



My 10th Edition - by Jeff



KIER GROUP
FELLOWSHIP TRUST

Welcome to the Maple Cross Fellowship Newsletter

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Sorry for the delay in publishing this issue, the heatwave and life got in the way of an earlier edition.

The heatwave caused a few cracks in the house, which unfortunately meant all the shrubs around the house had to be removed. Then I had to repoint the brickwork inside and out and do a bit of plastering plus wallpapering, finishing with painting. Then I sowed wildflower seeds in place of the shrubs, hopefully to help the pollinators next year.

During this time we also went away twice and I managed to get a small dent in the wing of my car from a lamp post in a Tesco car park which I'm sure wasn't there when I arrived ☹️. I took the car to Toyota who said it'd cost around £2000 to repair but kindly suggested I find a "Smart" dent removal company which I did, and this cost less than £200.

Also the time has come to install a handrail outside our back door as we've 6 steps down to the garden and we're not getting any younger. I ordered the parts and had them polyester powder coated to match our windows. I've now fitted them so it feels more secure.

Lots of organising and DIY takes time so this summer / autumn seems to have flown by.

I hope you all had a good Christmas and have a happy New Year.

A note to anyone who isn't aware, but as members of the Kier Fellowship you are entitled to use the Kier+ benefits scheme where you can get discount cards and or vouchers. There are a huge range of outlets e.g. Argos to Waitrose, B&Q to Screwfix and Apple to Samsung plus many more. You need to apply for this by contacting Brendan O'Boyle at :-

brendan.o'boyle.ext@kier.co.uk

He needs your National Insurance No. date of birth and an e-mail address. It can take a while to set up. (Beware - Copy or type the address direct into the email address field as the ' changes to an 'open or close' quote mark in Word when typed!

As Tesco said "Every Little Helps" especially in these difficult times.

Jeff Taylor



Plas Newydd - Anglesey 2022

Organiser's Report

Happy New Year to all our members and their families.

I'm pleased to introduce our latest Maple Cross Newsletter that has been well prepared by Jeff Taylor. Last year (2022) saw us all getting back to some sense of normality after our previous couple of years of Covid restrictions. We had a full calendar of events including a couple of new venues for lunches that were well received by all those that attended. I was very pleased with our Christmas Luncheon at Denham Grove Hotel, where we had a great lunch in our own Christmas themed room along with very attentive service from our waiting staff, definitely a place to return to.

This year sees the 25th Anniversary of the Kier Fellowship and we are hoping to organise a Garden Party to celebrate up in Bedford at a golf club venue either at the end of June or beginning of July (watch this space for more information). The Group are also trying to organise events around the country on the same day and will attempt to connect them all virtually at certain times to coordinate our celebrations. I have also put together a full schedule of events reflecting our normal calendar of Lunches and Horse Racing. I anticipate that Maple Cross Area will get similar funding to that in previous years. This is because of your regular attendance at our events, so please keep attending. The first is our Valentine's Day Luncheon on 16th February 2023 that I am currently organising.

This last year also saw my predecessor Terry Delany and his wife Pam move away from the area up to Thetford in Suffolk. I do hope that he can attend some events in the future even though the travel may be long. I know that we all wish him and his family the very best in his new venture.

Please remember that Jeff can only put together this Newsletter with input from our members, so please send all your life or working stories and details of any exotic or home grown holidays to Jeff by email to kfmaplecross@virginmedia.com or to me by post or email. Thank you again Jeff for all your hard work putting this newsletter together.

Norman Elliott

Area Organiser for Maple Cross

Sayings from Duncan

When I say, "The other day," I could mean any time from yesterday to 15 years ago.

It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.

Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9pm is the new midnight.

To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

I run like the winded.

D Mort

"I anticipate that Maple Cross Area will get similar funding to that in previous years. This is because of your regular attendance at our events, so please keep attending"

St George's day Luncheon



The service for the meal was pretty good though they seemed to serve by menu option to the whole group rather than bring all the options for each table at the same time. Still the food was nice though the reports on the pan fried duck indicated it was a bit rubbery and undercooked. Still the rest of the food was by all accounts lovely.

