



Welcome to the Maple Cross Fellowship Newsletter

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First let me say that I hope you are all well and managing to keep safe and sane in these difficult times.

What a start to 2020, a year to remember or perhaps one to forget.

We started with Storm Brendan in mid January, followed by Storm Ciara at the beginning of February, Storm Dennis in mid February and Storm Jorge at the end of February.

There was major flooding with an average of 8 inches of rain falling across the UK in February, a new record.

I remember seeing many the flood barriers on the news, some being overtopped but holding the majority of the water at bay.

Even as the weather was battering the UK, a storm of another kind surfaced, though this one was silent. Covid-19 as it is called was first identified in the UK in January 2020 and cases slowly rose through February until there were 36 confirmed cases by the beginning of March. From then on there was a rapid increase in cases causing the government to declare a lockdown on 23rd March.

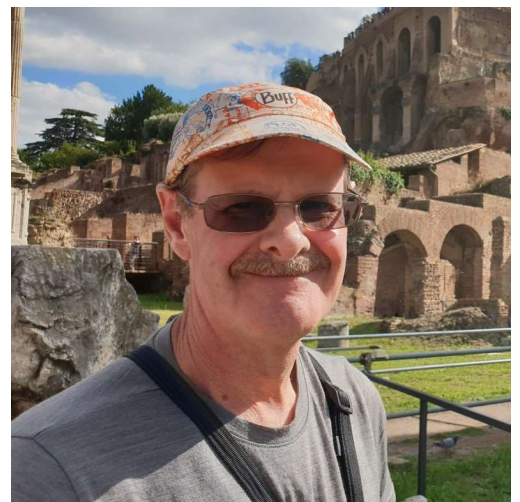
People generally seemed to accept the lockdown, and the "clapping for carers" commenced, to show respect for all those putting themselves in harms way.

Captain Tom Moore walked a hundred lengths of his garden to raise £1000 for the NHS and ended up raising £33 million, and getting a knighthood for his efforts.

The weather in May was the sunniest on record in the UK a complete contrast to February. So for those on lockdown who were allowed out, at least the walking was good. Hopefully those advised to stay at home still managed to enjoy it.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 there has only been one Fellowship event so far this year, the Valentines day lunch. So apart from that, as is happening a lot on TV, I've included repeats from times past.

Jeff Taylor



Me in Rome last year

Organiser's Report

Dear Fellowship Members,

Welcome to our latest edition of Maple Cross Fellowship Matters newsletter. What an unusual year it has been so far, as Jeff has already mentioned 'How our lives have changed'. As most of our members are more mature and over 70 years of age, they are all having to find themselves classified by the Government as vulnerable to Covid 19, some I'm sure are even classified as 'Shielded' due to their current medical situation. I found myself in that situation having received a letter from the NHS advising me to 'shield' myself. I queried this with my local surgery who advised me that it was due to my bowel cancer problem 7 years ago, but I protested that this has all been cleared and I had been given a clean bill of health. They said they would get a doctor to speak with me! Then on Easter Sunday evening I felt a little under the weather, well that turned out to be a minor heart attack after I was blue lighted into Royal Berks Hospital. I'm pleased to say that they found the issue quickly and I had a stent fitted on the Monday and discharged on Tuesday. I'm now back to my normal self and back playing golf and going for long walks. Well done our NHS. As you can all now guess the doctor told me to take the NHS advice and semi shield but not to fully shield.

"Kier continues to rebuild itself along with a number of Nightingale hospitals"

Enough about me and back to the Fellowship, as you are all aware I had to cancel the St Georges Day Luncheon and I am not sure when the next event will be held, as I like you all are in the hands of Boris and his Government. On a sad note the past long serving Chairman and founder of the Fellowship Group, Dick Side passed away in early May. A memorial service will be held to celebrate his life at some point when this Covid 19 lockdown ends and social distancing is eased.

Kier continues to rebuild itself along with a number of Nightingale hospitals, however there have been another round of changes that have resulted in a number of redundancies that are going to increase our membership. Closely to our area, the office in Reading that was previously in Newbury has been closed.

I hope that you are all finding hobbies to do during these difficult times and that you all remain in good health. Please stay safe and listen to the advice, no matter how hard it is and we will all be able to meet up again soon.

Norman Elliott

Sayings from Duncan

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines

Just remember -- if the world didn't suck, we would all fall off.

Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

OK, so what's the speed of dark?

D Mort

Valentines Luncheon

On a fine Thursday between the end of storm Ciara and before storm Dennis arrived, we met at Biggles again which has become home to our Valentines day Luncheon.



After the Lunch Norman gave his after dinner round up though at Biggles he has to give it twice due to the chimney which divides the room. Still that only occurs because it's so popular.

We were joined by our newest member (at the time) Dave Patterson & his wife Barbara. Technically Dave was not a member at the time as he still had 6 days left to work, however it was good to see him and learn the about latest goings on at Maple Cross.



