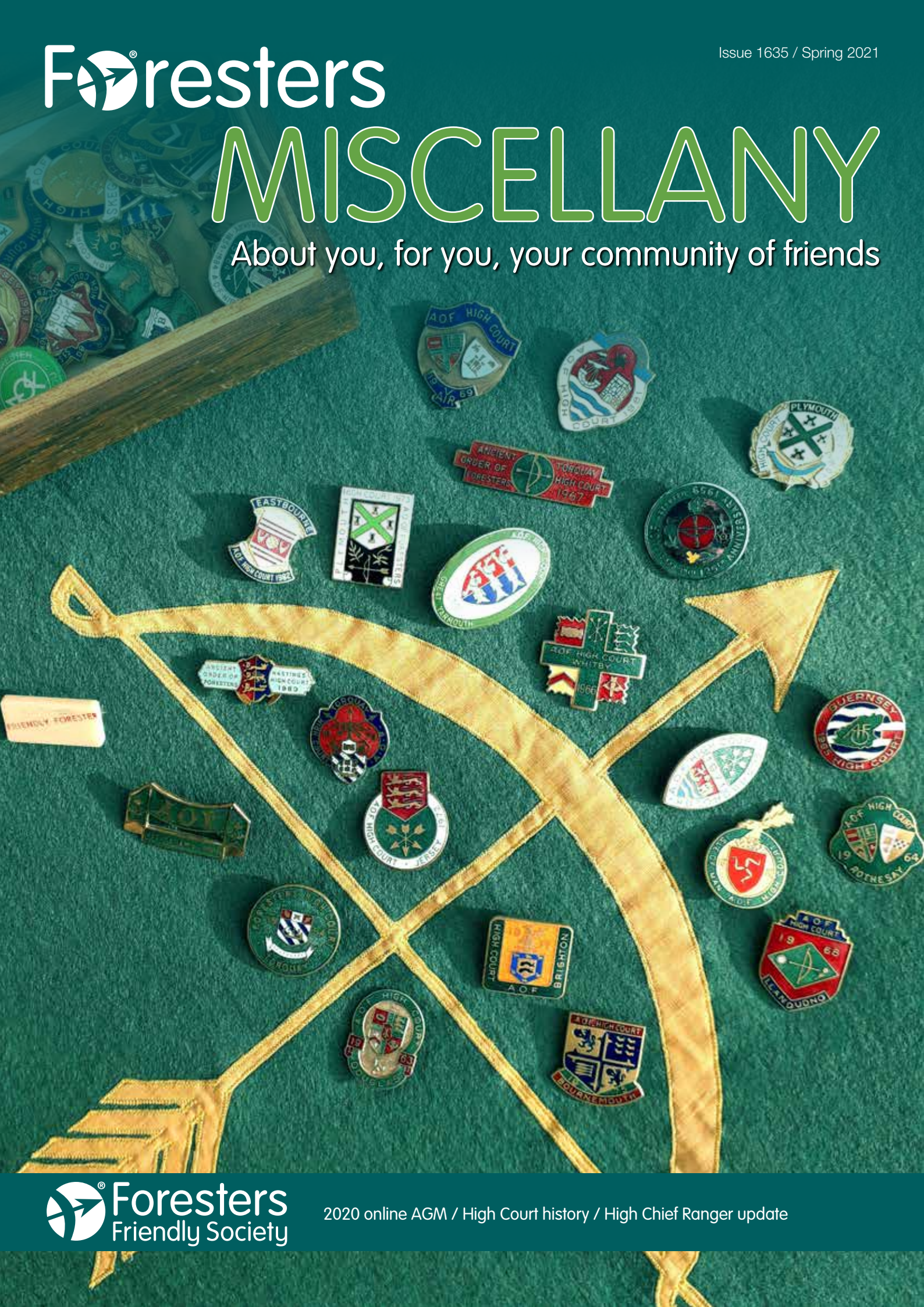


# MISCELLANY

About you, for you, your community of friends





# Welcome to Miscellany

*'No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.'* – John Donne, Meditation XVII



**H**ello and welcome to the first Miscellany of 2021. Wherever you are reading this, I hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well. At the time of writing, my parents had just received their first Covid-19 vaccinations. Outside, the daffodils that my wife and oldest son planted during winter had started to bloom (despite all the snow!). From shots in the arm to shoots in the ground, a new year brings new hope and optimism.

Inside this edition of Miscellany, we hear from the High Chief Ranger and the fantastic work that his charity, Rays of Sunshine, have continued to do. Clare Abbott and Cynthia Tudor offer more recipes and reflections to warm us inside and out. Elsewhere, Courts and members up and down the land share some inspiring ideas and activities, from socially-distanced sponsored walks to restoring a lifeboat.

