable material, **BEFORE 4th March.**

### An important COVID message

Medical experts in London today were asked if it is time to ease the COVID lockdowns. Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves. Gastroenterologists had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but Neurologists thought the government had a lot of nerve. Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted. Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while Paediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!" Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it. Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and pharmacists claimed it would be a bitter pill to swallow. Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter." Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but Urologists were pissed off by the whole idea. Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, and Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no. In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the assholes in politics.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February we watched the February Club Film, 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels'.

the sultry French Riviera

# 'RIMBURY STUDIOS'

*RICHARD SUE AND KEITH ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT*



The film tells the story of two con men competing to swindle an heiress out of \$50,000. Caine plays educated and suave Lawrence Jamieson, who stages elaborate ruses to bilk rich women, while Martin plays his less refined, small-time American rival, Freddy Benson. It takes place on the French Riviera

**PLEASE RECORD ON Saturday 9th January ITV 4 at 17.10pm**



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

**Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.00pm ZOOM JOINING TIME**

Also on 8<sup>th</sup> February Richard Dyson published his third Region 23 Keeping in Touch Newsletter:

February 2021

**REGION 23** *Keeping in Touch No. 3*



**In this issue:**

- 41 Club Buddyline
- National Zoom Licences for Clubs
- Ideas for Club Zoom Activities
- National Conference 2021 cancelled
- National Caravan Rally 10-12 Sep 2021
- Know Your Neighbour
- Are all your members receiving national & regional news?
- 41 Club Connects programme:  
Chinese New Year  
North Yorks Steam Railway  
Evening of Rugby with Wayne Barnes

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of "Keeping in Touch", the periodic newsletter for 41 Club's Region 23. I am sure that we have all been saddened to learn of the recent passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore. A fellow Yorkshireman, and an active Round Tabler from the Keighley Club, he epitomised all that is good: "to improve in thought, in word, in deed". His positivity and determination were inspiring, we will remember him with great affection and admiration. Using his words, "Tomorrow will be a better day"!



The many Covid challenges that we are all facing will ensure that memories of Christmas 2020 will remain with us for a long time, but for the wrong reasons. However, through the wonders of Zoom and Facetime, many of us are able to maintain contact with families and friends, especially grandchildren, although without those much-missed hugs and kisses.

At last, we have some good pandemic news with the increasing availability of vaccines, offering a very welcome protection. Already, many of our 41ers have received their jabs, and several are volunteering to help at the various centres. Anne, my wife, has been taking part as a guinea pig with the vaccine trials, and is immensely proud to learn of the recent acceptance of her particular test vaccine, Novavax.

I hope that you and yours are well, keeping occupied and happy.

Yours in continued friendship  
**Richard Dyson**  
National Councillor Region 23

**"BUDDIES"**



Designed to combat loneliness, particularly during Covid, the **41 Club Buddyline**, introduced in December 2020, now has 18 volunteer "Buddies", ready and able to answer the phone to any 41'er simply wanting a chat, anonymously, 10am - 10pm, 7 days a week on **03301 070740**. A service run by 41'ers for 41'ers.

**GOLFERS BEWARE!!**



A recent study found that the average golfer walks approx. 900 miles each year, another that golfers drink on average 22 gallons of alcohol, meaning that roughly speaking, golfers get around 41 miles to the gallon!

**ZOOM – IS YOUR CLUB RESTRICTED TO 40 MINUTE MEETINGS?**



National have purchased Zoom licences which all Clubs can use to schedule their meetings and social events. Many Clubs are currently using the free Zoom facility restricted to 40 min slots, which can be frustrating when members have to log back in every 40mins!!

Clubs can use one of the national licences to arrange each of their meetings and social events. This means you are not restricted on time, and you can use Zoom facilities such as polling and 'spotlight video'.

If this is of interest then email me [richard.dyson@41club.org](mailto:richard.dyson@41club.org), You can also find a "Dummies Guide to Zoom" by clicking [here](#)

## Club Activities

Creativity and imagination around the Region 23 patch have been amazing throughout the pandemic. Many clubs are continuing to meet, albeit virtually, managing to retain their 41 Club usual humour and fellowship. A few Clubs have struggled to adapt to technology and have not "met" for some time. If this applies to your club and you would welcome help, do let me know.

In an effort to break the mould of Quiz Nights, one club recently staged their own version of "Would I Lie to You". The hugely successful evening attracted more than 80 41ers and Tangent, as well as a handful of Tablers who were so impressed that they are going to run their own. True fellowship.

Other topics around the patch include:

- Inter-Club debates
- Memories of my RT/ 41 Club career
- My biggest RTBI Blunder
- Baking competition judged by zoom (41 Club no cheating)
- Guess the baby competition.
- Safari suppers

More ideas welcome

## National Conference 2021

Probably as to be expected, after months of holding their breaths, due to the re-enforced lock down requirements throughout to UK, National has been left with no alternative but to cancel this year's Aviemore conference.

For further details relating to the organisation of virtual AGM's for 41 and Tangent, as well as return of deposits, see the National Newsletter for January - click [here](#) to open an electronic copy, to download a copy click [here](#)

## NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED



*Sunshine is not cancelled  
Spring is not cancelled  
Love is not cancelled  
Relationships are not cancelled  
Reading is not cancelled  
Naps are not cancelled  
Devotion is not cancelled  
Music is not cancelled  
Dancing is not cancelled  
Imagination is not cancelled  
Kindness is not cancelled  
Conversations are not cancelled  
HOPE is not cancelled*



## National Caravan Rally 10 – 12 September 2021

On the basis that the current progress to resolve the Pandemic will continue, Martin Green is getting the "ducks in a row" to plan for this year's rally.

We will be returning to Hardwick Park, near Witney, for a 3 day get together for caravans, tents and motor homes from 10 to 12 September, so make sure that the dates are in the diary.

Further details will be published in the next edition of "Keeping in Touch".

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

**41 Club UK has 26 Regions. We are Region 23 encompassing the Counties of Somerset, Dorset and Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, and Channel Islands.**

**We have 38 Clubs, with 914 members, the largest 88, the smallest 11. We normally hold a Regional golf competition, a quiz and of course the infamous Dorset Knobs dinner.**

**In attempt to widen our understanding of each other, our Clubs, our people, and develop fellowship, I propose to include a section in each edition of "Keeping in Touch" to introduce one of our Clubs for the interest of the Region.**

**I am sure that I will be inundated with offers from Clubs to take part (!), failing which I will invite one club at random for each edition. A maximum of 200 words is asked for please. Fingers crossed!**

**To start the ball rolling, I have asked David Brown, Chairman of the youngest Club in the Region "Showtime" to pen a few words for the next edition.**



### ARE YOU MEMBERS RECEIVING NATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS?



With the increasingly popular 41 Club Connects national zoom events and the new regional newsletter, members are receiving more regular communication to keep them up to date.

Many Club members have selected 'post' as their *'preferred contact'* method when their details have been entered on to the national database. This means that they will not directly receive any national or regional emails or newsletters and are reliant on their local Club Officers to pass all information on.

It might be worth checking with your members that this remains their preference now that there is an increased level of national/regional activity. I can help you to access and edit your Club details if you are unsure. Member's details can be easily changed, making their 'preferred contact' to be email.



The re-launch of this initiative by National has been welcomed, with many compliments and appreciation paid about the wide range of topics and quality of speakers. A group of 10 National Officers and Councillors has risen to the challenge to take responsibility to drive this forward, their success already evident.

Remember that you can find the Club Connect Videos after the event on our dedicated YouTube Channel by clicking [here](#) or search 41 Club Connects on YouTube.

Burns Night was well and truly "Piped In" at the end of January with almost 200 joining in on zoom, then on the 4<sup>th</sup> February we were entertained to a fascinating evening of Cricket stories and memorabilia from commentators Jonathan Agnew and Geoff Miller, definitely an excellent evening for those with an interest in the little red ball with a record attendance of 520!

Further events are being organised weekly and will be published shortly.

All details and the zoom link to join are on the 41 Club Connects website, just [click here](#).

#### FUTURE PROGRAMME

##### 11 February 7.00 pm:

Celebrate Chinese New Year of the Ox with a **Chinese Charity Cook-Along** with the Executive Chef from Lu-Ban restaurant, Liverpool, supporting Dementia UK & Leukaemia Care.

*Kunghei Fatchoy!!*

##### 18 February 7.30 pm:

A virtual tour of the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway**

##### 25 February:

**Evening of Rugby** with **Wayne Barnes**, a current English rugby union referee with almost 100 international games to his name.

#### FROM THE DOCTOR'S NOTES!!

- Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year
- The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 2019
- The patient refused autopsy
- The patient has no previous history of suicides
- Occasional constant infrequent headaches

#### DID YOU REALISE...

At 21.21 on 21 January 2021 (9.21pm), it was 21 minutes past the 21<sup>st</sup> hour of the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the 21<sup>st</sup> century!!



Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February was the Tangent Birthday Party on Zoom. The theme was afternoon tea with an excellent show of teas and clothing on display. Vivien Hirst won the prize for the best all round presentation.



Ringwood & Verwood Round Table once again offered support over the school half term:

As if home schooling wasn't challenging enough, the near constant cries of "Can I have something to eat?" or "I'm hungry!" strike fear into the hearts of the best of us. That's where Ringwood & Verwood Round Table would like to help. Whether you're furloughed, have been made redundant, or just need a break from Home Schooling your "Little Darlings", we'd like to help this February Half Term by providing nutritious packed lunches to local children. This isn't about Free School Meals, or Universal Credit, or "needing" the help. Its about the help being offered, no questions asked, no judgements made, with the help of the team at The London Tavern(Who are making up the lunches at cost!)

If you would like help with lunches for your little darlings, please visit website to book in your deliveries. Our lunches will include a sandwich, packet of crisps, a yoghurt, cereal bar/flapjack & some fruit, and will be delivered to your door by one of our members before lunchtime on the day in question. Fancy a lunch but want to pay for it instead? Please head over to our Half Term Hunger JustGiving page where you can donate & help us to feed a few more hungry mouths this February Half Term!

The February Club meeting was the traditional Fellowship evening albeit on Zoom with a debate for Melvyn's Mug. Chairman Richard sent out the briefing via Arthur:

**"This House agrees it would be good to be famous, as Celebrities are ruling the World."**

Speaking for the motion: Mr Colin Read, Mr Derek Scott.

Speaking against the motion: Mr Richard Sheerin, Mr Chris Treleaven.

Each team are allotted 10 minutes to put their case (5 minutes each)

After both teams have spoken, each team are allowed a further 6 minutes (or 3 minutes each) to ask questions of the other team before their closing address.

The debate will be judged by Mr Steve James National 41 Club Fellowship Officer who will award Melvyn's Mug to the winning team.

In addition, Graham Hoyle will take a few minutes to remember the founder of Ringwood & District Round Table, Jimmie Gordon.