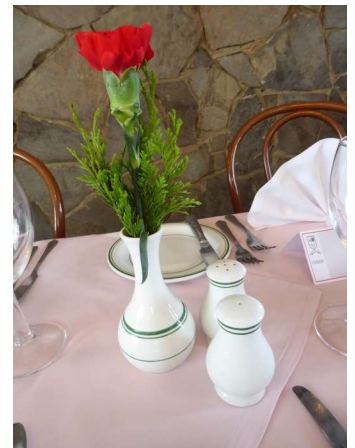
We had 33 members attending which is a good number and it was great to catch up after the Christmas break.



He advised that as well as the future events listed at the back, he is also trying to organise another Thames cruise. Hopefully the funds will stretch that far.



At the end of the meal we all said our goodbyes though some lingered longer enjoying a chat.



"We were joined by our newest member Dave Patterson & his wife Barbara."

St Georges Day Luncheon 2019

We returned to the Belvedere Ristorante Italiano in St Albans for our St Georges day meal on Thursday 25th April.

We had 31 people attending including Kevin Byrne and his wife Pauline, whose visit was the first to the fellowship since his retirement.



It was a lovely sunny day so we sat in the conservatory chatting over drinks before the meal.

Norman told of the plan to organise a trip for the fellowship to visit Brooklands where members will be able to view Concord.

After a nice meal the members made their way home in the evening sunshine.

“Arthur Bishop surprised many by announcing that at 90 years old he’d decided to take part in a skydive ”



Arthur Bishop surprised many by announcing that at 90 years old he’d decided to take part in a skydive in June. It goes to show that you are never too old to try something new.



Windsor Horse Racing 2018

On a lovely warm afternoon in June, the fellowship members met at the Windsor racecourse, there were 16 attendees.



After meeting Norman outside the Club entrance to be given our entry tickets, drink & meal vouchers & a small sum of spending money, we all made our way to the Club Paddock. Despite the lack of tables (all had been taken) we took charge of five benches and formed a defensive circle.



Eagle eyed Duncan spotted a table becoming empty and managed to claim a part share with another group. We settled down with drinks and placed our bets, some betting on individual races & others using the tote.

After watching the first couple of races people started to get some food. There was a good selection with Fish & Chips, Curry, Burgers, Sausages and more.



Wandering round we had access to the parade ring, winners enclosure, and the finish line, all giving great views of the horses and riders.



At the end of a satisfying evening, winners were thin on the ground, but that wasn't the point. We had lots of time to chat, with moments of excitement watching the horses charging to the finish line, and we all went home happy.



"Eagle eyed Duncan spotted a table becoming empty and managed to claim a part share with another group"



Pneumonia? Heart pacemaker? Time for daredevil Arthur, 90, to tackle a skydive

90-year-old Arthur Bishop from Felixstowe celebrates his birthday by doing an indoor skydive

A 90-year-old from Felixstowe has hit new heights to raise money for charity, despite recently being hospitalised with Pneumonia and having a pacemaker fitted.

Arthur Bishop has always been admired by his family for his “adventurous streak”.

So to celebrate his birthday, the great-grandfather leaped into action and did an indoor skydive to raise money for the nurses who cared for his late wife.

The retired carpenter and building manager originally wanted to try wing walking but was refused permission by his local aerodrome because he is slightly too heavy.

Instead, he travelled 100 miles to the base of Britain’s biggest indoor skydiving facility, Twinwoods Adventure, where he skydived to raise money for Macmillan and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Mr Bishop who lost his wife eight years ago, said: “I’ve had an eventful life, a lot longer than I thought I was going to achieve, so I wanted to put a little bit back into society.

“When my partner died eight years ago, she had a lot of help from the Macmillan nurses and I’ve seen on TV what great work the air ambulances do.”

Mr Bishop braved 120mph wind speeds during his 2-minute flight despite having a pacemaker fitted in July and

being hospitalised with pneumonia in September.

But his medical woes didn’t stop him showing the younger generation, including his 10 great-grandchildren and nine grandchildren, a trick or two.

Mr Bishop, who describes himself as “reasonably fit”, stays trim by waking one mile along the beach near his home, which he’s done at 7.30am every day for the past 20 years.

He has also scaled Sydney’s Harbour Bridge, climbed Uluru, scuba dived off the Great Barrier Reef, and also went hang-gliding in his ‘younger’ days - aged 75.

Speaking of the skydive, Mr Bishop said: “I can’t say I was

nervous, but it was totally different.

“My actual birthday was a few months ago but this was my belated present. It kept being put off because of my pacemaker and pneumonia but afterwards, I felt chuffed that I’d done it.”

