



Merrettable



Times



The summer is nearly over, in fact August has seemed more like Autumn than September. Following the July rebellion, we met again at the Three Tuns, Bransgore for the August meeting. This time we did play boules and followed this up with a splendid meal in the barn. An ideal occasional alternative venue for Club meetings methinks.

The third BBQ of the summer was hosted by Barbara and John Kennedy in their beautiful garden. The BBQs were used to the full, we played boules, croquet and 'dolimoos' (the Kennedy's dyslexic version of dominoes!). Two brave souls, Holly Scott and Jeff Wickens got into some Edwardian swimming togs and took the plunge in the pool. Lots more of photos of the intrepid pair were taken so I am sure some will emerge here in the MT. It was also good to see our prospective members Malcolm Lee and Tim Airey with their partners Angie and Julie.



It was especially good to see John & Gilly Morgan and we hope that John's on-going medical treatment is a great success. This also reminds me to send our best wishes to a number of Club members who are not currently in the best of health and, because of the last eighteen months of various restrictions, we have not been able to see or support in the way we would have liked. We are thinking of you all.

It makes sharing a meal with friends in a lovely setting such a perfect way to spend a late summer's day. Let's hope for many more in the future.

As we prepare for the last BBQ at Lindy & John Quint's on the 3 September we will enjoy the last of the summer events to get together before looking forward to a more normal Autumn.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all the BBQ hosts, Ian & Jenny Stockdale, Chris & Tricia Kean, John & Barbara Kennedy and John & Lindy Quint for letting us into your homes. I hope you all managed (manage) to enjoy the day as much as the guests.

Our first meeting at St Leonard's since the beginning of 2020 will be on the 21 September when some semblance of order will return. Look out for the details elsewhere in the MT.

Finally, when Council meets on the 7th at my house in Ringwood North, sometimes called Southampton, we will have details of the huge amount of work the Poulner Pod, under the leadership of John Kennedy, has put into creating the memorial to Jimmie Gordon. A plaque and a Table meeting place sign are being prepared and the Club will be presenting to Table the 'Tabler of the Year' award, also in Jimmie's name towards the end of the year. The voluntary £10 donation from members to help pay for these memorials is still being collected by Treasurer Steve if you haven't yet been able to make a contribution, and my thanks goes to all those who have.

That's all for now. See you at an event near you soon! And please see the invitation on page 3 for the event of the year!

Bob

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- Friday 3rd.....Impromptu BBQ chez Quint from 12.30pm onwards (see page 4)
- Tuesday 7th.....7 for 7.30 pm Club Council hosted by Chairman Bob
- Wednesday 8th.....7 for 7.30 pm Tangent Club Meeting at St Leonards Hotel
- Tuesday 21st.....7.30 pm Club Meeting at St Leonards Hotel with speaker (page 4)
- Thursday 30th.....Copy date for next edition of The Merrettable Times

OCTOBER

- Wednesday 6th.....Boules evening from 6pm with Christchurch 41 Club. 3 Tuns Bransgore (page 3)
- Monday 11th.....Club Concert on Zoom returns! Planet Suite and Scheherazade. More details next month.
- Saturday 16th.....Joint Chairmen's at Home. Ellingham Village Hall (page 3)
- Sunday 24th.....Car Treasure Hunt around the New Forest from 1.30pm



I hope every one has been enjoying the summer, or at least the few days of warm, dry weather we've had! We went to Cornwall back in June but I have just come back from a girls birthday trip to London. Well readers, it was almost worthy of the accolade, a 'Wickens Wander' we crammed so much in! Two days of sightseeing; up the Regents canal to Camden, British Museum, London Museum, National Gallery, Southbank, West End and a visit to the Sky Garden in Fenchurch Street. We even squeezed in an Environmental Health point of interest (and yes, there are interesting Environmental Health facts!) with a look at the last remaining sewer gas destructor lamp. Designed by Joseph Webb to burn off sewer gas from Bazalgette's new sewer system, it is still performing that function today! – Did you know that Bob?!!

(Here is a photo of that exact lamp which is located just off The Strand in Carting Lane, referred to locally as Farting Lane! Ed)

Has anyone else come across anything even more exciting on their holidays this year?

August is a quiet month for Tangent but we are finally back at St Leonards on September 8th with more events to follow including (hopefully) our joint Chairman's At Home in October.

YICF

Caroline



Ex Table Social Events to ink into your Diaries

Early Autumn Car Treasure Hunt in the New Forest

Sunday 24th October at 1.30pm.

Get a few friends together, fill up a car and join in brain teasing fun in our lovely park.