There is also a special feature on the Society's first-ever online High Court. To complement it, Peter Nixon from the Foresters Heritage Trust looks back at how High Court began. I would like to thank Peter especially for all his time and effort contributing to this edition. As always, thank you to everyone who sent in articles, photos, comments, and suggestions. Apologies to all those I couldn't fit in.

Last year was difficult in so many ways, with changes to daily life and annual festivities. The Society can provide financial help with the impact of the pandemic. In 2020, members received over 110 grants (totalling £82,800) through Courts and the Foresters Support Fund. Of course, the pandemic has more than physical and financial effects. For many people, the dark days of winter especially were filled with loneliness, depression, stress, and anxiety.

The quote at the top of this page is almost 400 years old. But John Donne's famous lines feel relevant today. Life in lockdown has sometimes felt like being marooned on an island. My final thanks go to all those Foresters who give others the boats and bridges that they need. Here's to happiness, health, and a haircut.

Yours fraternally,



Rory Walsh, Editor

To subscribe - and read Miscellany online - visit [www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk/miscellany](http://www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk/miscellany)

*Thank you everyone for your contributions to Miscellany.*

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is **2 April 2021**. Please note that for better reproduction photographs need to be a high resolution, ideally 300dpi. If you do not want your photograph published please inform me by email at the address below. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense contributions or publish articles at a later date.

[editor@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk](mailto:editor@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk)

 Foresters - Miscellany



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# A letter from High Chief Ranger Michael Charlton-Hubble

Dear fellow Foresters,

I don't think many of us saw the year 2020 pass with 'undiluted pleasure'.

For us personally, it was a mixed year. With the flooding last February, we lost everything. The insurance company are a nightmare and the builder only started in October. We hope to move back home in Spring 2021. This photo shows the work getting back to the original 1704 wall.

In October, my husband Alan was rushed to hospital. The diagnosis was either to go home to 'live out what was left of his life' or have an operation with a 1 in 20 chance of survival. Any chance is better than no chance, so Alan bravely went ahead. With great relief he came through it and is recovering at home. Both of us thank all of you who heard and got in touch. It is appreciated.



The pandemic has swept through homes, communities, and countries with such devastating effect. We mourn those members we have lost to Covid. For us, as a Society, it has made life difficult but also presented a chance to shine. Court Secretaries have offered help and support to so many and worked hard processing Discretionary Grants and forwarding Foresters Support Fund applications. Staff in Southampton and Tunstall have worked in difficult circumstances, many from home.

Innovation has been the name of the game. Courts have created some great ways of keeping a social life for members. Online quizzes, dinners, cocktail parties, growing plants, painting Christmas decorations, cream teas - just to name a few. I was honoured to be invited to attend some of these events 'virtually' as High Chief Ranger and even judged a few competitions. It was great fun.

I really miss touring the country and getting to share time with fellow Foresters. It has been lovely to hear from so many of you. Do keep your emails and letters coming, and keep me up to date with what is happening in your Foresters community.

I am so grateful to those of you, both Courts and individuals, who have continued to donate to my charity, Rays of Sunshine. It has kept us going and helped the children who are unable to go on their wishes yet.

We have a difficult time ahead, both as individuals and a Society. We need to work together as friends, making difficult decisions for our Ancient Order and the best for our members. I hope we can live up to the ethos of our dear Society and be able to socialise again soon - in Unity, Benevolence, and Concord

With fondest fraternal wishes and wishing you a safe 2021,

*Michael*

**Michael Charlton-Hubble**  
**High Chief Ranger**

## High Chief Ranger's Charity Appeal:

# Rays of Sunshine

## Rays of Sunshine continue to help seriously ill children and their families



**T**he Rays of Sunshine team has worked determinedly to find new ways of spreading sunshine to those who really need it. During the last few months, special well-being treats were delivered to every child who had their wish postponed due to Covid-19. The charity has also granted magical at-home wishes. Sunshine in Hospital sessions meanwhile bring joy to children who are receiving treatment in hospitals. All these activities have taken place while always ensuring they adhere to Covid-19 guidelines.

### Highlights include:

#### National Teddy Bear Day

In September, Rays of Sunshine celebrated National Teddy Bear Day in style by sending 3,000 teddy bear kits to seriously ill children in over 20 hospitals across the UK. The kits meant the children could build their very own teddy bears, that they will be able to cherish and keep forever. These furry friends also provided some much-needed happiness and sunshine, particularly following the cancellation of the charity's Hospital Activity Days.