To donate, visit
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/arthurbishopairambulance

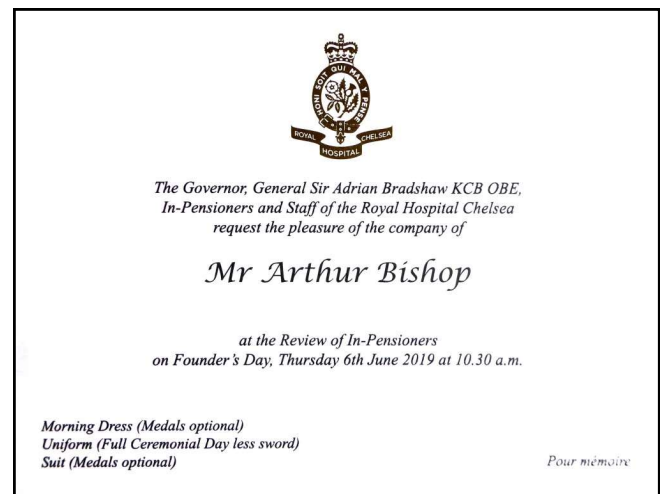
and
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/arthurbishopmacmillan

Article by:-
SOPHIE BARNETT
Sophie.barnet@archant.co.uk

Arthur Bishop at the Royal Hospital Chelsea

Not content with Skydiving, Scuba diving, and climbing Uluru etc. Arthur also found time to attend the Chelsea Hospital Founders day parade in June last year. His grandson is Music Director at the Royal Hospital Chelsea hence the ticket. It looks like a great day out with HRH The Duke of Sussex KCVO the Reviewing Officer

The occasion is a celebration of King Charles II who gave the order for the Royal Hospital to be built in 1681 **“for the relief of such Land Souldiers as are, or shall be old, lame or infirme in the Service of the Crowne”**. Work started on the 66 acre site in 1682 which the King purchased for the project. The architect, Sir Christopher Wren, modelled it on the Hotel des Invalides in Paris. It took 10 years to complete and though he died in 1685 Charles II would have seen the Figure Court, where the parade is held today. His Brother King James II continued the work and approved the scarlet coat which is still in use. The Royal Hospital was finally opened in 1692 during the reign of William and Mary.



Note the soldiers standing on the roof. They remain there through the whole parade

Games & puzzles

Sudoku

		2	8		9	7		
		3	4		7	6		
7	6		5		3		4	9
1	3	9				4	7	2
5	2	4				9	8	6
6	4		9		2		5	1
		5	1		8	2		
		1	7		6	3		

Easy

			1			7		9
						8		
	1	7		9	5	6		
				8		9		
	8		7		1		6	
		5		2				
		1	6	5		4	9	
		3						
5		2			4			

Hard

Wordsearch

B	G	Q	N	O	D	W	O	N	S
E	O	X	E	M	S	C	O	R	D
N	D	K	M	D	C	A	S	L	W
L	N	U	O	N	A	I	I	L	L
A	Y	C	U	O	F	R	V	E	N
W	L	R	N	M	E	N	E	F	W
E	L	I	T	O	L	G	N	A	A
R	E	B	K	L	L	O	N	C	D
S	V	G	E	N	P	R	E	S	D
K	L	O	E	E	I	M	B	A	I
A	E	C	N	B	K	X	L	M	K
C	H	H	B	U	E	T	J	X	S

Which of these British Isles mountains is not in the grid?

- Ben Nevis
- Cairn Gorm
- Ben Lawers
- Snowdon
- Carrauntoohil
- Scafell Pike
- Ben Lomond
- Scafell
- Helvellyn
- Mount Keen
- Skiddaw
- Crib Goch

Also which is not in the UK? Answers on the back page.

1970 - 50 Years ago:-

July – The last issue of Grog in the Royal Navy was distributed.

August – Bobby Moore was cleared of stealing a bracelet while on World Cup duty in Columbia.

September - The first Glastonbury Festival was held as the Worthy Farm Festival. T-Rex headlined and about 1500 people attended

October - BP discovered the Forties oil field in the North Sea.

November - The ten shilling note ceased to become legal tender.

December - Paul McCartney filed a lawsuit against the other members of The Beatles , effectively ending the band.

Wordsearch - The words can be found forwards, backwards and on both diagonals and in either direction.

Kier Fellowship

Contacts :-

Norman Elliott
41 Kidmore End
Emmer Green
Reading RG4 8SN
Phone: 01189 472875
Mobile: 07860 342365
E-mail: normane Elliott2@gmail.com

Note the two e's

Find us on 

[Kier Fellow Ship](#) - The main profile

[K.F. Maple Cross](#) - Group members only

If you wish to be added to the closed group, send your Facebook e-mail address or details, to:-

kfmaplecross@virginmedia.com



This magazine serves the Kier Fellowship members from the Maple Cross area. It is provided by members for members.

Please send any contributions you may have, such as anecdotes from your working life, photos, recent events, holidays etc. which may interest others, to Jeff Taylor, at :-

kfmaplecross@virginmedia.com

Please provide feedback on the newsletter, good and bad, so it can be improved. If there is anything you wish to see added, please send requests to the above e-mail address.

Also if you have any suggestions for other events please contact Norman Elliott.

Also Kier now have a dedicated Fellowship website go to :-

www.fellowship.kier.co.uk

Obituaries

Jim Fell died March 2020

Ron Boughton died March 2020

Dick Side died May 2020

New Members this year

Dave Patterson, Lynne Miller, Phil Platt

Luke Baxter, Christopher Kingsnorth

Graham Winnett, Richard Banks

Wordsearch

Carrauntoohil is not in the grid (it's too long).
It is also not in the UK as it is in County Kerry in Ireland.
It is 1,039 metres (3,407 ft) high, the highest point on the island of Ireland.

Forthcoming Events 2020