It was a lovely sunny day for our meet at Shendish Manor on Thursday 21st April, so nice in fact that we sat outside for our pre meal drinks. It was lovely to feel the warmth of spring and being outside gave a sense of normality after the cold of winter. After having a nice chat we were called in for the meal.



At Normans address to the group I was touched by the applause for my efforts in producing this magazine. Thank you for the recognition - it does make a difference.



There were 28 people at the lunch, unfortunately a few people couldn't make it due to illness or injury, we wished them well.



"I was touched by the applause for my efforts in producing this magazine, thank you for the recognition - it does make a difference."



The meal ended with the sun still shining and a pleasant drive home.



Windsor Horse Racing

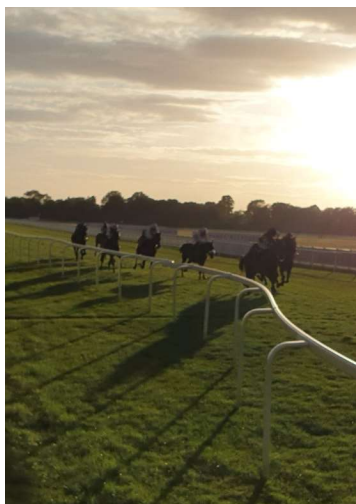


After a lovely period of warm sunny weather, the day of racing started with wind and rain. However by the start time the rain had finished and there was a sign we might get some sun, it was still quite cold and windy, hence the coats in the photos.



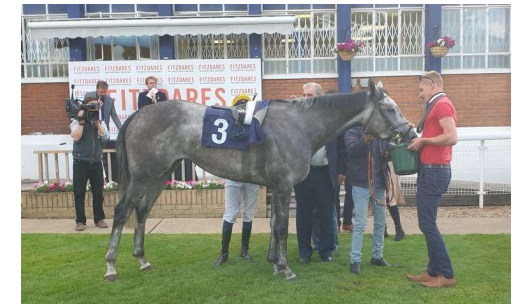
An advanced posy managed to grab some tables in the Jubilee club enclosure, and when others arrived we put them together to form an area for our group.

"I got the first 4 winners and a second, 5 out of 7 isn't bad, Gill however decided to follow the advice of her partner and lost out"



There's a good selection of food and drink available, and with our vouchers we were soon studying the form whilst enjoying a drink. There were 7 races at 30 minute intervals which enabled people to place bets, watch the race,

intervals. We had access to the parade ring and winners enclosure, so we could see the runners and riders close up.



At the end of the day we had some winners & some losers but everyone enjoyed themselves. I got the first 4 winners and a second, 5 out of 7 isn't bad, Gill however decided to follow the advice of her partner and lost out on a large win, still perhaps it's best to follow your own instincts.



then congratulate or commiserate with our friends. It makes for a very interesting time having time to chat and something to do at regular



After the last race some people went on to the after race party featuring a "Pink" tribute act, while the rest travelled home.

Autumn Luncheon

We tried a new venue in St Albans, Lussmanns Sustainable Kitchen, which once the correct entrance had been found, had a nice feeling. Unfortunately Norman wasn't aware when he booked, that they had no lift to the upper floor where we were to be seated, so in a last minute change, the party of 27 had to be split between the lower and upper floors.



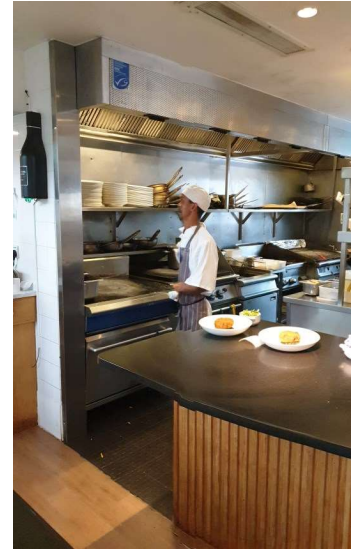
The waiters were friendly and the kitchen was on view so you could see the food being prepared if you wanted. It was nice to have the rectangular tables as it was possible to talk to people across from you as well as next to you.



