



KIER GROUP
FELLOWSHIP TRUST

Welcome to the Maple Cross Fellowship Newsletter

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Well what a 2 years its been, it seems like longer, though I can't remember what happened in that time, probably because nothing much did. I do remember the weather in 2020 was really good but as nothing was open we couldn't do much. In 2021 more was open but the weather wasn't as good, c'est la vie.

Sorry I didn't produce any Newsletters last year but with no events taking place there wasn't much to write about. I must thank Arthur Bishop for his article, which he sent last year. It finally appears in this edition. He certainly gets about!

We managed to get away in July last year, just a week in the Cotswolds as we didn't want to go through all the possible travel restrictions for flying. It was nice to be somewhere different and although the weather wasn't the best we managed to get in some lovely country walks, as well as a few cream teas ☺.

Later we also travelled into London to see a play. It was the third in the Hilary Mantel Cromwell series. We'd seen the first two so couldn't miss it. I realised, it was the first time I'd been in the capital for over two years. It did seem that life was getting somewhat back to normal.

Norman has set out a full calendar of events for the coming year, and I hope that lots of you will come so that we can all have a good chat and renew the spirit that keeps the Fellowship working.

Hopefully the pandemic may soon be behind us and we can look forward, getting on with a less restricted life and having more fun. I hope you too are feeling more positive for the forthcoming year.

Jeff Taylor



In the Cotswolds 2021

Organiser's Report

Dear Fellowship Members,

Welcome back to our Spring edition of our Maple Cross Newsletter. Well it looks like we are finally getting back to some sense of normality, with all Government restrictions for Covid finally removed we are all venturing out and getting used to living with the threat of Covid. I hope that everyone is well and that no one has suffered too much over the last couple of years.

It was great to see such a good turnout at our Christmas event at Shendish Manor back in December last year, our usual venue served up a good Christmas lunch even though we were in a different room from our usual location. Also a good number of Members attended our follow up Valentines Luncheon at St Villa Bar and Restaurant in St Albans where once again the food was excellent value for money. I am currently organising our next luncheon for St Georges Day and invites will be coming out with this newsletter.

I know that a number of our members have started to book holidays again as I get a number of apologies for not being able to attend our events. Sue and I have decided to make up for all our lost couple of years and have booked breaks in Menorca, Seville and Barbados later in the year. I hope that you all have been able to look at similar holidays or venues in the UK. I am also off to Spain golfing for a few days at the end of March with some colleagues.

I must express my thanks once again to Jeff for all his fantastic work that he puts in producing this newsletter and to all that contribute to it. Please keep all your stories and any matters that you want to be included coming over to myself or Jeff at kfmaplecross@virginmedia.com. If you know of any Kier employees that have retired or left recently please encourage them to join the Fellowship or get in touch with me, so I can convince them to join. The more members I get the better funding I can request from the Trustees. I'm pleased to confirm that I have negotiated the same for this coming year as last year which is very good as the Fellowship is still not receiving any additional funding from Kier Group whilst they are still going through difficult times.

Looking forward to catching up with as many members and their partners as possible at our forthcoming events throughout the year.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Norman Elliott

Sayings from Duncan

Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

D Mort

"The more members I get the better funding I can request from the Trustees"

Christmas Luncheon

On a lovely sunny Thursday on 9th December 2021, 49 Fellowship members gathered at Shendish Manor for our first Christmas meeting since 2019.



After the meal Neil Meixner advised us that the Fellowship now had a total of 1350 members over 12 regions, and jointly held about 100 meetings every year.

Due to covid restrictions the drinks were brought to the room which did lead to some delays. Still I think everyone got their drink in the end.



Norman noted that this was the first visit by James Armitage (though I thought he'd been before) and that Richard Banks had recently joined.

“Neil Meixner advised the gathering that the Fellowship now had a total of 1350 members over 12 regions, and jointly held about 100 meetings every year.”

The meal was good and everyone had a nice chat with people on their own table.



Members then had time to chat to others on different tables before heading home.

Valentines Day

On a lovely sunny Thursday sandwiched between storm Dudley and storm Eunice, we met up in St Villa Restaurant in St Albans.



It was the same with the coffee, and we then noticed that the small number of kitchen staff had left and only the manager remained.



Perhaps this was a sign of cost saving and / or staff shortages.

So a good get together with perhaps an indication of the effect of Covid on small businesses.

“a lovely sunny Thursday sandwiched between storm Dudley and storm Eunice”