Animal Race Night and Supper

Saturday 13th November 7.00pm till late

The biggest event to hit Ibsley Village in years.

Ex Table and Tangent members welcome for the racing of horses, rats, ducks, and snails.

More details to follow.

No need to book in yet but if you want to talk please give Ian a Call!!!

MEMORIES OF
THE WYNGATE
OLYMPICS 2008



Caroline & Bob invite you to their joint

'At Home'



The Village Hall Olympics



16 October 2021



Ellingham Church Hall

Please join us for an afternoon of light hearted fun and games as we compete in the Village Hall Olympics. Nothing too strenuous or ~~embarrassing~~ needing any skill.

Approximate Timetable

12.30 Arrivals

Welcome Drink

Fish & Chip Lunch

Mandatory Drug Testing

The Games

The Medal Ceremony

17.00 carriages

Cost approx £12-15pp



AN INVITATION FROM CHRISTCHURCH 41 CLUB

Boules evening **WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER**

This popular evening is again being held at the Three Tuns, Bransgore commencing at 6pm. The format will be the same as in previous years; it ain't broke so we won't fix it! Please make every effort to arrive ready to play at 6pm - I will ask for the bar to be manned/ladied from 5.45.

We have a good choice of menu this year but regrettably, in line with most other costs these days, it is not possible to hold this one to last year's price. On top of the cost of the meal we have the prizes, and you've no idea what's happened to the price of wine gums! I therefore propose to increase the price to £25 which does include a small profit for our funds. It is to be hoped that this price can then be held for a few years, albeit with a gradually reducing menu choice until the next step change. If you have a set of boules could you please bring them?



John Spinks (Christchurch 41 Club)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE SPEAK TO MIKE EDWARDS (BY TUESDAY 21ST SEPT)

who will advise menu options and payment details

FROM THE MEAL SHACK

At last after about 18 months we are back at the St Leonards Hotel for our September Meeting on Tuesday 21st September. A speaker has been booked.

I will be announcing full details within the next couple of weeks and I am drawing up a Permanent Diners list which I will publish at the same time.

Same rules as before.....

apologies or bookings, to be with me by 8pm on the Sunday before the meeting.



David Phelps
Meals Monitor



Just as you thought summer was over we have yet another Impromptu BBQ, this time at the Quints.

23 Compton Avenue Poole BH14 8PT 01202 709709
j_quint@btconnect.com 12:30 pm

Usual rules applybring all you need to eat and drink as well as the plates, glasses and cutlery to eat and drink with!! Also, aprons, cooking gloves and utensils, but if you forget any I do have spares.

I will provide BBQ's, gas as well as a charcoal one for the purists. Also there are tables and chairs, but bring a spare chair just in case it's needed, but check in first to save unnecessary effort in carrying one.

The swimming pool is heated to about 25C and anyone brave enough may want to splash around a bit. Changing room right by.

A couple of gazebos will be erected..... just in case the sun is too hot !! I hope the weather is as good as the previous ones and you have a good fun time.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Best regards
John and Lindy

P.S. Please be kind enough just to ping a reply to me if joining in the fun (unless you have already told me), just so we get some idea of numbers.

JIMMIE GORDON

John Kennedy writes.....

The Poulner Pod has obtained permission from Sainsburys to place the Jimmie Gordon Commemorative Plaque on one of the low walls encompassing the existing benches outside the store. The visibility of this to the walkway is first class. Sainsburys have said it is not necessary for our Clubs to carry out any work on the benches themselves.

At the last Club meeting it was also discussed that the balance of the funds raised could be put toward a plaque outside the London Tavern signifying it as the Round Table meeting venue, and this will also set out Jimmie Gordon as founder chairman in 1959. We have the design proof of this, which is largely approved by Round Table & the London Tavern, but we will now formalise this and put the photo of the sign in the next Merretttable Times. Round Table will also be contributing.

If you have not forwarded £10 toward the costs and would like to do so please would you kindly submit this before the next Club meeting which will be the cut-off point. We are currently short of estimated final costs so this would be appreciated. Thank you.

Steve Mursell by cheque or transfer -
Ringwood Ex-Tablers Club

Sort Code - 543045

Account Number - 14033003

marking the payment with your name.

In Memory of Jimmie Gordon 1920 -2020



Founder of Ringwood Round Table
and Ex-Table Clubs.
Awarded Flame of Hope by
Cancer Research UK
for a lifetime of fundraising



STOP PRESS !!!!!

After a good few years of walkabouts, Tangent cutlery has found it's way home!