### Sunshine Sessions with Blondie's Baking

During October, some Rays of Sunshine wish families took part in online baking sessions. Partnered with Blondies Kitchen, the families were sent all the ingredients they needed to follow along with a virtual lesson. One of the sessions was Halloween themed, so lots of young witches and wizards joined in with the bake-along to create spook-tacular cookies!

### Sunshine Choir Session with Gareth Malone

In September, choirmaster extraordinaire and Rays of Sunshine ambassador Gareth Malone hosted an exclusive online singing session with the Sunshine Choir 2020. The Choir, made up of children who have previously had a wish granted by Rays of Sunshine, were delighted to have such a special guest join them. The children got to ask Gareth questions and of course, were taught some serious singing skills.

Sarah May Kershaw, Head of Communications at Rays of Sunshine says; 'Thanks to incredible supporters like Foresters, we have been able to adapt our services. Your

invaluable support means that we can continue creating everlasting memories and precious moments of escape for strong and deserving young people and their families.'

'From virtual dinner parties to individual challenges, Foresters members across the UK have continued to find new and innovative ways to raise funds for Rays of Sunshine throughout this especially difficult time. We are so thankful for all your help. It has been vital in allowing us to continue bringing joy and happiness to seriously and terminally ill children, at a time when they have needed it more than ever before.'

'Rays of Sunshine are delighted that our partnership with Foresters Friendly Society has been extended until June 2021. We are so grateful to the High Chief Ranger and all the Courts for their continued support. We hope to be able to put into action some of our plans which had to be postponed, and to continue providing updates on the incredible difference that your donations are making to the lives of the children and families we help.'

'We look forward to a new year full of sunshine, smiles and happiness, and are excited to continue working with you all to brighten the lives of brave and deserving young people across the UK.'

**There are 49,000 children and young people in the UK living with a serious or life-limiting illness. For more information, please visit [www.raysofsunshine.org.uk](http://www.raysofsunshine.org.uk) or call 020 8782 1171.**

### Milo's superhero wish

In October, Rays of Sunshine granted five-year-old Milo's greatest wish to have his own iPad. To make it even more special, Milo's favourite superhero, Captain America, delivered it to his house alongside other treats. After his wish, Milo's mum said: 'That was just amazing, and he was so happy. I really can't thank you guys enough for this. It's been an amazing experience for Milo and all of us.'



# Get to know some of the mem



**Name:** Alison Davies

**Area:** Yorkshire

**Court:** Chatsworth 2337

**Lives:** Belper, Derbyshire

**Hobbies:** Travel, beekeeping, caravanning

**A**lison is the third member of her family to be Secretary of Court Chatsworth 2337, succeeding her father and grandfather. Their link with the Court began with an unusual job offer...

Alison explains, 'In 1928 my maternal grandfather, Norman Sherwood, was offered a job as an accountant. His prospective boss was Chatsworth's Court Secretary and promised Norman the job if he took over as Secretary too'. Norman accepted and served as Court Secretary for 54 years.

Alison's mother later became the Court's Treasurer while 'My dad, Tony Curtis, joined when he married my mum'. Alison herself attended Foresters events 'as a very small child' and 'they have been part of my life ever since'. Her family's hobby, caravanning, 'developed my love of the outdoors, the environment and the world around me'. In 1984 this led Alison to study Geography at Cambridge University, aided by one of the very first Foresters Education Award Fund grants.

By then, her father Tony had succeeded her grandfather Norman as Court Chatsworth's Secretary. 'He developed the Court into the thriving, enthusiastic body of members that it remains today' Alison says. 'Dad even made my then boyfriend, Jeremy, join the Foresters while he was at Durham University.'

After university Alison met her ex-husband Paul. Together they have two sons, James and Andrew, who both became Foresters at a few days old. They too received Education Award Fund grants. Foresters also helped when Andrew was diagnosed with leukaemia. 'After his recovery he wanted to raise £150,000 for The Children's Hospital in Sheffield. Many Foresters helped his quest, for which we are very grateful.'

Alison became Court Chatsworth's Secretary in 2014. 'I am very lucky to be Secretary of such a thriving Court' she says, 'We make our meetings fun, while retaining many of the traditions that our members hold dear.' Outside Foresters, Alison is studying for a degree in Operating Department Practice (ODP) at Royal Derby Hospital. 'An ODP is the anaesthetist's or surgeon's assistant in the operating theatre. I've never worked in healthcare before, and have a lot to learn, but I love it.'