The winners of the debate by a narrow margin were Dick Sheerin and Chris Treleaven. Steve James wrote afterwards thanking the Club for inviting him to be the judge and adding,

"I thoroughly enjoyed myself and when restrictions ease hopefully I will be able to visit in person. What you are doing is a credit to the Association and the turnout was excellent, well done."

Graham's tribute to Jimmie Gordon included some memorable photographs of the history of both the Round Table and ex-Table Clubs:

## RINGWOOD ROUND TABLE INAUGURATION



Some of the gathering at Ringwood and District Round Table inaugural meeting at the Crown Hotel, Ringwood, on Thursday.

## RINGWOOD ROUND TABLE FORMED

### 30 MEMBERS OF TOWN'S NEWEST ORGANISATION

WITH the formal passing of a resolution, Ringwood and District Round Table was formed on Thursday evening.

Each of the 30 members of the newest table in the British Isles—except Chairman Jim Gordon who was transferred from the New Milton Table—received his badge from the Chairman of Area Council No. 1, Tabler Neville Freeston.

After the resolution that a New Milton Table, also referred to the Rotary Club. Ringwood had been moved by Mr. Sidney Deedman and seconded by Mr. Brian Peck, Mr. Freeston announced the formation of a Round Table in Ringwood.

He said that Ringwood was number 643. The first Table was founded at Norwich 27 years ago. At the end of the last war there were 26 tables and 1,700 members. Now the number of members exceeds 17,000.

"We are not a junior Rotary," he said, "but we must not overlook the help we have had from the Rotary Club."

Proposing the toast to the guests and visiting tables after dinner at the Crown Hotel, Ringwood, which preceded the inaugural meeting, Tabler Harry Saunders, Chairman of

past National President of the National Association of Round Tables of Great Britain and Ireland.

Both Mr. Geary and Mr. Elliott replied to the toast and wished the Ringwood Table every success.

#### SAD AND HAPPY

Mr. Elliott said it was both a sad and happy occasion for him. He could not have had a better opportunity of saying farewell than at an inaugural meeting. Next week he had to retire under the age rule.

He congratulated Ringwood on its number of members and said: "I wish Ringwood Table every success in the years ahead."

#### WORKED TOGETHER

He welcomed Rtn. Edward Geary, President of the Ringwood Rotary Club, and said that the Rotary and Round Tables had nearly always worked together.

Among the other guests welcomed were Clr. H. S. Beale (Chairman of Ringwood and Fordingbridge R.D.C.), Mr. H. Hill (Vice-chairman of the Chamber of Trade), Mr. G. Bradley, of the Carnival Committee, and Police Inspector A. Maybury.

He gave a special welcome to Mr. Doug Elliott, immediate

Elected Chairman of Ringwood Table, Mr. Jim Gordon thanked the guests for attending and also thanked the New Milton Table for sponsoring the Ringwood Table. Special thanks went to Mr. Doug Bugler, the past Chairman of New Milton, for his help.

Officers elected at the inaugural meeting were: Chairman, Mr. Jim Gordon; vice-chairman, Mr. Brian Peck; treasurer, Mr. Pat Cross; secretary, Mr. Peter Browne.

Toastmaster was Mr. David Stone of New Milton.

## Big send-off to a new Round Table

RINGWOOD and District Round Table (No. 643) was officially launched at an inaugural dinner at the Crown Hotel, when Mr. Neville Freeston (chairman of No. 1 Area Council) presided. So great was the desire of representatives of neighbouring Tables to attend that there were 210 applications for the 132 seats available.

In addition to the 30 already enrolled members of the new Ringwood Table parties were present from Portsmouth, Andover, Poole, Romsey, Wimborne, Dorchester, Christchurch, Eastleigh, Weymouth and the sponsoring Table, New Milton.

#### BUILDER LEADS

The "Guests and Visiting Tables" was proposed by Mr. Harry Saunders (chairman of New Milton). Replying Mr. Edward Geary (president of Ringwood Rotary), drew the attention to the fact that the chairman of Ringwood's new Table, Mr. Jimmy Gordon, was a builder. "Very appropriate," he observed. Mr. Doug Elliott, immediate past National president, also responded.

Thanks to New Milton for acting as sponsors were expressed by Mr. Gordon.

Officers elected were: Chairman, Jimmy Gordon; vice-chairman, Brian Peck; hon. treasurer, Pat Cross; hon. secretary, Peter Browne.

Mr. David Stone was toastmaster.



## RINGWOOD EX-TABLERS' CLUB



Ringwood Ex-Tablers' Club held their inaugural dinner at the Pied Piper Hotel, St. Leonards. Present were members of Bournemouth, Poole, Wimborne, Salisbury and New Milton Ex-Tablers' Clubs, also members of Ringwood and District Round Table, together with the National Vice-President of Ex-Tablers' Clubs (Mr. Paul Whitcher). The Chairman's Jewel was presented to Mr. T. Davis by Mr. P. Cross on behalf of Ringwood Round Table. Back row (left to right): J. Gordon, B. Gourley, R. Godwin (secretary), D. Saunders. Front row: D. Cockram (past chairman, Ringwood Round Table), P. Whitcher (national vice-president), T. Davis (chairman, Ringwood Ex-Tablers' Club), Pat Cross (chairman, Ringwood Round Table).

Here are the minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> February Club meeting:

**RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX-TABLERS' CLUB**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLUB**  
**Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 16.30 via Zoom**

The Chairman opened the meeting with grace.

**Apologies** had been received from Keith Anderson.

**Vice Chairman Bob welcomed** our guests, namely Tim Airey, Chris Gee, Jo Bonello and our National Fellowship Officer and judge of the Melvyn Mug debate, Steve James.

**Jimmie Gordon**

Graham Hoyle gave a splendid resume of Jimmie's very eventful life and in honour of Jimmie, Graham even wore a jacket and tie (almost didn't recognise him!). Without going into the detail, Jimmie was a founder member of both Ringwood RT and Ringwood 41 Club, he was part of the Carnival Committee, raised lots of money to help the elderly in Ringwood and by shaking tins he collected in excess of £200,000 for Cancer Research, for which was awarded the Flame of Hope by Cancer Research at a lunch in London.

The Chairman proposed **the loyal toast**.

**Speakers/Debate**

To rounds and rounds of enthusiastic (*canned*) applause John Adams introduced the debate and also Steve James, our judge. He confirmed the motion as "This House agrees it would be good to be famous, as Celebrities are ruling the World"

Speaking for the motion were Colin Read and Derek Scott

Speaking against the motion were Dick Sheerin and Chris Treleaven

*(Of course, all these chaps are real celebrities in their own worlds).*

Fine arguments were put forward by both teams to support their respective positions and various tactics were used to gain advantage particularly by Dick Sheerin who disappeared behind his script in the first part presumably so no-one could read his expression and at the start of the second part, the proceedings had to be delayed whilst he disappeared allegedly to deal with a coughing fit (or maybe have a slug of Dutch courage?!). Anyway, whatever skulduggery was afoot, it worked because after a balanced critique of the arguments put forward by both sides, Steve James declared Dick and Chris to be the winners of Melvyn's Mug.

**Minutes of the last meeting**

These were taken as read

**Matters arising**

Members approved (unanimously) the Council proposal for the ***distribution of the charity funds*** which are just short of £1,100. £800 is to be donated to Ringwood Junior School to acquire tablets to assist in home learning. This will be associated with the name of John Salisbury who was a governor/chair of governors of the school for many years.

The balance will go to the Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery to help with their work in fighting the pandemic.

It was agreed that our ***pledge to support “a plastic free” Ringwood*** should go on the website. It was also noted that we will be helping with the work of RACE in their tree planting.

It was agreed that we will offer ***honorary membership*** to the incoming Round Table Chairman and also the Chairman of Bournemouth 41 Club, which has become a tradition.

### **Correspondence**

No correspondence.

### **Chairman’s remarks**

No Chairman’s remarks.

### **Vice-Chairman**

Nothing to report.

### **Treasurer**

Year end balance should be circa £2,100.

### **Social**

As Jeff had needed to leave the meeting, the Chairman summarised the main social events in the calendar, as follows:

Thursday 18 February – 41 National Connect evening - N. Yorkshire Moors Railway

Monday 22 February – Concert evening - Beethoven’s Symphony No 9.

Wednesday 24 February – Joint Social evening with Tangent.

Thursday 25 February – 41 National – Wayne Barnes

### **Welfare**

It was excellent to see David Hirst back in harness. He thanked Mike C for standing in for him and Graham for his warm words re Jimmie. He welcomed Will Parke. It was confirmed that the secretary had spoken to Brian Pierson who is continuing to recover and, despite what he has been through, he has retained his sense of humour.

### **Editor**

Copy prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> if at all possible.

There will be a special edition shortly before the AGM containing Council reports.

### **Speakers’ secretaries**

Nothing to add

### **Meals**

The Buddies system seems to be working. Otherwise, nothing to add.

### **Publicity and membership**

Nothing to report.

### **Lay membership/ health & safety**

Nothing.

### **Webmaster/immediate past**

Nothing.

### **Any other business**

Raffle – John Harper was the lucky winner; clearly he was overwhelmed by his good fortune and dashed off to ..... tell Kay? (well maybe!!!).

You can tell it's almost the end of term as Chairman Richard stood up to display his



green and white knickers.

Fetchingly as they were, a hushed silence prevailed whilst members contemplated just how deeply the pandemic and the related lockdown had inflicted themselves on members of the club, and in particular, the Chairman. As luck would have it, having absent-mindedly forgotten to put on his trousers (amnesia gets to us all!) he wasn't wearing his normal pink thong!!!

Steve James gave us a run down of what was going on nationally. He praised the work of our regional counsellor (*does this judgement bring into doubt the decision on the Melvyn's Mug debate?!!! – just asking!*).

Plenty of issues over capitation and clubs raising concerns regardless of the committed costs which may have to be met following 2 cancelled conferences.

The forthcoming virtual National AGM will be a first of its kind and there are logistical issues over registration and voting which still need to be resolved.

There is some encouragement with the formation of a number of new clubs but there is concern with other clubs which have not met during the pandemic and whether they will survive when "normality" returns.

### **Next meetings**

Council – Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 16.30 via Zoom

Club – AGM 16 March 2021 at 16.30 on Zoom



**Final Toast**

given by The Chairman.