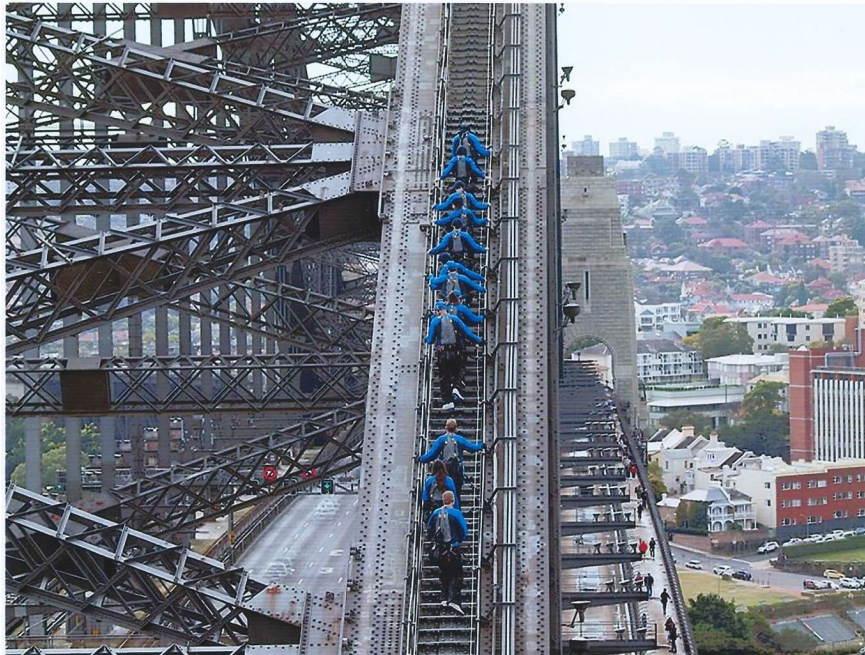
With 27 members attending it was a good turnout, and a chance to catch up with each other.



The starter and main course were much enjoyed, but we wondered why there was a long delay following these with the dessert. Still when the chocolate brownie arrived it was nice & warm which made up for the delay.



Arthur Bishop - Sydney Harbour Bridge



Up the staircase

Not content with his skydiving exploits Arthur sent some pictures of his earlier climb of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. This is no walk in the park, it takes 3 hours, and after walking under the roadway you have to climb 4 ladders before completing the walk up the long staircase, a total of 1332 steps to negotiate. Then of course you have to walk back again! Still once at the top you have magnificent 360° views including one of the iconic Sydney Opera House.



Sydney Opera House

Continued over



At the top

Arthur also sent some fascinating facts about the bridge.

Tenders for the bridge were requested in 1923 and the design submitted by Dorman Long of Middlesborough was accepted. Construction began in 1924 concentrating initially on the bridge approaches. 800 families were moved without compensation and 500 houses destroyed.

The 39 feet deep foundations for the bridge were constructed together with anchoring tunnels 118 feet long set into the local sandstone. The four pylons, which are mainly for aesthetics, are 300 feet high above sea level and constructed from concrete then clad in the local Moruya granite. A lot of the granite was worked on by men from Aberdeenshire, recruited by Dorman Long, who moved, often with their families, for a new life down under.

The bridge used 58 thousand tons of steel, 80% of which, specifically the curved arch sections, came preformed from England. These are held together by six million hand driven rivets made in Australia, the largest of which weighed 8lbs and was over 15 inches long. A lot of hot arduous work perched high above the water.

The arch was constructed simultaneously from each side, with a crane on each end of the arch, lifting the steel sections from the water below and moving forward as each bay was completed. When they reached the center there was a 2 foot gap which took 11 days to close by slowly releasing tension from the thrust blocks anchored into the foundations. Closure was achieved in 1930.

Once the gap had been closed the construction of the deck commenced from the middle back to the shore to save moving the cranes. The bridge was finally opened in 1932 and was at the time the longest single span steel arch bridge in the world.

Originally it carried trains, trams, road traffic and pedestrians. In 1950 Sydney abolished its tram service so the tracks were converted for use by road traffic.

The bridge cost AU£6.3million, and using the toll fees, it was finally paid for in 1988. The tolls still continue but now go towards bridge maintenance.

Games & puzzles

Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Hard

Wordsearch

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

Which of these Cities is not in the grid?

Beijing
Buenos Aires
Cairo
Delhi
Dhaka
Karachi
Mexico City
Mumbai
New York
Osaka
Sao Paulo
Shanghai
Tokyo

Also which was the most populous in 2018? (and probably still is!)

Answers on the back page.

1972 - 50 Years ago:-

January – The Coal Miners started a seven week strike.

February – Great Britain & Northern Ireland competed in the Winter Olympics in Sapporo, Japan, but didn't win any medals.

March - Ford announced its new Granada model which was to be built at Dagenham.

April - The panel show "I'm Sorry I haven't a clue" was broadcast for the first time on BBC Radio 4 .

May- The final section of the M6 from Spaghetti Junction (J6) to Junction 7 opened.

June– The funeral of the Duke of Windsor (formerly King Edward VIII) is held at Windsor Castle.

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

Kier Fellowship

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Find us on 

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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, e.g. items about your history, photos, recent events, holidays etc. which may interest others to Jeff Taylor.

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

Forthcoming Events 2022

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 13th February | Valentines day Luncheon |
| 21st April | St Georges Day Luncheon |
| May | London Show (Covid Permitting) |
| 27th June | Windsor Horse Racing |
| 1st September | Fellowship Golf Day |
| 6th October | Autumn Luncheon |
| 15th December | Christmas Luncheon |

Wordsearch

Buenos Aires is not in the grid.
The most populous city in 2018 was Tokyo with 37.4 million people. Well ahead of Delhi which had 28.5 million people, though Delhi has a larger density due to its smaller size.