She has also moved to Belper, and revived her interest in caravanning, with her new partner Jeremy Jones, 'the same Jeremy from 1984!' Jeremy has taken a keen interest in Foresters and stood for the Non-Executive Director vacancy at the 2020 High Court. Alison recently received a Certificate of Recruitment for introducing 100 new members to the Society and she is already looking ahead. 'We're starting to think how we can mark a centenary of my family's connection with Court Chatsworth 2337 and the Foresters in 2028'.



# Members who support our Society

**Name:** Mel Cole

**Area:** Wales and the Borders

**Courts:** Loyal Hope 2949, Bailey 2751

**Lives:** Aberbargoed

**Hobbies:** Reading, enjoying wildlife



**B**orn in 1939 and '82 years young', Mel has been a member of Court Loyal Hope 2949 for almost sixty years. During his long membership, he has served as the Court's Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Chief Ranger.

Born in South Wales, Mel finished his education at the Lewis School in Pengam, the grammar school for boys once described by former Prime Minister David Lloyd George as 'the Eton of the Valleys'. From the age of 15, Mel worked as a painter and decorator for a family firm. He stayed in the job until the age of 63. In 1962 he married Jan. Their two children, Mark and Linda, and four grandchildren (Tom, Sam, Rebekah and Elizabeth) have all been Foresters since birth.

Mel's introduction to the Society came slightly later in life. His friend Clive Barnett introduced him to Court Loyal Hope in 1964: 'I had a mate who was a member of the Foresters and he invited me to a Court meeting. So I popped along and really enjoyed the evening. I joined the Court and continue as a member today'.

During his time with Court Loyal Hope 2949, Mel held the office of Assistant Secretary from 1998 until 2001. Mel was then elected Court Secretary when the then Secretary, Ivor John, was not well enough to continue. Mel held the post of Court Secretary until 2020, when he felt it was time to retire. He is still a very active member of the Court and was elected to the role of Chief Ranger for 2020 / 2021.

Mel also served on the Cardiff United District and played an active role as a member of the Wales and the Borders Area Committee for several years. Mel and Jan were also regular delegates at High Court. For Mel, High Court is one of the highlights of being a Forester. 'High Court is an opportunity to meet up with other members and discuss issues. We formed many friendships over the years, as sometimes High Court was the only opportunity to meet up.'

Outside of Foresters, Mel is a very active churchgoer. His hobbies include reading 'especially magazines, including Miscellany of course', and he and Jan have a shared interest in wildlife. They are members of the National Trust and various wildlife organisations. During the Covid-19 lockdowns Mel and Jan have kept in touch with their children and grandchildren through weekly family chats via Zoom.

Despite restrictions, the family celebrated two weddings in 2020. In July, grandson Tom married his fiancée Sasha. The next month saw grandson Sam marry fiancée Kat. Due to the virus both weddings were restricted to 30 guests. Mel recalls, 'Sam and Kat held their reception in the local park to ensure social distancing. Everybody brought their own lunch and ate on the grass, two metres apart. We had a busy summer, both weddings were fabulous.'

## CENTRAL

### CENTRAL

**Court Garibaldi 3533**

Jan 01922 620 650

**Court Leek 2005**

Steve 07762 457 740

**Court Lord Stanhope 2804**

Brenda 01889 800 751

**Court Moorlands 9475**

Bob 01782 516 301

**Court Pride Of Norton 5249**

Susan 01922 512 391

**Court Royal Rangers 1670**

Bob 01782 516 301

**Court Three Brothers 4482**

Alison 01785 713 927

**Court Watt Villa 2455**

Sam 0121 476 1726



Foresters – Central Area

### Two brothers of Three Brothers

Autumn saw Members from Court Three Brothers 4482 enjoy a socially-distanced social event, an Indian takeaway. Pictured are Robert and Peter Carnell at home in Hednesford. Court Secretary Alison Carnell (Peter's wife) adds; 'From First World War days until 1964, an old Court - Hednesford and Rawnsley Rangers 5132 - used to meet at the rear of this property. The deeds still contain numerous references to Foresters. On leaving, Robert and Peter's father was presented with a ceremonial horn, which the family still own today.' (Great to see Court 4482 active again and thank you Alison for kindly providing some history on Court 5132 – Ed.)



### Court Hednesford and Rawnsley Rangers 5132

Court Hednesford and Rawnsley Rangers 5132 was founded in 1867. The following year's Court Directory records it meeting at the Cross Keys Inn with 13 members. Articles in Miscellany give the names of some Court founders. Among them was Bro. W. Smith, who in 1870 became a trustee for the Rugeley District. He was District Chief Ranger twice before he passed away in 1890.