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February came the last Club Concert of the Club year:

**MUSIC NIGHT CONCERT Monday 22nd February 2021 :  
Beginning at 7.00pm on ZOOM with Richard, Keith and Sue**



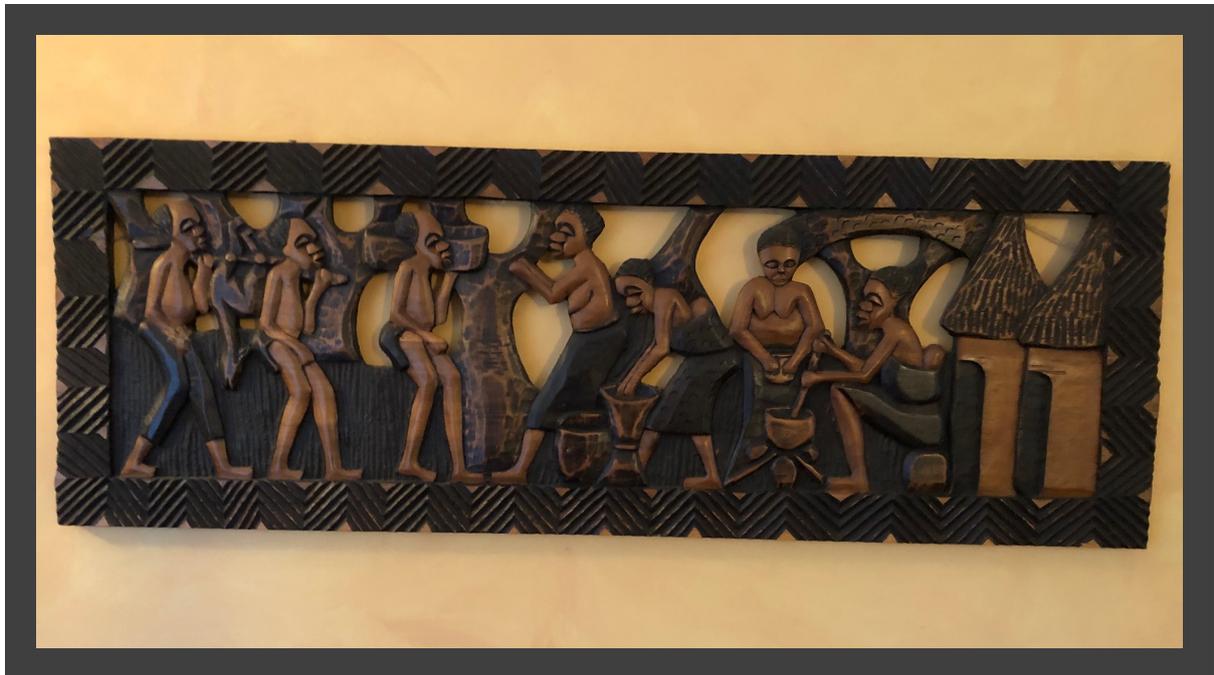
**Symphony No. 9 in D minor op 125 (Choral Symphony)**

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

**one of the most famous pieces of music ever written.**

The February Cartier had promoted the next Joint Meeting which came on 24<sup>th</sup> February. It featured four members who were asked to explain the background which was visible behind them when they appeared on Zoom.

Chris Kean talked about his time in Uganda:



Richard Blackiston talked us through his space memorabilia:



John Harper talked about the Freemen of the City Oxford, an honour which both he and Kay hold:



And Graham Hoyle talked about crime!



Gardeners beware, the Dirty Dibber was back again!

**BACK TO THE PLOT with THE DIRTY DIBBER ISSUE 2 February 2021**  
**2021 GET GOING AGAIN SPECIAL – part 2**

In the last issue we looked at basic preparations for the coming season. As DD did not appear until Spring last year this issue will continue that theme as there really is a lot to do in these early months to ensure we have a solid foundation and a quick start when Spring finally arrives. Apologies for the bumper issue!!

We've had a proper wintery January but don't trust February to be an improvement, first half of the month the weather was very cold, as is often the case in February. The second half temperatures looks likely to be slightly above the seasonal average, no wonder plants get confused!! We all want to be getting on with things, especially on the odd sunny days, but spring is not quite here yet, so action stations – but it's still winter!!

### **Digging**

If you got stuck in last month then this recent run of hard frosts will have done you a favour by breaking the soil down even further. Any unfinished digging really needs to be completed as soon as conditions allow, but watch those backs if the ground is still heavy. If you already make your own compost, otherwise known as nature's free bounty – now is the time to spread it over the plot, or as much of it as you can cover. By all means gently fork it in, but if not our amazing gardening best friends, worms, will do the job for you.

Spread any surplus on flower beds and borders, but don't risk forking in, unless absolutely certain what lies beneath (and may be coming up).

In terms of soil type the simplest approach, unless you want to be scientific and/or received a soil testing kit for Valentine's Day, is to grab a handful and gently squeeze. If it sticks solidly together you may have a more clay based soil which will retain moisture and suit damp loving plants. If the soil crumbles, and seems sandy it will better suit plants that don't like roots that are often wet, but those liking it a bit more damp will need watering more often.

For most crops and border plants it doesn't make too much difference whether the soil is clay or sand, alkali or acid, though it will make a massive difference to shrubs like azaleas and rhododendrons.

But generally veg will grow in most soil, especially if it has been well prepared, composted and then suitable fed at the appropriate time. More on compost and feeding later in the season.

### **Divide and Conquer – Cut, Prune, Tidy Up**

February is a great tidying up month, pruning back winter flowering shrubs like jasmine, mahonia and heather once their flowering has finished, and removing dead hellebore and hosta leaves just for starters. Late spring and summer flowering clematis should in theory be pruned to 30cm from their base, though all we do with our 30 year old one at the back of the garage is chop off the straggly ends. Still seems to survive and thrive each year!

Wisteria ignored runs rampant, and must be pruned twice yearly once in summer and once in winter i.e. now. Tie in new young growth to your framework to support new growth. Short stubbly side shoots with lots of buds are where new flower will form, only touch those if damaged. Otherwise any long sideshoots with long pointed shoots cut back to 4mm from the second or third bud from the stem base, same direction the bud is pointing at.

### **Amaryllis**

If you treated the Lady Dibber to a new Amaryllis for Christmas, it will need the appropriate care if you are to get a repeat, or even better, show of blooms next Christmas. So when it has finished flowering cut the stalks right back to the bulb, but keep the leaves. Place its pot in a greenhouse or on a sunny window sill (or conservatory, see later!!) watering and feeding, sparsely at first, until mid-September. Then move it to a cool, but frost free place for 10 weeks, stop feeding it and water only every 2 weeks. In early December cut back any leaves, water and bring into heat and light to trigger regrowth.

### **Outdoor Sowing and Planting**

If you're going to plant out or direct sow into the ground in early spring, try putting a cloche up or covering the ground with horticultural fleece a couple of weeks before hand. It will warm the ground up a couple of degrees, which makes more a difference than you might think. Plastic sheeting works as well, but unless your plot is very sheltered if the wind grabs hold and tears it into bits, your plastic will be warming the neighbour's soil instead.

At long last I am a convert to using horticultural fleece and have been protecting a few things in the greenhouse, I bought a brand called Grow It from In Excess at only £3.99p for a generously sized roll. Horticultural fleece is very versatile with many uses as apart from frost protection it is also a very effective lightweight protector for seedlings, such as against pigeons. Its advantage over plastic as ground cover is being porous so allows rain through.

When no longer required, lift it and store out of direct sunlight and it should last you many years.

### **Broad Beans**

Once this cold weather has passed, you can start sowing your broad beans. Being a bit traditional, I rather like a winter sowing of Aquadulce, but for sowing now Bunyards Exhibition gives good returns. My winter sown beans this year started in trays in the greenhouse, and have just gone out, about 45 survivors from 55 sown, not a bad result.

They grow slowly until now, and are about 4-6" high so be interested to see how they get on.

## **Parsnips**

Because they are so hard to germinate and then take so long to mature, the natural temptation is to sow too soon. They are well worth the trouble though - grow good parsnips and you definitely have green fingers. However you need to devote time to them, especially for their first two months, starting with sowing. Having had a bad experience despite two attempts last year, this is the DD method for 2021.

First, above almost all other veg seeds you must sow fresh, new seed each season. Also, like carrots, they cannot be transplanted unless you want to grow something resembling an upside down Y. So the tip I am following this season is to sow a few seeds in a used toilet or kitchen roll and once growing plant out, or after 10 days if no sign of seedlings.

If miraculously every seed germinates, keep the strongest, discard the weaker one, and plant the roll into ground that has been deeply dug and composted – NOT freshly manured or again like most root crops, they will fork.

If you can't be bothered with such parsnip TLC then delay sowing until mid March, draw a drill, water, sow the seed, very lightly cover and then put a plank over the row.

Lift the plank once germinated, protect with fleece as pigeons love them!!

## **To Chit or not to Chit – that is the question**

I mentioned this last issue, you now definitely need your early spuds chitting away in egg boxes. I recently read an interesting debate on whether to chit or not, which surprised me as I always thought you had to. I suppose it's only to give them a good start, as left alone in the dark a seed will produce chits all over it. But you really only want the chits grow at one end of the tuber, which you then plant chits upwards.

Rub out any others unless it is a big spud (ideal size is a standard egg, which is why it is best to buy loose and select your own rather than buy a bag) in which case you can cut it in half as long as both parts have at least one chit on them.

We can start planting in the south in early to mid March especially if in bags which can be protected if very cold weather threatens. More on planting and cultivation next issue.

## **Know your onions**

I mentioned these last issue too, and shallots if you plan to grown some. Mid April is the best planting time, but in the South again we can plant in late March or even start them off in seed trays this month and then transplant in March. I have never done this but am trying a few as an experiment. Stuttgarter Giant and Sturon are probably the two best white onions, the Lady Dibber prefers a round to a flat bottom in the kitchen, if yours does too then go for Sturon.

Try and buy them loose as apart from cramming far more into a flowerpot for the same or less cost, as with seed potatoes it is far better to select your own. Plus onion sets the longer they are on the garden centre shelf have a habit of sweating and once one rots it will affect at least a couple of others. If you cannot buy loose then be very selective in your bag choice, and get them out again into egg boxes immediately.

Red onions are harder to buy loose, but can produce spectacular results with some really whopping fruits from such tiny sets. They are better planted slightly later than their white cousins as they tend to bolt more if planted early, again I'll try a few in trays probably with the smaller sets that might initially struggle outside.

As you set them out into the egg boxes, take the opportunity to give them what we can't get at the moment – a haircut!! If their tops are a bit straggly trim them up a bit so they only have a point a few mm above the tip of the set, and trim off any straggly roots, neither operation will hurt them or affect their immediate growth.

## Rhubarb

This generated some interesting discussion on the **Dirty Dibber Gardeners WhatsApp Group (DDGWAG)** which is still open for free membership (!! ) to our closed group (security wise) as a back up to DD issues.

Rhubarb is a wonderful crop needing little if any attention except when it is flagging after years of productive service. And thereby can lie the issue if you suddenly and unaccountably get problems with your rhubarb. DDGWAG members forgive me but here is what I contributed to that discussion – and I wasn't the only one giving advice and tips.

First rhubarb needs treating with as much respect as any other crop. All too often it tends to be relegated to a corner and neglected to just get on with it - for too long. Ours was not so good until a couple of years ago when we moved it to a better position, more open, better soil and an area that water gently drained towards it as rhubarb is a thirsty crop. Well dug quite deep as the main tap root on a mature crown will be very thick and go down at least a foot.