It has been returned by a not to be named and shamed Ex Table Chairman who has found it while clearing out his garage (must have borrowed it for his at home !!)

There are place settings for 78 people .



Please call Jenny if you would like to book it for an event. 01425 838826

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING these past few weeks?

Lashings at Burridge 20 August

Members plus two guests attended the Lashings Cricket at Burridge. The day was thoroughly enjoyed with an excellent meal and entertainment together with an opportunity to meet celebrity players whilst at the same time contributing to the Lashings charity work. Also, we were able to use the services of Poulner Scouts for the transport and contributed £170 to scout funds to assist them in their valuable work for the community. Howzat!! John Kennedy



John and Martin with retired BBC cricket commentator Henry Blofeld (affectionately known as Blowers)

BBQ at the Kennedys 22 August



Captions to the Editor please!



Chairman Bob, Richard Carter, John Quint and I recently had the pleasure to play in a charity golf day event at Dudsbury GC in aid of RT Children's Wish. Our own table was represented with two teams along with two teams from New Milton RT and another from Yeovil RT as well as many other local businesses. 24 teams of four in total. It was a great day out with a wine raffle, silent auction and other raffles. Shame that our golf didn't come up to scratch!!



Richard received the following letter after the event.

Dear Richard,

On behalf of everyone at Round Table Children's Wish we would like to express our deepest appreciation of your support at our annual charity golf day event last Friday.

Thank you so much to you and everybody in Team Ringwood & District Ex Tablers Club for attending our event and raising funds on the day, you all helped make the day a huge success!

We are delighted we had the highest turnout in recent years, and we managed to raise an incredible £8,979.04!!

It is support like yours that allow us to continue with the work we do and help make wishes come true for children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses. The funds raised from the entire day will help enrich the lives of many sick and vulnerable children across the UK and for that we are truly thankful for your support.

We thought you might be interested to hear about some of the wishes we have coming up this year, so you can see the types of wish requests and how your funds help:

Jasmine, age 12 years old, suffers from a rare and aggressive childhood cancer called Neuroblastoma. Jasmine would love to visit Disneyland Paris and spend quality time with her immediate family to escape into a real-life fairy tale with Disney Princes & Princesses Lunch and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

Joshua, aged 6 was also referred to us by a Hospice from our Hospice Wish Scheme. His entire life he's lived with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and frequently visits the hospital for medical treatment. Joshua would love a computer to help him complete his schoolwork and even watch his favourite superhero cartoons when he's at hospital.

You can really see how your support is making a huge difference to many young children.

The charity golf day is a fantastic event, thank you for contributing funds to our wish mission.

Kind regards

Clare Kyrillou
Fundraising Officer

DID YOU KNOW that whilst garden waste collections have been curtailed in the Ringwood area our Round Table have been collecting garden waste from local residents homes for a small fee that goes to charity. What a great initiative!
Well done Round Table.

Another Blast from the Past (June 2000)

Chairman John Warne's content for the June magazine..... 'FROM THE STUDY'

'Chairman absent from impromptu BBQ.' This makes a bad headline in the wake of the first event organised by Colin. I am reliably informed that those present had an excellent time, especially Ann who said that she was very well looked after. I could get no further details from her, apart from a mysterious reference to consuming port at the close of play. Sounds OK to me. Many thanks Colin and Mandy for organising such a good evening.

I was representing the club in the Round the Island Race, accompanying skipper John Harper, galley slave Jeff Wickens and navigator Lynn (Kay's sister) who was a decorative substitute for Dick Sheerin (absent without leave in The Algarve). Closely challenged by Barnacle Bill Parke and First Mate Julie in their boat we tackled the elements and boldly sailed where 1600 others had sailed about half an hour previously. I shall simply report that the result was better than my contribution to the China Skittle last year but that we shall not feature in this year's Speech Day or appear on the Honour Boards in the school hall.

Salisbury Council clearly have talented staff and our last speaker met a crisis very well, entertaining and informing us on information technology. We should know our nets from our webs and our bits from our bytes. I do think the good citizens of Salisbury could run to a spare OHP bulb, though.

Next on the agenda is The Brewery and it's Gerald's turn to drive! Is there no limit to his generosity? Don't forget it's at 6.30 at the brewery and afterwards at The Bull. No business this month! See you there.

Good news to report about Hon Member Neil. He's on the road to recovery after a major operation and the outlook is very encouraging. I've sent our best wishes to him, Theresa and the family.

Now it's off to watch the football (Monday night!) and having watched it decide that the school team need more homework. They'll certainly have to improve before playing St German's at the weekend.