From 1882 to 1903, the Court Secretary was Bro. W.H. Jenkins. During this period funds were established for benevolent, hospital, widows and orphans, convalescent and pension purposes. On 29 April 1903 the Court held a 'Smoking Concert' where Bro. Jenkins was presented with an 18-carat gold watch, paid for by member subscription. After the evening costs were met, the surplus of one sovereign was used to buy the Secretary a gold tie pin.

In 1894 the Court still met at the Cross Keys, now with 172 members. The next year, the Court organised a grand concert at Hednesford Drill Hall. The Burgon Opera

Recital Company provided the entertainment, with 'hundreds having to be turned away' from the packed venue. The £15 6s 4d raised was passed to the Widows and Orphans Fund. A similar event in 1902 was branded a 'complete success' with proceeds split between the Widows and Orphans Fund and the Foresters Convalescent Home.

By 1913 the Court met at Old Hednesford Wesleyan Mission, with 367 voluntary members and 444 statutory members. By 1919 it met in the outbuilding beside the Carnell family home, now with 284 and 525 members respectively. This photo of Robert and Peter's mother shows the outbuilding in the background. In January 1964 the Court was transferred to Court Lord Paget 6104.





## NORTH WESTERN



### Tea for...41!

On 27 June Court Edmond 2447 enjoyed a socially distanced at-home afternoon tea. Court Secretary Jayne Herriman writes '41 members enjoyed this event with the food delivered to 16 homes. Everything was homemade and delicious, by Anita Swindley and her family from Norwood House restaurant near Newport, Shropshire. We are pleased with the response and it's great to let members know we are still trying to be active despite the restrictions. We will certainly be looking at planning something similar again.' (Well done all, looks like a fun afternoon – Ed.)



### NORTH WESTERN

**Court British Lion 44**  
Joanne 07724 781 611

**Court Edmond 2447**  
Jayne 01952 403 489

**Court Faithful Abraham 1549**  
Don 0161 723 4812

**Court Farmer's Ploughboy 122**  
Peter 0161 283 8518

**Court Garibaldi's Rest 4075**  
Ted 01226 289 408

**Court Leek 2005**  
Steve 07762 457 740

**Court Livingstone 6050**  
Katarzyna 01229 463 554

**Court Manchester's Honour No.1**  
Christopher 0161 338 5606

**Court Min-Y-Don 1464**  
Frank 01492 517 952

**Court Promise 153**  
Joanne 07724 781 611

**Court Royal Windermere 697**  
Veronica 01524 593 768

**Court Tunstall 1839**  
Tony 07990 307 339

**Court William Henry No.70**  
Karen 07904 624 780

**f Foresters – North Western**

### Toy story

Before the 2020 Northern Conference was postponed, the agenda included a special appeal. Steve Wrigley, Regional Manager North, invited delegates to donate new toys. These would be either raffled or distributed to surrounding charities and children's hospitals. Steve reports: 'Our toy appeal hasn't been forgotten, just delayed. Members have given a lot more since I took this photo and the pile continues to grow. Thank you all.' [Ed's note – Miscellany issue 1636 will include a report on what happened next...]



### Lest we forget

Ahead of Remembrance Day, John Burkitt from Court British Lion 44 was one of many Foresters who volunteered to raise funds for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. John served in the RAF during his national service and is seen here selling poppies at a local supermarket. (See also the 'Out and About' pages – Ed.)



### Gold record

Congratulations to Area Co-ordinator Steve Wrigley who was awarded a Gold Certificate of Recruitment in September.



## EAST LONDON AND ESSEX

EAST LONDON  
AND ESSEX

**Court Bagster Phillips 2631**  
Andrew 01277 222 028

**Court Belmont Castle 5564**  
Janet 01277 222 028

**Court Charterhouse 5671**  
Cheryl 01279 437 230

**Court Duke Of Argyle 2630**  
Cheryl 01279 437 230

**Court Good Intent 4629**  
Janet 01277 222 028

**Court Industry Of Cobden 1752**  
Sandra 01474 702 513

**Court Merry Foresters 2020**  
Janet 01277 222 028

**Court Princess Alexandra 4163**  
Richard 01892 825 771

**Court Sons Of Israel 4231**  
Kay 020 8220 6707

**Court St. Augustine 4231**  
Cheryl 01279 437 230

**Court Unity 3049**  
Andrew 01277 222 028

**Court Wellington 3538**  
Janet 01708 478 980

**f Foresters – East London  
and Essex**

## Charity trike ride

Hayley Greenwood, life-long member of Court Duke of Argyle 2630, is seen here in May embarking on the last leg of a 10-mile sponsored ride on her new trike. The Court's Secretary, Past High Chief Ranger Cheryl Eagleson adds; 'Hayley was born with Down's syndrome and has raised over £2,000 for the NHS and ASL, her support group. Well done Hayley from all of us at the Court.'