Crowns do need replacing, usually on a three or four year cycle. Replace one each year as a matter of routine, if possible splitting a younger piece off a strong producing crown, definitely not from the oldest crown, or else introduce a new one. End of the season remove all remaining stalks, which by now will look tired and are not fit for the kitchen, leaving the bare crown looking sorry for itself just below the surface. Place a name label by each crown so you don't accidentally tread on them or worse dig into them!!

At least mulch heavily with compost, or better still well rotted manure (never fresh as that will burn even strong plants like rhubarb crowns. You can force rhubarb, specialist growers in the Rhubarb Triangle oop north do but then they discard the crowns which are knackered by forcing. Rhubarb is the first new growth every season, ours have buds (tight balls of leaves which unfurl into their magnificently tasty stalks) right now and with longer days and increasing warmth they'll soon be away.

## And finally

Clever though nature is, most plants need at least 15C to germinate and generally about 10 hours of daylight to grow and develop properly. We start getting those light levels now, but the consistently needed temperatures will remain too low for sustained growth until later next month. But you can now start off tomatoes for example in small pots on a south facing window sill but be careful with watering, if above a radiator every other day, otherwise more sparingly. Vermiculite is well worth having for covering smaller pot and tray sown seeds and much easier to water correctly with a hand sprayer, far better than compost but only suitable for pots and trays, not really to cover drilled seeds. Though for another experiment I may try it when I sow my beetroot and carrots – it comes in a big enough bag to 'waste' a bit!!.

If you have a three glass sided conservatory that is ideal – in fact having doubtless spoiled her rotten on Valentine's Day now is probably great timing to tell the Lady Dibber you need to turn it into a greenhouse!!

**Keeeeeep digging** – really as often as you can, but watch those backs if the ground is heavy!!

The Club meeting had approved the allocation of the Christmas Card funds at the February meeting and thank you letters had been received:



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Facsimile: 01425 471215  
E-mail: [admin.office@ringwood-junior.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin.office@ringwood-junior.hants.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.ringwood-junior.hants.sch.uk](http://www.ringwood-junior.hants.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs S-A Evans  
BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Mr Richard Carter  
Amberley  
Hale Purleiu  
Fordingbridge  
Hampshire  
SP6 2NN

Dear Mr Carter,

On behalf of Ringwood Junior School, I would like to extend a wholehearted 'Thank You' for the extremely kind and generous donation of £800 from Ringwood and District Ex Tablers.

Your thoughtfulness at this time when we are unable to hold the normal fund raising events, is very much appreciated.

We have purchased a class set of Chromebooks and a charging trolley, with some of the Chromebooks already being loaned to families in need, and the others being used in school. This is an essential step in being able to provide high quality education to all of our children during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. We will continue to keep the technology requirements of the school under review as we start to ease out of the lockdown.

Your support of the school with this valued donation is very much appreciated by all who are using the technology.

Once again, thank you very much indeed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S.A. Evans'.

Sally-Ann Evans  
Headteacher



Fordingbridge Surgery  
Bartons Road  
FORDINGBRIDGE

Hampshire  
SP6 1RS

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Telephone: 01425 208195  
Email: [fofs.ppg@nhs.net](mailto:fofs.ppg@nhs.net)

Chairman: Mr I N Newman  
Walker, OBE



**Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery**  
*Supporting with care, compassion and consideration*

**Registered**  
**Charity No. 1094882**  
**PATRON: Murray**

11 March

2021

Mr Mike Callaghan  
Ringwood Ex-Tablers

Dear Mr Callaghan

I write to thank you and your fellow Ex-Tablers for the very kind donation of £300.00 to The Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery in February.

We are all very grateful for all contributions to the Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery. As you suggested, this donation will go towards the heating system in the marquee at Avon Valley Primary Care Network's Coronavirus vaccination centre at Fordingbridge Hospital.

Thank you once again for your support, it is most appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kelly Doris  
Secretary  
Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery

## MARCH 2021

With AGM season approaching Phil Hoyle invited ex-Table to attend the Round Table AGM on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Chairman Richard, David Phelps, Richard Blackiston and Graham Hoyle were there.

Phil also asked if ex-Table would sponsor one of the awards which were to be created. This award would be 'Tabler of the Year'. This was discussed and approved at the ex-Table Council meeting, also on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Poulner POD had been discussing a trophy in memory of Jimmie Gordon and Council agreed to suggest to the Table AGM that this trophy and the 'Tabler of the Year' should be combined into a joint Table and ex-Table trophy in Jimmie's name. Chairman Richard proposed this and Phil accepted on behalf of Table at the AGM.

Poulner POD has also started discussion about a bench memorial to Jimmie. Both these projects would need detailed consideration as to the nature of the trophy, the wording and, in the case of the bench, the location, and so would not be completed during this Club year.

Here are the Council minutes for its last meeting of the Club year:

### **RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX-TABLERS CLUB COUNCIL MEETING held at 4.30pm on Tuesday 2 March 2021**

#### **Apologies**

Jeff Wickens.

Ian gave an update, as far as he was able, on Lyn.

#### **Minutes of previous meeting**

Taken as read.

#### **Matters arising**

None

#### **Correspondence**

2 "Thank yous" received following the donations from the Christmas card fundraiser, from Ringwood Junior School and the Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery respectively. Copies to be sent to Peter Lomax for the Cartier.

*(At this point, our technical guru Gordon disappeared from the screen only to be replaced by a tripod; the secretary wishes to confirm that there is no truth in the rumour that the quality of the discussion improved enormously!!)*

#### **Chairman's comments**

Being his last Council meeting, Chairman Richard took the opportunity to thank everyone for their contribution in keeping the club together; indeed, there was plenty of mutual virtual backslapping and admiration but it was agreed by all that Richard had done an outstanding job in keeping the show on the road.

***Jimmie Gordon “Trophy”*** - After kicking the various options around it was agreed that rather than another trophy for 41 Club, we should offer to present a tankard or the like in Jimmy’s name to Ringwood & Verwood RT to be presented each year to the “Tabler of the Year”, details to be determined in agreement with RT.

It was also agreed, subject to Ringwood Council’s agreement, that a bench (fabricated out of a durable material that does not need a lot of maintenance) placed strategically in Ringwood, commemorating Jimmy, would be appropriate. The idea had emanated from the Poulner Pod and it will be put back to the Pod for furtherance with Ringwood Council.

***Old Round Table Bank Accounts*** – Steve Turner had informed David P that there is still some £200 in an old account although it is not known whether it is club or charity money. Phil Hoyle has the minute book and may be able to confirm one way or another. David P will follow up.

### **Vice Chairman**

It now looks as though we can proceed with our plans for a Ladies Night, despite Steve M’s musing that it could be an “All men’s Ladies Night” - curious!!

It was agreed that Bob would send out an invitation pretty well straightaway and invite members to confirm their interest by paying a small deposit.

As Bob will be chairman by then, it was felt that, given his other commitments, he will need help from a small committee (Gordon’s tripod now in party mood offered its services).

In planning the event, we should look to breakeven financially; the subsidy in the budget should be for February 2022.

### **Secretary**

The Club **AGM** is scheduled for Tuesday, 16 March 2021. Formal notice was sent out with the February edition of The Cartier. All places on next year’s Council, with the exception of Lay/Health & Safety, have nominations.

John Adams will read Purposes and Objects and Richard C and Bob will devise how they wish to hoodwink the members into thinking the chain of office has been passed through the screen?!

### **Treasurer**

Paul Thackray is the examiner for this year and has agreed to do the job again next. Subject to £60 being added to the miscellaneous budgeted costs for the purchase and engraving of the Tankard for ‘Tabler of the Year’, and despite references to other great works of fiction, both the accounts for 2020/21 and the budget for 2021/22 were approved unanimously.

### **Social**

The film night on Monday 8 March is Blues Brothers

Monday, 22 March is Concert Night with Shostakovich’s 7th Symphony

41 Club Connects – Thursday is Race Night

11 March is “So you think you can’t be scammed”

18 March is St Patrick’s Day

The turnout from the Club (and indeed nationally with over 700 screens) for the Wayne Barnes talk had been excellent. The prize for the man with the most stamina goes to Ian as he stayed until there were only 20 screens left; shame that he slept through most of it but Wayne Barnes being the gentleman he is did not draw attention to Ian but just spoke louder to make himself heard above the snoring.



## Welfare

Other than having just learnt about Lyn, David's comments are as per his report.

## Speakers' secretaries

Nothing to add to their report.

## Meals secretary

David has emailed St Leonard's to reserve our Tuesday evening slot going forward. The National Buddies scheme is active but there is no activity.

## Editor

The March Cartier will be out this week whilst a supplement carrying the reports of Council Officers will be circulated shortly before the AGM.

## Membership and Press

We have had some good stuff for the press this year particularly with Jimmy' 100<sup>th</sup> and John Adams piping. At this, there was much consternation within the Stockdale

household as the cat had purloined Ian's fish supper



## Lay member/Health & Safety

Nothing to report although Steve was interrupted by a "harp-playing" John Adams



which perhaps beats



## Website

RACE statement now on the website.

## Immediate Past

Nothing to report.

## AOB

Richard C will do the raffle draw at the AGM.

**Next Club meeting** – The AGM is Tuesday, 16 March at 4.30 on Zoom.

**Next Council meeting** – Tuesday, 6 April at 4.30 on Zoom.

## Loyal Toast

As it was the last Council meeting of the year, the loyal toast was proposed. This was in fact a ruse for members to be able to stand and display their undignified bottom halves dressed in what at best can be described as gaudy knickers - a parry to the Chairman's unedifying display at the last Club meeting! In fact, the whole thing was ..... pants!

Dress code for Zoom meetings had been much discussed during the year and the standards for elegance set early on by Editor Peter:



On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Tangent held a Proms Concert evening organised by Sue Anderson:

“The BBC Proms goes to the movies with John Wilson and his Orchestra in a celebration of the Golden Age of Hollywood film musicals. The Orchestra and Maida Vale Singers perform classics from films including the title numbers from ‘Shall We Dance’ and ‘Top Hat’, through the 40’s and 50’s with numbers from ‘Strike up the Band’ and ‘Guys and Dolls’ and hit musical films from the 60’s including ‘Gypsy’ and ‘West Side Story’.”

The Tangent ladies met on Zoom from 7.15 pm for a drink and chat before the concert. During the concert interval they met again on Zoom for Interval drinks, before reconvening as the concert finishes. Secretly, it is believed that a good number of ex-Tablers participated out of sight of the screen!