John

BACK TO THE PLOT from THE DIRTY DIBBER (aka Mike E)

So how was it for you then?

Apologies for the delay, but honestly this really has been down to the weather, and the need for constant vigilance and corrective action on the plot. In other words doing rather than telling!! We've been saying it for the past few years, but has this been the most difficult gardening season ever? Over the past 5 months we've had cold, wind, rain, hot sun in different sequences, and it's made for a very tricky season for us veg growers – and flower fans too. In terms of global warming by the way, have any of you collected blackberries in early August, or conkers in September, 'cos that's what's happening now. When I was a nipper it was September earliest for blackberries and October at least for conker hunting.

Mind you, this year there are very few blackberries, those there are, have very small fruits. And that is my theme for this catch up- it's been a very difficult year, but we can learn a lot from it, mainly what grows and what doesn't. Which may come in useful if the experts are to be believed and that these weather pattern changes are here to stay. So what has grown this year and what hasn't, and why? I can only report from the Dibber Estate (*I should add that the photo below is not the Dibber's Estate! Ed*), but there is plenty of anecdotal evidence from many sources to confirm what follows.

To my surprise this year here at Dibber Towers we have grown 15 different crops in our 4 fence panel x 4 fence panel plot (this is a useful veg growing linear measuring system by the way!!). The best by far have been the beans, and again I cannot recommend highly enough climbing French beans, Hunter from Suttons. Just fantastic growth and we have yet to experience a stringy pod, even with some far longer than you'd expect for a runner bean, where good old Scarlet Emperor has produced well. 15 canes of French and 12 Emperor and as usual we are giving them away to friends and neighbours. My experimental crop (1) this season has been climbing mange tout which I had never heard of.

Given that you need sticks for the 'ordinary' mange tout varieties (I strongly recommend Oregon Sugar Snap from Suttons) then you might as well get bigger sticks (or string between bean poles) and grow the climbing variety. The problem with them is they won't just grow up a wigwam like beans will, they are a bit straggly and fussy. But as with the climbing French beans, so these climbing mange tout don't become inedible as soon as they get a bit lengthier than you'd wish (or put another way, from the Dibber Towers kitchen, "I'm not using that one it'll be stringy"). Mange tout peas are devils to get right, because it's all or nothing, and even succession sowing doesn't always work with them. But they do taste good.

Rhubarb did OK this year, there is a theory that you shouldn't use it after July, just pull the stalks and compost them, but they taste OK to me!!

Spuds did well, Charlotte in bags and pots taken after 14 weeks, and lettuce, All Year Round, have been a triumph, they've loved the conditions, as have courgettes.

The lesson is just 2 plants for two people, but don't you just love the way they grow, and if you do have too many they freeze well and make great soup (with peas). Squashes too are looking good, new variety Butterbush from Suttons (no, I am not an influencer for them!!) started in pots but as usual roam where they feel like!!

Now the failures! Carrots because I didn't thin them hard and soon enough, and wrong variety. I grew Early Nantes but if you are going to then go got the big ones and sow James' Scarlet Intermediate. Beetroot too promised much but delivered disappointingly, again trying to cram too much into a small plot. We tried coloured ones this year, interesting but won't bother next year!!

Parsnips are a real challenge, difficult to germinate and need really deeply dug fine soil. For taste you can't beat them straight from the ground, but sown in March and not dug until the first frosts, they occupy the ground for an awfully long time. They do freeze well tough, and make lovely soup!!

In the greenhouse the tomatoes have done well, although some report difficulty getting them to turn this year. Frankly you can't go wrong with Alicante for the big ones, and Gardeners Delight for the minis. Cucumbers promised much, but in the end the conditions failed them, too much humidity, plus me planting four in the space for only two!

One final tip – we have had a chilli plant in a pot in the greenhouse, Apache which the Lady Dibber bought from Waitrose. Fantastic value, we don't use them, but if you do, what a plant for next year!! Enjoy the rest of the season, and lets hope for the usual Indian Summer to mid October. (*Thank you Mike for that great update from Dibber Towers. Ed*)



A guy walks into the psychiatrist wearing only clingfilm for shorts. The shrink says, "Well, I can see clearly you're nuts."

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any!

Our ice cream man was found lying dead on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. The police say that he topped himself.

I'm really getting into the cooking habit now. Today I made a gluten free rum and raisin cake. It's also free of raisins and free of cake Ok so it's just rum. Very nice though!

Kind regards

Arthur

**NEXT
COPY
DATE**

**30th
SEPT**