## Artistic project

Joyce Hampton from Court Industry of Cobden 1752 brings news of her 'lockdown project', a series of prints and postcards to support one of the Court's charities. Joyce writes: 'I love producing watercolour paintings and enjoy helping charities, so during lockdown I painted a watercolour of the beautiful Stairway to Heaven Memorial. The memorial commemorates the worst civilian disaster of the Second World War, the Bethnal Green tube shelter disaster. I raffled the painting in aid of the Stairway to Heaven Memorial charity and the winner decided it should be auctioned off to raise more funds. I have since produced cards and limited edition A4 size mounted prints from the painting. It has given me a lot of pleasure and copies are available, all in aid of the charity, at [www.stairwaytoheavenmemorial.org](http://www.stairwaytoheavenmemorial.org).'



## EAST MIDLANDS

## EAST MIDLANDS

**Court Benevolence 2568**  
Marianne 07456 949 722

**Court Flower of England 2769**  
Dave 01773 825 794

**Court Good Samaritan 1834**  
Angela 01283 585 697

**Court New Zealand 7159**  
Christine 01332 700 317

**Court Old Oak Branch 3207**  
Helen 07919 883 156

**No Facebook page for this Area**

## Police appeal

Essex Police have recovered this Foresters medal, believed to have been stolen during a burglary in the Colchester area. Can any readers help officers to return it to its rightful owner? The medal was presented to Bro. Edgar J. Hutton of the Ipswich District on 8 May 1912. Edgar J. Hutton joined the Society in 1888 and passed away in early 1955. He was a member of Court Saint Nicholas 2604 and a Miscellany article from 1949 records that he was married with one son and two daughters. His eldest daughter had then been living in South Africa for 17 years. If any members recognise the medal or can provide information about it, please contact DC Mike Heslegrave of Essex Police on 01245 491491 or by email at [Mike.Heslegrave@essex.police.uk](mailto:Mike.Heslegrave@essex.police.uk).





## THAMES VALLEY

## Doctor Evans we presume?

Congratulations to Rachel Evans upon achieving her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from King's College London. Rachel, a member of Court Loyal Oxonian St Frideswide 2991, passed her final viva examination in July. It followed eight years of study - a four-year undergraduate degree, a one year master's degree and a three-year doctoral programme. Rachel writes; 'I'm very grateful to Foresters having received grants throughout my university education from the 150th Anniversary Educational Awards Fund. My doctoral thesis was focused on understanding social anxiety disorder in teenagers and I hope my research findings will help develop better psychological treatments. I'm very happy to have since gained a full-time position as a qualified Clinical Psychologist in an NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in South London.'



## Quiz night

Area Co-ordinator Sharon Blunsdon organised a virtual quiz on 8 October. Sharon reports: 'Seven teams answered questions on sport, general knowledge, food and drink, capital cities, science and nature, and history. Congratulations to the winner, Nick Toomey. We are holding more Quiz Nights in 2021. Please do join us by contacting me for information.' (Great idea Sharon and thanks for sharing the accompanying picture on the Area Facebook page, made me chuckle – Ed.)



## Appeal update

Area Co-ordinator Sharon Blunsdon: 'At their 2019 AGM, the Thames Valley Area chose Colostomy UK as the Area Charity for the ensuing year. Unfortunately, the pandemic, with lockdown and ongoing restrictions, has made it impossible to arrange a presentation of the funds Foresters have raised. We are delighted to report, however, that Courts and members have donated the sum of £1,138 and that these funds have been sent to Colostomy UK to make use of immediately. Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising efforts.' (Well done all. When a presentation can go ahead it would of course be great to include this in a future edition - Ed.)