Time for the March edition of the Cartier:



# The Cartier Chronicle

*The One to watch!*

Issue 17 4th March 2021



*"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning." T.S. Eliot*

That was the Year that was! It is hard to believe now that almost a year ago Gordon and I decided that we had no choice but to cancel our AGM. We were told that we would knock the virus on the head in twelve weeks! Sadly, things were to become a bit more complicated than that. Way back in our school days we learnt about something called 'The Plague'. Little did we ever think that we would be living through a modern version of it.

Has it been a year to remember or a year to forget? As a relative newcomer to Ringwood ex-Table I confess to having felt a good deal of apprehension and responsibility becoming Chairman of such a fantastic Club as we headed into the unknown. I shouldn't have worried, because of course so many members have in typical fashion ensured that our Club is as strong one year on in spite of everything. Specific thanks will be in my report for the AGM.

It has been a great pleasure to see the new Ringwood & Verwood Round Table develop and grow in such a difficult year. I do regret not having been able to be closer to them than would have been possible in a normal year. There is still time to develop that closer relationship and help and support them as much as we can. Despite our age differences we share the same objectives and as ex-Tablers we are just delighted that a new Table has been formed to enjoy everything that we all so enjoyed when we were their age.

Above all, I am just very proud to have been Chairman of this Club which I have loved from the first meeting I attended. It has been special to link up more than usual perhaps with Tangent and that has demonstrated the strength of the Round Table family and how fortunate we are to have that sense of family in our lives, especially this year.

Yours in continued fellowship

Richard



## DIARY

### MARCH

Monday 8th : Club Film Night. 'Blues Brothers' from 7.15pm on Zoom. We will be watching a recording from Freeview made a month ago.

Wednesday 10th : Tangent Meeting - 7.30 pm. Steve Roberts talking on the History, Flora and Fauna of Hengistbury Head, followed by a short business meeting. Zoom link to follow.

Tuesday 16th : Club AGM via Zoom at 7.30pm. Zoom link to follow.

Monday 22nd : Club Concert. Shostakovich 7th Symphony (The Leningrad) will be screened using a YouTube link. Join Zoom from 7pm onwards.

### APRIL

Tuesday 6th : Club Council

Wednesday 7th : Tangent 'Petit Fours' demonstration on Zoom at 7.30 pm. See page 3 for details.

Wednesday 14th: Tangent AGM : 7.30pm via Zoom.

Tuesday 20th : Club meeting. Details to follow.



## Caroline's Corner



What a success the 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday was! The Tangent ladies certainly pulled out all the stops for this event. I've never seen so many hats and posh dresses on a Zoom call! The social committee did a fabulous job as ever to provide us with an afternoon full of entertainment which culminated in our first chairman, Thelma Matthews being presented with a lifetime honorary membership. I will leave it to Lesley Sharp to tell us more about the event in her report below.

Don't forget our meeting with speaker on 10 March! And please read Jean Phelps' lovely article about Ann Pierson on the next page.

Yours in continued friendship

Caroline

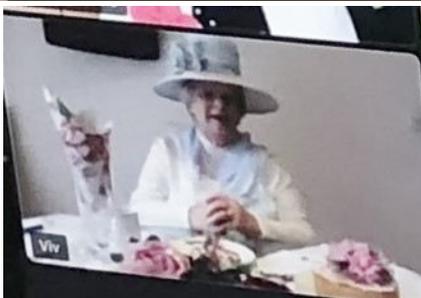
### Tangent 40th Birthday Afternoon Tea

Undeterred by lockdown restrictions Ringwood members celebrated Tangent's 40th Birthday in sophisticated elegance on Zoom. Caroline welcomed the guests to the party and said that she was delighted with the beautiful flowers from Tangent brought to her that morning by Jenny and Ian. The presentation had been somewhat unconventional and had been a good start to the celebrations of the afternoon.



Tangent members had been asked to wear their best hats and posh frocks and to bring a dainty china teacup and a cake - at this stage they didn't know that the theme of the afternoon was "My Fair Lady". Anne Dyson (IT) put everyone in the picture by playing a short clip of the musical where we see Eliza charming guests at an afternoon tea at the races. And so...the tea party began!

Members had dressed their computer area with balloons, bunting, bubbly and flowers. How lovely it was to see them looking so fabulous and ready to have a good time. To add a bit of drama to the afternoon Barbara lit a sparkler candle for her cake and fortunately managed to avoid setting fire to her hat. Tea and cake were taken to the soundtrack of the musical, and Lesley, with the help of Anne Dyson's Powerpoint skills, conducted a "Mastermind" My Fair Lady Quiz. It really was quite a difficult quiz but there were two good joint winners: Monica Edwards and Lyn Wickens. Viv Hirst, looking very regal, won a prize for the best dressed party guest and computer area. Well done Viv! Prizes will be delivered when lockdown measures ease. It was an unusual Tangent birthday celebration but it was a happy occasion and everyone entered into the spirit of it. (LS)



### Ann Pierson

I first met Ann in 1962 when I was a guest at a Ladies Circle meeting. She was warm and friendly and very welcoming, happy and smiley and her demeanour over the years never changed.

Ann lived in Ringwood, her parents owned the Nags Head public house in Moortown, Ringwood and she went to school in Wimborne. Ann was extremely fond of acting and after leaving school went to train in the acting profession and she starred in many plays on tour around the country.

Ann and Brian were married in Ringwood Parish Church with a reception held at the Crown Hotel. For many years they lived at Homestead Farm, Three Cross where many great parties were held with Ann always the perfect hostess.

Ann was a devoted mother to Mark, John and Lisa and subsequently a perfect Grandma to eight grandchildren.

Ladies Circle played a big part in Ann's life and she was a very active member serving on most committees and she was chairman to both Ladies Circle and latterly Tangent. Whilst in Ladies Circle she organised wonderful carnival floats for which she won many prizes for the club and the children all had a marvellous time. Over the years she was a member of the Art and Flower Clubs in Ringwood. She also ran wonderful fund raising coffee mornings at her home at which she raised large sums of money for Tenovus and other cancer charities. She herself had suffered from cancer for several years which she fought tirelessly and quietly.

Some of her last words were "It is not the beginning or the end, but the journey in between". She definitely filled the 'in between'.

She was a great friend to us all and will be dearly missed.

Jean Phelps



## TANGENT

Wednesday 7th April at 7.30pm

Join us for an evening with talented chef

*Teresa Sillars*

showing us the chocolate delights of Petit Fours



ADVANCE NOTICE....Tangent May meeting.

Speaker from Slimming World.

Only joking.....Ed!!

These are the thank you letters we received from Ringwood Junior School (where John Salisbury was Chair of Governors for many years) and the Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery following the two clubs' donations from the successful Christmas Card effort.



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Website: www.ringwood-junior.hants.sch.uk  
Headteacher: Mrs S-A Evans  
BSc Hons, PGCE, NPGH

24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Mr Richard Carter  
Amberley  
Hale Purfeleu  
Fordingbridge  
Hampshire  
SP6 2NN

Dear Mr Carter,

On behalf of Ringwood Junior School, I would like to extend a wholehearted 'Thank You' for the extremely kind and generous donation of £800 from Ringwood and District Ex Tablers.

Your thoughtfulness at this time when we are unable to hold the normal fund raising events, is very much appreciated.

We have purchased a class set of Chromebooks and a charging trolley, with some of the Chromebooks already being loaned to families in need, and the others being used in school. This is an essential step in being able to provide high quality education to all of our children during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. We will continue to keep the technology requirements of the school under review as we start to ease out of the lockdown.

Your support of the school with this valued donation is very much appreciated by all who are using the technology.

Once again, thank you very much indeed.

Yours sincerely,

Sally-Ann Evans  
Headteacher



## RINGWOOD & VERWOOD ROUND TABLE AGM

David Phelps, Richard Blackiston and Chairman Richard were invited to the Table AGM. It was an impressive gathering of members and prospective members plus Area Chairman Rob Henderson and National RTBI Vice President Paul Thompson. Phil Hoyle ran the meeting in his inimitable style with much humour as well as the serious business.

Ex-Tablers were thanked for their donation of £200 to assist the Club's development and the story of the first year's activities and fund raising were truly superb.

Ex-Table and Round Table announced an award for 'Tablet of the Year' which would be dedicated to the memory of Jimmy Gordon, founder of the original Round Table. Ex-Table will provide the trophy and both Chairmen will jointly determine the winner each year. The first winner of the award was announced as James Marley, Table Vice Chairman, who was duly elected as Chairman during the meeting.

Ex-Table Chairman Richard congratulated Phil, James and all members on their fantastic achievements in their first full year. The programme and ideas for the year ahead looked exciting and with 20 members already a great deal of typical Table fun is undoubtedly on the cards.

Dear Mike and your fellow Ex-Tablers

Many thanks for your generous donation of £300.00 to the Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery charity. I can confirm that this money has gone back into the pot that was accessed to fund the heating system in the waiting marquee at the Covid Vaccination Centre at Fordingbridge Hospital.

On behalf of the whole Fordingbridge community we really appreciate your kindness.

Best regards  
Kelly

Mrs Kelly Doris  
**Secretary**  
Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery and PPG Group  
Fordingbridge Surgery  
Bartons Road  
Fordingbridge  
Hants  
SP6 1RS

### Ladies Night is happening!!

You will now have received your invitation from VC Bob via email. Act quickly to reserve your ticket and hotel room. For planning purposes Bob needs **your reply by 31st March at the latest**. Please try to respond asap. Thank you.

Bob has sent me this advert.....is that Hengistbury Head in the background?



Richard B made a socially distanced presentation to our Melvyn's Mug winning debating team!



## Another Smile for Another Month



### Women's 'Arse Size'

New study reveals interesting findings

There is a new study about women and how they feel about their arse's and the results are fairly interesting

- ~ 30% of women think their arse is too fat
- ~ 10% of women think their arse is too skinny

The remaining 60% say they don't care, they love him, he's a good man and they wouldn't trade him for the world!



Gordon Knott has submitted two very late entries for a caption for this photo taken when the Club celebrated the late Jimmy Gordon's 100th birthday, but they're worth reading!

*These new earmuffs don't work!*

*Go get the guy playing the bagpipes.*

### Hot off the Press Two February baby Granddaughters !!

Everlyn Rose Stockdale made her appearance on Wed February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9 lb.8oz to Nick & Claire (Stockdale)  
Emilia Florence Reece Kean safely arrived on Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7lb.1oz to Jonathan & Sarah (Kean)



We are pleased to report that all Grandparents are doing well !!

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,  
It has come to my attention that our elderly vulnerable members are being jabbed and are reluctant to reveal the perpetrators. This is quite understandable as they all have been threatened with a second jab. I wonder if you could help identify the perpetrators. Once identified, the Poulner Party Pod will visit said perpetrators and end the violence by delivery a single Poulner Peck. Similar to the *Glasgow Kiss* but delivered while social distancing.

Yours faithfully

V. Gill-Lantey

Or would that be the 'Dublin Decking'? Ed.  
Whoops, there's a clue to the writer of this letter just there. Sorry Gordon.