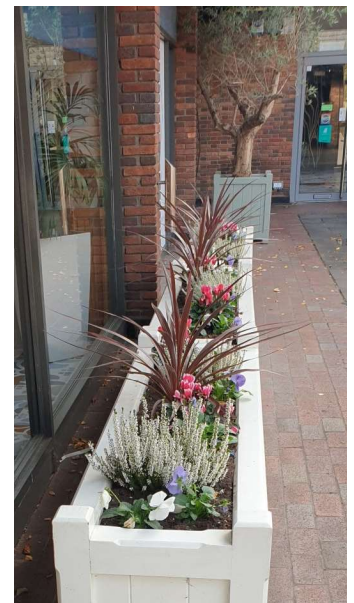
There was plenty of time to chat before the meal and most congregated around the stairwell in small groups. Those on the lower floor sat at the table and chatted.



The food was lovely and service was attentive, with additional wine being delivered when asked, and the coffee was nice (not always the case.)



“The kitchen was on view so you could see the food being prepared if you wanted.”



Christmas Lunch



On a cold Thursday we travelled to a new venue, the Denham Grove Hotel. A slight worry on the approach as we saw the "Road Closed Ahead" sign, but then we spotted that access was allowed to the hotel, a relief as my satnav hadn't found the hotel, just the lane so a diversion would have been interesting.



The food was delivered quickly and we found it very nice. Not huge quantities but good flavour which is how it should be. I'm sure we'll all be eating more over the festive period.



We met in the bar for drinks and a chat, and I was pleased to see Rob Brown and his wife Rosanne, our new members on their first visit.



After finishing the meal Norman advised that our meal at Lussmanns in St Albans had proved rather expensive, so he was pleased to find this venue, to reduce expenditure.

"Norman advised that our previous meal at Lussmanns in St Albans, had proved rather expensive, so he was pleased to find this venue, to reduce expenditure."



We were called to lunch and had a short walk down a sloping corridor and I thought we'd end up underground. But no, the hotel had been built on a slope.



The coffee and mince pies were self service, which worked well and both were very nice. It was good to be able to have as much as you wanted.



There were 5 tables - two had the numbers transposed which led to a bit of head scratching. 3 were set for 8, one for 7 and one for 6 people. On a screen there was a fire and tree displayed to make it feel a bit more like Christmas.



Games & puzzles

Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Hard

Wordsearch

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

Which of these car makers is not in the grid?

- FERRARI
- SIAC
- TESLA
- TOYOTA
- PININFARINA
- CATERHAM
- JAGUAR
- GKD
- BMW
- VOLKSWAGEN
- AUDI
- MCLAREN
- MASERATI

Also which company makes the most cars?

Answers on the back page.

1972 - 50 Years ago:-

July - The first official gay pride march in London is held .

August - Jesus Christ Superstar made its west end debut.

September - The UK school leaving age was raised from 15 -16 for the forthcoming academic year.

October - The Airbus A300 flies for the first time. This was the worlds first 2 engine wide body jet aircraft.

November - England women's football team plays its first official match, against Scotland, 100 years after the first men's match

December - The last Apollo mission, no. 17, lands on the moon on 11th & leaves on 14th Dec.

Wordsearch - The words can be found upwards, downwards, on both diagonals and written in either direction.

Kier Fellowship

Contacts :-

Area Organizer

Norman Elliott

41 Kidmore End
Emmer Green
Reading RG4 8SN

T - 01189 472875

M - 07860 342365

E - normane Elliott2@gmail.com

Note the two e's



Newsletter Editor

Jeff Taylor

24 White Paddock
Maidenhead
SL6 3NF

T - 01628 823421

M - 07780 600580

E - kfmaplecross@virginmedia.com

Find us on 

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[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, 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 2023

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>16th February</i> | <i>Valentines day Luncheon</i> |
| <i>20th April</i> | <i>St Georges Day Luncheon</i> |
| <i>June (TBA)</i> | <i>Fellowship Garden Party
(25 Year Anniversary)</i> |
| <i>3rd July</i> | <i>Windsor Horse Racing</i> |
| <i>5th October</i> | <i>Autumn Luncheon</i> |
| <i>14th December</i> | <i>Christmas Luncheon</i> |

Wordsearch

*Pininfarina is not in the grid.
Out of all companies Toyota
build the most cars ~ 9.5 million
(revenue = \$259 billion) in 2021.
Volkswagen have a higher
revenue ~ \$263 billion with 8.9
million cars*