## THAMES VALLEY

**Court Alma 2768**

Beverley 01264 781 765

**Court Bold Robin Hood 5131**

Alan 01869 253 699

**Court Centenary 2028**

Vee 01494 714 827

**Court Crowood 4644**

Mary 01672 520 908

**Court Loyal Oxonian****St. Frideswide 2991**

Sharon 01869 240 528

**Court Pride Of Reading 4961**

Barry 01491 576 519

**Court Pride Of The Hill 5044**

Peter 01491 834 758

**Court Pride Of The Loddon 5562**

Taryn 07759 819 363

**Court Pride Of Wellington 4558**

Eric 01635 863 765

**Court Robin Hood & Merry Men of****Sherwood Forest 4265**

Barry 01491 576 519

**Court Victoria & Ivanhoe 7626**

Sharon 01869 240 528

Foresters – Thames Valley Area

## DEVON AND CORNWALL

DEVON AND  
CORNWALL**Court Goodwill 5077**

Gary 01326 315 055

**Court Pendennis 3754**

Gary 01326 315 055

**Court Pride of the Plym 4087**

Pat 01752 660 410

**Court Semper Fidelis 4938**

Margaret 01752 215 685

 Foresters -  
Devon and Cornwall Area

## EAST ANGLIA NORTH

EAST ANGLIA  
NORTH**Court Excelsior 5956**

Alison 01223 811 285

**Court Eye Of Providence 1112**

Glenys 01553 630 252

**Court Foresters' Future 3443**

Stephen 07771 902182

**Court Foresters' Home 2746**

John 01603 411 273

**Court Foresters' Pride 9389**

Charlotte (Asst Sec) 07897 975 807

**Court Guardian Angel 2523**

Pembrah 01493 440 650

**Court Gunner's Delight 1107**

Denise 07432 619 378

**Court Motteux 1465**

Glenys 01553 630 252

**Court Perseverance 4892**

John 01603 411 273

**Court Poor Mans Friend 4098**

Ros 01353 720 638

**Court Pride Of Newborough 9399**

Sandra 01733 263 128

**Court Robin Hood 1302**

Stephen 07771 902 182

**Court Unity 4893**

Ros 01353 720 638

 **Foresters –  
East Anglia North & South Area**


## PRIDE OF KENT

## PRIDE OF KENT

**Court Defence 4343**

Rachel 01634 723 477

**Court Louis 5401**


Richard 01233 627 683

**Court Pride of Greenstreet 5329**

John 01227 794 552

**Court Union Jack 3825**

Richard 01233 627 683

 **Foresters – Pride of Kent Area**

## Tea-riffic turnout

Court Foresters' Pride 9389 made the most of the summer weather by organising a series of socially-distanced social events. At the start of August, 55 members enjoyed tea on their lawns. Assistant Secretary Charlotte Lenton reports; 'Rose Cottage Afternoon Teas delivered 51 afternoon tea boxes across Lincolnshire on Saturday morning, from

Boston to Gainsborough and many places in between. Four members based outside of Lincolnshire also got involved by sourcing their own afternoon tea local to them. Here's a selection of the photos we received from members enjoying their delicious refreshments in the sunshine.'





## EAST ANGLIA NORTH



## Cheers!

While visiting a pub or taking a brewery tour were out of bounds this summer, Court Foresters' Pride 9389 still managed to slake their thirst. On 25 August, some 27 Court members took part in possibly the UK's shortest pub crawl - by bringing a pub to their homes. Each Batemans Brewery 'Pub In A Box' included beer, wine, glasses, snacks, bar towels, drip mats, and even pub quizzes complete with pencils and paper. 'Many members linked up via video call to do the quizzes together. Even though we are unable to meet in person, Foresters can still organise a cracking social event and give back to our members. Cheers to that!'



When they weren't drinking hot and cold beverages, Court Foresters' Pride 9389 were busy growing sunflowers for the High Chief Ranger's charity appeal. The Court's 'sunflower challenge' was to grow the tallest sunflower by 12 September. To compete, members had to donate a sum to Rays of Sunshine. From May onwards 16 Court members nurtured, watered, and measured, their prize specimens. When the results were revealed, the Court wrote: 'Thank you to everyone that took part. We managed to raise £91 for the HCR's charity Rays of Sunshine through donations for the seeds.'



## The results:

**1st place**

Charlotte Lenton & Tom Hicks (9ft 4 inches)

**2nd place**

Helen Hicks (9ft 1 inch)

**3rd place**

The Barbers (9ft half an inch)