### Monthly Raffle

The winner in the February draw was John Harper.  
Perhaps you could ponder if we wish to carry on next year as 'real' meetings are still a little way off. Thank you to everybody who joined this year. So far we have raised £119 for charity.



**The Cartier Chronicle has sadly decided to stop publishing and is looking for a suitable periodical that might take over this important magazine. We hope that an edition will be published in early April but this is likely to be under a new name. Thank you for your support these past 12 months and please continue to forward suitable material before 31st March. Good luck to the next Editor, whoever he or she may be. Goodbye. Editor and sub Editor.** 😞

The last Club Film of the year came on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 'The Blues Brothers':

**'RIMBURY STUDIOS'**  
*CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE : RICHARD IS PLEASED TO PRESENT*

Event information

**The Blues Brothers**  
Thu 28 Jan 23:20 - 00:20  
ITV4

Details **Cast / Crew** Related content

JOHN BELLUSHI DAN AYKROYD  
**THE BLUES BROTHERS**

John Bellushi  
Jake Blues

Den Aykroyd  
Elwood Blues

James Brown  
Reverend Cleophus James

Cab Calloway  
Curtis

Ray Charles  
Ray

Carole Fisher  
Mystery Woman

Arothe Franklin  
Mrs. Murphy

Henry Gibson  
Head Neal

John Candy  
Burton Mercer

Murphy Dunne  
Murph

Steve Cropper  
Steve "The Colonel" Cropper

Donald Dunn  
Donald "Duck" Dunn

**PLEASE SET YOUR HOME FREEVIEW RECORDING AS ABOVE**

Eighteen years after completing their "mission from God", Elwood J. Blues is released from prison only to learn of the deaths of his brother and partner in crime, 'Joliet' Jake Blues, and his father figure and mentor, Curtis, as well as the destruction of the orphanage he was raised in. With no family, no roots, and no life, a discouraged Elwood goes to meet with Sister (now Mother) Mary Stigmata. At this meeting, in addition to getting stuck mentoring a wise-ass orphan named Buster, Elwood learns of the existence of Curtis' illegitimate son, Cable. Now determined to seek out the only family he has left and to reassemble The Band, Elwood, with the help of his new associate and lead singer, 'Mighty' Mack McTeer, embarks on a death-defying journey that will pit them against the Russian Mafia, a Neo-Confederate Militia, the State Police and the FBI, and end with The Band competing in a Battle of the Bands competition against The Louisiana Gator boys led by B.B. King!

**YOUR OWN RECORDED MOVIE PLAYBACK TO BE ON  
CLUB FILM NIGHT:  
Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.15pm ZOOM JOINING TIME**

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March Tangent held a Zoom meeting with speaker Steve Roberts from Christchurch who spoke about Hengistbury Head, its rich history, its name, tourism, nature, and landmarks of the Head. Once again, many ex-Tablers were listening in to an excellent talk, leaving of course with the speaker while the ladies had a chat.

The final edition of The Cartier was an AGM special with all the Council reports and of course the accounts and budget, together with the nominations for next year's Council:



AGM Special: 11th March 2021



# The Cartier Chronicle

*The One to watch! One last time.*

## AGM SPECIAL EDITION

*And you thought that you'd seen the last of The Cartier! Despite being on the brink of Administration and eventual closure, I have been lured back to bring you all the reports from your Council officers as well as the accounts of Ringwood & District Ex Tablers Club for the year ending March 2021. There's loads to read in advance of next Tuesday's meeting to be held via Zoom starting at 4.30pm. Zoom link details will follow shortly. (Ed).*

### RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX -TABLERS CLUB AGM : 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I must be the first Chairman who has presided over a full year of meetings of the Club without leaving his house! Not only that but I think it's the first time in a year when I've spent every night in my own bed, but that's another story!

Last year's AGM was cancelled the day before it was scheduled as our numbers were rapidly declining, quite understandably. What happened next didn't go like a blur at the time but seems a bit of a blur now. Questions were, how do we deal with this and how can we keep the Club together? What can we do? Then along came Zoom! Where would we have been without it.

When approached by Gordon to be Vice Chairman I thought it was too soon as I was relatively new to the Club but others assured me there would be a lot of support. From the first meeting I attended in 2016 I appreciated what a great Club it is and I have loved every minute of my time as a member. So to the challenge of keeping the spirit, soul and social cohesion together. I hope and believe we have achieved that entirely because of the strength of the membership and a fantastic team effort. So this report is a thank you to all of you who have achieved that.

First of all the Council. Immediate Past Chairman Gordon as Webmaster has continued to lead development of our website which is looking very good and undoubtedly an invaluable addition to the Club resources. Secretary Chris has kept us all entertained with witty minutes of Club and Council meetings. Treasurer Andrew has been as diligent as ever and kept us on the financial straight and narrow. Jeff has been a constant source of ideas for the remote entertainment and initiated some great evenings for us all. Ian has pursued potential new members and publicity with all his usual vigour and achieved much in both fields. Peter has produced no less than 18 editions of our magazine and led the Ashley Heath POD after David Hirst's unfortunate illness. David Hirst has looked after Welfare in a thoroughly conscientious and caring way and set up and run Ashley Heath POD. John and Richard Blackiston have worked the oracle to provide interesting meetings for us, a number from our own resources which was great. David Phelps as Meals secretary felt a bit redundant but he was always there with sound advice, launched our Club meeting raffle and is involved with National 41 Club's Buddies scheme. David and Ian also led the Froghammers on their annual away weekend. Lay member Steve worked tirelessly on the health and safety of bike rides, walks and home zooming. Vice Chairman Bob said he really had nothing to do as Ladies Night had been postponed but now of course he is very busy and, in any case has contributed greatly throughout the year. My thanks to you all.

Those not on council have also contributed hugely to our year. Keith Anderson our ever enthusiastic Club Film and Club Concert Impresario. Mike Callaghan who stepped in to cover welfare very kindly when David Hirst was unwell and also one of those volunteer heroes supporting the vaccine roll out. Mike also created the Club Xmas Card. Gerald Carter produced the Directory for us, an invaluable tool in any year. Richard Dyson sat in on our Council meetings and has kept us very well appraised of 41 Club Regional and National activities. Mike Edwards proved to be the constant gardener with the Dirty Dibber and now the gardeners' WhatsApp. Mike Fraser entertained and educated us with The Pedal. John Harper enabled us to be present as usual at the Remembrance Day wreath laying. John Kennedy has been an outstanding 'Prefect' of Poulner Pod which has held almost 50 meetings. Will Parke arranged for a couple of walks and didn't lose any of the participants. John Quint captained the Golf Society although there were fewer matches and, in the end, no formal trophy competitions this year. Arthur Robins could not have known that in taking over electronic distribution he would

have the biggest distribution workload in history and of course he entertained us throughout the year with his 'Smiles' for which we were all very grateful. Paul Thackray kept a watching brief on Treasurer Andrew. I hope I haven't omitted anyone and I must also thank every member who has taken part in the various meetings, socials, PODs and other activities we have undertaken almost entirely 'virtually' this year. Every one of you has helped us through this complicated year.

My thanks also to our other Clubs. The new Round Table has done amazingly well to grow as they have and my thanks to Phil Hoyle and James Marley for keeping me involved and aware during the year. To Caroline Gill and her social team of Barbara Kennedy, Jenny Stockdale and Lesley Sharp my thanks for linking with us so well and for creative contributions to our joint meetings, especially in a Zoom year when so much activity has been in our own homes with the desire to be inclusive of family partners whenever we could.

Finally, and not least, my thanks to Susie for her constant support and help throughout the year.

And so the winner of the Chairman's Choice Trophy is.....to be announced at the AGM!

Yours in continued friendship

Richard

#### **Report from the Vice Chairman**

It's been a year like no other but given that the job of the VC is relatively straightforward, I haven't had the sort of frustrations and problems that colleagues on Council have faced. However, despite not being able to meet face-to-face at least Zoom has at least made it possible to continue.

The main tasks for the VC, apart from preparing for the next year, is to introduce guests, which has been at arms length and thus less than satisfactory, and organising the Ladies Night.

Ladies Night has been re-scheduled to take place on the 16 July and, on the current Road Map, which is due to remove all controls on the 21 June, at the earliest, is going ahead. The venue and band are ready and willing, and bookings are coming in. I hope I see many if not all of you there!

So in conclusion, can I thank everyone but especially Chairman Richard, for the help and advice that he has offered throughout the year. I wish my successor, whoever that might be, a great year in waiting and trust that we get back to some form of normality as soon as is sensible.

Bob Merrett

#### **Report from the Secretary**

In fact, I don't really have a great deal to report other than to say what an experience and a privilege it has been to serve on Council this year with such a great bunch of guys, so ably led by Chairman Richard, who have steered the club through what must have been its most bizarre and challenging year in its history. There have been so many amazing contributions from so many people which have kept everyone engaged and entertained. Hopefully, I have kept the score with minutes which bear some vague resemblance to what actually transpired. I made a stab at trying to make them just a little humorous and, if in doing so, I have offended anyone, I would like to apologise .....I would like to, but you're all good sports, so I won't!!!

Chris Kean

#### **Meals Secretary Report**

My job this year has been virtually redundant due to the Government lockdown. We did get a little excited in August when restrictions were eased but to no avail and I did keep in contact with Tara at the St Leonards Hotel over this period of time but unfortunately the restrictions put on them virtually prevented our Club from meeting. So, we have not met at the St Leonards Hotel since February 2020. We hope, when in late June the Government restrictions are lifted according to Boris's Road Map we might well be able to meet in July 2021.

I did set up the Monthly Raffle, which has worked well and provided some additional funds to our Club. Thank you to all who contributed. It will be down to the Club if we wish to continue this Raffle.

To sum up, I was not furloughed and did not claim redundancy.

Let's all hope we can meet again soon, sitting around the Table and enjoying good food and fellowship.

David Phelps

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

Uhhmm, Uhhmm, CoVid-19, Uhhmm, Uhhmm, Uhhmm.

And I could not finish without saying a big thank you to Chairman Richard for steering our Club through a difficult year. Despite everything the year threw at us, Richard has had a great year. Hope you were able to enjoy it.

Thank you. To paraphrase Mr Kipling, "Our Chairman did exceedingly good".

I wish the incoming Chairman and his Council a successful and enjoyable year.

Gordon Knott

### **Explanatory notes for 2020/21 Income & Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet (which appear on the next page) and proposed Budget for 2021/22**

All figures in **green** are income or pre-payments, whilst those in **brown or black** are expenses, **except** the net surplus/**deficit** at the bottom of each column.

The left hand column in brown is last year's (2019/20) actual - for comparison purposes **only**.

The left boxed columns in black, shows the narrative across **all** columns and the actual income and expenditure for this past year **ending March 2021 (NB** Figs in green are income or pre-payments)

The next column in brown is the **budgeted** income and expenditure for the current year.

#### **Treasurer Comments**

Speaker Meals, Speaker Fees, Meals account, Social Events, were all virtually zero due to the Pandemic with little or no activity in these areas.

Ladies Night & Pre-payment: Mirimar was booked for Feb this year with a £150.00 deposit. This has not been used, so the £150 paid to and held by the Hotel, has been reversed as a pre-payment.

Website & Pre-payment: The original payment was for 3 years so spread over last year, this year and next year.

Directory: Posting many directories due to lockdown resulted in a higher cost than usual.

#### **2021/22 Proposed Budget (boxed column on right)**

Figures in **green** are income or pre-payments, whilst those in **brown** are expenses, **EXCEPT** the anticipated **deficit** at the very bottom of the Budget column,

A reduction in Subs is for **this year only** and I anticipate they will have to increase by at least the same amount for next year (2022/23) when hopefully, things are back to normal.

Speaker meals: Reduced slightly on last year's budget due to the pandemic but allowed for a probable increase in meal costs.

Speaker Fees: Reduced on last year's budget to take some account of the pandemic.

Assuming we are exactly on proposed budget, we will make a net loss of £584.00 for 2021/22.

By March 2022, The Club's net balance would be down to £1513.56 which I believe, is more than adequate for the Club.

#### **Balance Sheet as at 3<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Current Net balance at the bank after cheques and donations are paid is £2097.56, an increase in our net balance from last year of £597.96 mainly due to the pandemic.

I propose Subscriptions are reduced by £5.00 for the coming year to £37.00 discounted to £30.00 if paid by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

*Andrew Green* (Hon Treasurer)

**RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX-TABLERS CLUB**  
**Income & Expenditure Account & Balance Sheet for year to 3/03/2021**

Actual 2019/20 1860.00	Actual 2020/21	20120/21 Budget 2100.00	Proposed Budget 2021/22
	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Total Subscriptions (Income)	2135.00	1800.00 60 @ £30.00
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
884.50	Capitation	870.00	870.00 60 at £14.50
136.50	Speaker Meals - Club Meetings	0.00	100.00
407.00	Speaker Fees - Club Meetings	174.50	300.00
154.00	Meals Account	0.00	0.00
238.92	Social Events	-8.00	150.00
244.73	Ladies Night - Expense	150.00	300.00
	Ladies Pre-Payment	150.00	
25.00	Greyfriars Affiliation Fee	25.00	27.00
53.22	Chairman's Jewel	58.22	62.00
190.00	Chairman's Honararium	190.00	190.00
20.00	Secretary Expenses	0.00	10.00
10.00	Treasurer Expenses	0.00	10.00
20.00	Welfare Officer Expenses	0.00	10.00
0.00	Newsletter Expenses	0.00	0.00
0.00	Membership & Media Expenses	0.00	10.00
172.80	Website	114.00	57.00
114.00	Website Pre Payment	57.00	0.00
44.59	Directory	69.36	75.00
51.29	Welfare and Flowers	67.97	80.00
22.00	Poppy Wreath	22.00	23.00
85.65	Miscellaneous Exps	10.99	110.00
945.87	Xmas Card Donations Received this Year	996.00	
30.00	Xmas Card Costs	15.00	
100.00	Xmas Card Payments for Current Year	1100.00	
815.87	Xmas Card Money, not yet paid out		
	Raffle income less prizes	119.00	
	Raffle money not yet paid out		
307.00	Round Table set up & help		
200.00	Raffle income for Round table		
2445.20	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	1537.04	2384.00
-585.20	<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	597.96	-584.00

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	at 3/3/21	at 7/3/20
Balance at Bank	2630.56	3477.22
Cheque Paid not onStatement	-800.00	-2151.62
Website Pre Payment	57.00	114.00
Ladies Night pre Payment	150.00	
Cash Float	60.00	60.00
Total	2097.56	1499.60
Balance at 7/3/20 b/fwd	1499.60	2084.80
Surplus/Deficit 2020/21	597.96	-585.20
New Balance	2097.56	1499.60

**I Propose that Subscriptions for 2021/22 be £37.00 Discounted by £7.00 to £30.00 if paid by 30th June 2021**

**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 praticable to change:  
 "Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer"

Signed *Andrew G Green*  
 Andrew Green, Hon Treasurer

Date: 5th March 2021

I have examined the financial records of the Club and confirm that the above Income and Expenditure Account together with the Balance Sheet are in accordance therewith

Signed *Paul Thackray*  
 Paul Thackray, Appointed Examiner Date: 05/03/2021

### **Editor's Report**

Little did I know when I accepted the Editorship that I might be producing far more material than an Editor would normally distribute but hey, it's been fun and a privilege being your Editor again. I didn't expect to create 18 Cartier Chronicles but it has kept me busy during lockdown (which was a positive thing for me) and I hope it gave our readers something else to look at instead of the daily government briefings!

I have tried to ensure members of all Clubs have been kept in touch with events and even if you were not able to attend, you could read about what had happened. It was a pleasure to report on our new Round Table activities too.

Special thanks to the two Club Chairs, Caroline and Richard, for their regular and inventive Copy. I must not forget the regular contributions from other members, especially when we were hit by the first lockdown. That included photos, funny captions, Arthur's monthly smile, letters to the Editor and the monthly feature of non Ringwood Round Tablers' activities from their original clubs around the country. I must also add a thank you to my sub Editor (aka Ann) for her fine proof reading!

Two years ago saw the presentation for the first time of the Editor's Award. 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. But I am pleased to say that the winner of the Editor's Award 2020/21 is.....all will be revealed at the AGM!

Peter Lomax

### **Sports and Social Report**

There we were ready to go and along came lockdown - no gathering - some gathering and no gathering again. Improvisation came into its own and step forward Chairman Richard, Keith, Ian, Will, Gordon, Mike Edwards, Mike Fraser and of course Zoom.

We could not have BBQs, car treasure hunts, RECC sailing or firework night but we have had bike rides, classical concerts, film nights, quizzes, walks, Christmas and New Year celebrations and the Frogham weekend. Not forgetting the Dirty Dibber, The Pedal, Household Hints a virtual tour around London, What's Your Background and who can forget Would I Lie to You? Add to this some wonderful entertainment from Richard Blackiston and John Adams (see their report), Arthur's daily smile, some brilliant collaboration with Caroline and Tangent and lots of fun with the pods and it has been an extraordinary year.

I cannot take credit for any of the above, especially as so much relied on Richard and Caroline's input and technical skills. So, it is a big thank you to them and everyone involved and to all out there for your support. Let's look forward to something much closer to normality in the coming year.

Jeff Wickens

### **Membership and Media Report**

As for many Council positions the year of Covid has frustrated planned activities but also thrown up some new possibilities. In the field of Membership and Media it has been mainly frustration but insignificant compared to the work of our Meal Secretary, David!!!

Membership has been holding steady at around 60 paying members. The sad loss of our very own Jimmy Gordon...man of Ringwood and founder Tabler distressed us all. It was also sad to see Jim Stride leave the Club to head north after only just getting his feet under this table again. By way of some balance, we have seen the happy return of Jo Bonello from Somerset and Stephen Butterfield, who is paying his dues, but living in Axminster for the time being.

Tim Airey, our fresh new potential member has joined a couple of our Zoom meetings and hopefully when we start grouping in 6's he will have a chance to meet more of us in the flesh.

It has always concerned this incumbent that our details in external directories of clubs in the area are often out of date which can inhibit potential new members. This year I have updated our contact details in Viewpoint, Roundabout and at Greyfriars. Just like Harry and Meghan I sometimes find the Media troublesome but on the other hand quite enjoy mobilising it for no financial benefit!!

Our Chairman Richard and bride Susie, graced the Ringwood News after their epic 500 + 500 miles together to raise loads of cash for Dementia UK.

We obtained generous coverage of our Jimmy Gordon in New Forest papers, National Ex Tabler publications and with Fred Dinenege on ITV for last year's Burns Night, Jimmy's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and fond memories after he passed away.

Thanks go to John Adams for his sterling and stirring work on the bagpipes during the year. I just hope, in the future, we do not have an Honorary member who likes the harp!! I cannot close without congratulating Phil Hoyle and the members of Ringwood and Verwood Round Table for the amazing array of valuable local activities they initiated and for their well-earned press and social media coverage They have brought back so many strong memories for all of us who have been through Round Table.

Ian Stockdale

### **Lay Member / Health and Safety Report**

Well, this should not take long! I felt very privileged having only just joined Ringwood to be invited to join Council in such an important post at the same time as there was a national pandemic when a calling for someone with experience of risk assessment was needed. Ringwood members soon proved to be very inventive in trying to forge social gatherings and at every turn Boris did his best to stop Ringwood members from fulfilling their ambition.

I started off with a vision of drafting risk assessments both exotic and far-ranging when I heard about the range of social events that would open up. Despite this I have supported organisers of walks and cycle rides to keep everyone safe and as far as I am aware I have fulfilled my brief 100%.

Anyway, there is a sense we are climbing out of this hole and I am looking forward to events later this summer and catching up face to face.

Thanks everyone for their fellowship through Zoom meetings and the invention of creating lively meetings through a screen.

Steve Mursell

### **Speakers Secretary's Report**

What a start we had planned! Speakers lined up with slide shows, videos to go with their talks at the club meetings at St Leonards.

Then March came and we were told to stay at home and like good old soldiers we are, we did what we were told. So, a rethink was needed. Those with more techno than us had set up zoom meetings and local pods which formed how our club will go forward. Nobody thought that a year later we would still be zooming and podding.

We had two great speakers who said they would try to give their talk via zoom, one being a forensic Police officer and the other a travelling Parson. Both were received well by the members.

The next few meetings were 'in house' with two members giving 5 minute talks on a subject of their choice. Those members spoke on such diverse subjects as, "I was on Bargain Hunt", "I have written poetry", "I have Scuba dived", and many others for which we thank them all.

When John and I met up we came up and worked on our Talent Show Spectacular night. With Songs from Peter, drums and piano from Keith and Sue, Bob Monkhouse from John, Tommy Cooper from our illustrious Chairman Richard and singing guitarist Ian. All of which went down a storm and with our Vice Chairman calling in favours from Britain's Got Talent head judge Simon Cowell to award the winner Ian his Oscar.

All this led the way for John to come up with the idea of a live Santa in his grotto and Alf in his workshop both with their helpers Suzi as the fairy queen and Helen as Mrs Alf, with prezzies for everybody hand delivered by Santa and Alf, fresh snow, and jokes, ok some just a little silly, plus music! A big production was achieved and all of which was written produced and directed by John.

February came and with it the Club's Fellowship night and the award of Melvyn's Mug. The great debate....." Are Celebrities ruling the word?" For the motion was Colin Read and Derek Scott and against Richard Sheerin and Chris Treleaven with the judge, Ex Round Table's National Membership Officer, Steve James who Awarded (virtually) the Melvyn mug to the winning team of Richard Sheerin and Chris Treleaven.

We thank all those who took part in our games and talks and challenges throughout the year. With your support we had so much fun and laughter.

That's all Folks

Richard Blackiston (Alf ) and John Adams (Santa).

### **Welfare Report for 2020-21**

The death of Jimmy Gordon has been keenly felt by all members who valued Jimmy for his fantastic input to Round Table, 41 Club and the Ringwood community over many years. It was particularly satisfying that, with Jimmy reaching his centenary during the year, we were able to help him celebrate and enjoy it despite the lockdown. Everyone will have their own memories of him but I particularly enjoyed contact with him and chatting about his background and Round Table days, of which he had a phenomenal memory. My thanks go to those of you who were able to keep up a contact with Jimmy during the year, even if it had to be by phone or letter because of the lockdown. I believe that it would be good and appropriate if the club could name some event or trophy in his honour.

Thankfully none of our members have succumbed to the Corona Virus during the year. However Will Parke (and Julie) did contract it recently and Will spent a week in hospital - where he witnessed the fantastic and dedicated care provided by the medical staff. Julie was able to stay at home and, although both are still suffering from the after-effects, they are making progress.

Brian Pierson, who sadly lost his wife during this year, also contracted the virus and had to spend time in hospital.

He also is now home and suffering the after-effects - but making progress.

John Morgan has had several hospital visits and stays and is undergoing more chemotherapy prior to an operation. Despite that he is always a lively member of our pod zoom meetings. Hugh Edwards is continuing to make slow progress.

A few other members have continuing health problems but are managing them.

I myself underwent surgery last autumn and Vivien and I thank you all for your good wishes and support during that time. During my absence Mike Callaghan very kindly, and ably, took over the welfare role until I recovered; thank you for helping out Mike.

The welfare of the club as a whole has been affected by the two lockdowns and the inability to meet for meetings and social events. However this has been mitigated to a good extent by holding virtual meetings and events using 'Zoom'. Also, in particular, our Chairman's suggestion of setting-up local groups of members - pods - for Zoom get-togethers has worked well and has been enjoyed by those who have taken part.

David Hirst

### AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Guests
3. Notice of Meeting
4. Minutes of last AGM
5. Council Reports
6. Chairman's Report
7. Election of Chairman for 2021/22
8. Incoming Chairman's Remarks
9. Election of Officers for 2021/22
10. Any Other Business
11. Final Toast

### Nominations for Officers 2021/22

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder	Signature of Nominee
Chairman	Bob Merrett	Richard Carter	Chris Kean	
Vice Chairman	John Adams	Bob Merrett	Chris Kean	
Secretary	Chris Kean	Bob Merrett	Richard Carter	
Treasurer	Steve Mursell	Bob Merrett	Chris Kean	
Social	Mike Edwards	Bob Merrett	Chris Kean	
Meals Secretary	David Phelps	Bob Merrett	Chris Kean	
Membership/ Media	Brian Kinch	Bob Merrett	Chris Kean	
Speakers Secretary	Richard Blackiston/ John Harper	Bob Merrett	Chris Kean	
Editor	Peter Lomax	Bob Merrett	Chris Kean	
Welfare	Mike Callaghan	Bob Merrett	Chris Kean	
Webmaster	Gordon Knott	Bob Merrett	Chris Kean	
Immediate Past Chairman	Richard Carter			

**We hope to see you next Tuesday at 4.30pm.  
Join us if you can.**

**End of Year Report**  
Summary of Ringwood Ex- Table's  
Theatre and Concert visits for 2020/21

Arthur Robins  
Theatre and Concert Co-ordinator

And so, the end is nigh! Here are the AGM minutes and the conclusion of The Pandemic Year:

## **RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX TABLERS CLUB MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on 16 March 2021 at 4.30 pm on Zoom

### **1 Welcome and Introduction**

Chairman Richard opened the meeting.  
Purposes & Objects of 41 Club were read by John Adams.  
Richard then said grace.

### **Minute's Silence**

In memory of absent friends, and in particular Jimmie Gordon and Anne Pierson, together with those members who have suffered with their health during the year and continue to do so, there was a minute's silence whilst members reflected on their own memories and thoughts.

### **2 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Roger Bettle, Colin Williams and Stephen Butterfield. Thirty nine members attended the meeting.

### **3 Guests**

Bob Merrett introduced the guests who were Tim Airey and Jo Bonello.

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

Chris Kean read the formal notice for the AGM which had been circulated on 3 February 2021.

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

The last AGM took place on 15 May 2020. The minutes of the meeting had been circulated shortly after the meeting and again on 14 March 2021. There were no matters arising and the minutes were taken as read and were approved.

### **6 Business to Conclude for 2020/21**

**Christmas Card Donations** – “Thank you” letters had been received from both Ringwood Junior School and The Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery in respect of our donations from the money raised by the Club's Christmas Card.

**Round Table AGM** – The Chairman, David Phelps Richard Blackiston and Graham Hoyle attended the meeting. They have had a fantastic year. They also thanked Ex-Tablers for the £200.

**Jimmie Gordon** – A trophy is to be presented to Round Table for presentation to the “Tabler of the Year”; this will be the Jimmie Gordon Trophy. In addition it is proposed that a bench commemorating Jimmie and his founding of both RT and EX-T in Ringwood should be investigated through the Poulner Pod.

**National AGM** – This will be held on Saturday 24 April by Zoom. We need to appoint a voting delegate and this will be discussed at the first Council meeting of the new year on 6 April 2021.

## 7 Council Reports

All the Council reports had been circulated to Club members via the Cartier Special edition and were taken as read, other than by Derrick Lynas who wanted to give David Phelps a hard time by asking whether, as Meals' secretary again, he was going to be organising some catering for the Club; a bit below the belt really.

The Editor presented the Editor's Choice Award (formerly the Sports Trophy). He mentioned several prolific contributors but, in the end, awarded the trophy to Gordon Knott for whose sanity he was concerned but who had always made us laugh. Well done Gordon!

**Treasurer** – Andrew had nothing to add to the report, accounts and budget which had already been circulated. These were passed unanimously. The fees for the coming year were proposed at £37 reduced to £30 if paid by the end of June. These were also approved.

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

There was an unedifying sight of our National Councillor, Mr Dyson, frozen on screen with his left hand in the air presumably resulting from the shock of his brother-in-law having managed to persuade the Club to accept his accounts and budget.

## 9 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to add to the report which previously had been circulated.

Richard awarded the Chairman's Choice Award to be shared between Keith Anderson for all that he had done on Zoom with films, concerts etc and for the communication between us all to Arthur for both his much-welcomed Daily Smile and the huge amount of electronic distribution.

### Video of the Year

Whilst his back up technical boys worked behind the scenes, Jeff introduced members to the results of his and Gordon's work in bringing together a video of what incredible things members had been up to during a year of substantial lockdown and social distancing. He explained that the results were stored on his own personal memory stick; you can tell that Jeff is highly adept with technology



as he had cut his "memory stick" from one of the trees in his garden. Fortunately, Gordon had a back up copy; a highly professional production which was enjoyed thoroughly by all – well done guys!

## 10 Induction of New Chairman

Being the only nomination, Bob Merrett was elected chairman for the coming year. Outgoing Chairman Richard took off his chain of office and passed it through the screen whereupon Bob put on the chain – the wonders of technology!

## 11 Incoming Chairman's Remarks

Bob thanked Richard warmly for all he had done in working tirelessly to make the last 12 months a thoroughly enjoyable experience with lots of fellowship regardless of the constraints of the Covid environment. Bob presented Richard



with his Past Chairman's jewel across the screen and again it miraculously appeared in Hale Purlieu – quite remarkable!  
(For the avoidance of doubt "Poof" should not in any way be construed as referring to either Richard or Bob).

Having taken on the mantle of Joliot Jake from The Blues Brothers, Bob gave a potted history of how he came to join Ringwood 41 Club, with particular references to both Roger Bettle and Andrew Johnson and the parts they played in his joining the Club.

He hoped that we might get back to some form of normality with events like the Extravaganza and the New Year's Eve party; in the meantime, we will make the best of what we have, much as we have done over the last year. He congratulated James Marley on becoming Chairman of Table and looked forward to him joining us as an honorary member for the year.

Bob thought that he was probably the first chairman to be organising a Ladies Night in July for the outgoing chairman.

## 12 Election of New Council

Full details of the nominees, proposers and seconders had been circulated with the Notice of the Zoom AGM. John Adams 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 (with only a slightly smaller "POOF" although it might have been very different had the extension lead which was doubling for the chain of office been plugged in!). There were no contested positions so all of the nominees for the other Council positions were appointed. The position of Lay Member and Health and Safety Officer was not filled as there were no nominations and indeed no new members who would normally take on the role.

## 13 Any Other Business

It was proposed that, as in previous years, honorary membership be offered to the President of Bournemouth 5. This was agreed.

John Morgan on behalf of Gilly and himself thanked all those who had been in touch, for their kind thoughts.

Mike Fraser passed on best wishes from John Doughty.

Raffle – all bodes well for the new year as incoming chairman Bob won the much-coveted prize. I'm told as scribe that there is no truth in the rumour that it was not entirely above board – it was pure chance!

## 14 Date of Next Meeting

**Council** - Tuesday, 6 April at 4.30 on Zoom.

**Club** – Tuesday, 20 April at 4.30 on Zoom

## **OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S FAREWELL TO THE PANDEMIC YEAR**

That was the Pandemic Year. The problems had arisen at the end of the previous Club year and would continue into the following year but by March 2021 everyone hoped and believed that the lockdowns, privations, anxiety and self-isolation would not last much longer and the new Club year would revert to something more normal by the summer 2021.

Many aspects of ordinary daily life had changed, and only time will tell whether changes made to keep the Club active would continue or would modify the Club's future activities. For example:

- Would the PODs continue in any form and if so with what frequency?
- Would the Club Film and Concert nights continue via Zoom for all Club members, in the winter if not the summer?

What we had all missed, as for everyone in the country, was the personal contact and seeing each other face to face. Being able to renew those acquaintances with normal conversation in person and not through a screen would surely become the norm once again. Zoom was fine but spontaneity and personal chat very difficult if not impossible. To drop in to see a friend, to have a casual beer or meal out, eventually to be able to shake hands again will make a huge difference to our wellbeing and reinforce the friendships in the Club.

In a way, through the PODs, we have found out more about each other than perhaps we would otherwise have done and so those relationships will have been strengthened and make the renewed personal contact of greater value.

Above all, as Chairman for the year I must repeat my thanks to everyone in the Club for rallying round, contributing to all the stuff we undertook and for joining the events and meetings in such good numbers.

This year above all others we appreciated the value of Round Table and ex-Table and of our great Club.

Let's all hope this was a unique year!

Yours in Continued Friendship, and  
May the Hinges of Friendship Never Rust,

Richard