**4th place** Patricia Green (8ft 9.5 inches)

**5th place** Ana Coelho (8ft)

**6th place** Edith Swain (6ft 2 inches)

**7th place** Roxanne McCoid (6ft)

**8th place** Mandy Lenton (5ft 4 inches)

**9th place** Eileen Markham (4ft 8 inches)

**10th place** Edie Swain (4ft)

**11th place** Siobhan Pepper (3ft 8 inches)

**12th place** Sue Brown (12 inches)

## SOUTH LONDON

SOUTH  
LONDON**Court Apollo 3861**

Janet 01708 478 980

**Court British Flag 3213**

Richard 01233 627 683

**Court Eleanor Rummyn 3182**

Catherine 01483 481 203

**Court Foresters Fancy 1968**

Cheryl 020 7281 6215

**Court Foresters' Glory 2242**

Niki 07966 430 449

**Court Guildford Castle 3094**

Helen 01276 500 942

**Court Nelson's Pride 2338**

Mike 020 8333 7668

**Court Newark Abbey 4675**

Anne 01252 404 276

**Court Planet Of Streatham 3408**

Janet 01708 478 980

**Court Runnymede 2089**

Janet 01708 478 980

**Court Sir Colin Campbell 4399**


Chris 01353 720 638

**Court Wellington 3449**

Rosemary 020 8652 7467

**Court Wellington Hope 2215**

Brenda 01474 568 459

 **Foresters – South London Area**
A Fancy  
anniversary

On 5 September, members celebrated the 175th anniversary of Court Foresters Fancy 1968. Court Secretary Cheryl Fox writes: 'Delicious afternoon teas were delivered to members all over the UK, along with bottles of Prosecco if requested. The weather was kind, with warm sunshine, so quite a few members enjoyed their teas in the garden. Some laid the table with beautiful china, glassware and even Foresters spoons. Past High Chief Ranger Richard Darlington was toastmaster and Niki Thomas, South London Area Co-ordinator, was the guest of honour. Various members explained their family history with the Court and reminisced about past social events.

Members attending a Court event for the first time were welcomed and a toast was proposed remembering those absent friends who could not be with us.'

Included in that toast was Cheryl herself. She was unable to join in the event having been taken to hospital that morning with a suspected stroke. In very difficult and distressing circumstances, Cheryl's husband Ron Causton stepped in at the last minute to run the Court's Zoom session. Later that day, Cheryl was well enough to phone Ron to check that everything had run smoothly. As Cheryl wrote at the start of the day: 'We have survived through good times and bad, we've overcome many challenges, and have continued to thrive. This year has really challenged us but we are still here, still meeting (virtually) and still helping our members as much as we can. Here's to the next 175 years!'

(Congratulations to all at the Court, very well done to Ron, and very best wishes to Cheryl. I am sure members will be pleased to hear that she is on the road to recovery. Do please see Letters to the Editor on p.41 – Ed.)



## Apollo award

Well done to Court Apollo 3861, the National Gold Award winner in the Foresters Business Achievement Awards. The Court's Secretary, Past High Chief Ranger Janet Clements, writes: 'I first became involved with this Court over twenty years ago when the late Philip Dunster was Secretary. After him Brian Woolston was Secretary and when he retired, I was invited to become Secretary. Building on his success the Court has flourished. I am truly proud of the members for their dedication and hard work.'



## Trusty trio

Here are Helen, Dawn and Elizabeth Barnes from Court Wellington 3449, who completed the '2.6 Challenge' in May in aid of The Children's Trust, Tadworth. To raise funds for the charity, they climbed the two highest hills near their home in Nottingham and then more than half (to make the extra '0.6' of the way) up the third. Well done!



## SOUTH LONDON

## Good intent

Ten year old Freddie Owen, a member of Court Guildford Castle 3094, has spent most of the previous year sleeping in a tent. Freddie began his extended camp-out in the family back garden on 27 March 2020, the beginning of the first national lockdown. He is doing it to raise money for the Trussell Trust, a charity which supports food banks across the UK. At the time of writing, Freddie had raised over £7,000. He celebrated his birthday and Christmas in the tent, plus braved all sorts of weather including snow. When Storm Aiden destroyed his tent in November, he temporarily relocated to the shed. Freddie plans to keep camping for a whole year. Members wishing to sponsor him can contact the Court's Secretary for details.



## Walking in the rain

Court Wellington Hope 2215 were due to hold their annual Jack Cakebread Sponsored Walk in Greenwich Park on 19 July. Unfortunately, coronavirus meant the event had to be cancelled. That wasn't the end of the story though... Court Secretary Brenda Watson reports: 'Some enterprising members of the Court are residents of the Foresters Homes in Bexleyheath. They have been in their own secure bubble since the start of the pandemic. So, in the pouring rain and keeping to social distancing, they completed the walk in the grounds of the Foresters Homes. One member took part on his mobility scooter. With sponsorship from family and friends, these intrepid Foresters raised £405 for Crohn's & Colitis UK. Added to the £485 that members and Courts have already donated, we will be able to send the charity £890. We wish to thank the walk participants and everyone who donated to this worthy cause.'

## WESSEX



## Bank deposit

Over the summer Richard Dibble, Chief Ranger of Court Sarum & Pembroke 3260, was delighted to receive donations from Foresters for the Salisbury Trussell Trust Food Bank. Richard thanked everyone involved for their unflinching support; 'The generosity of members and friends has been once again tremendous, and in these uncertain times so very much appreciated. The Court is proud to have helped the Trussell Trust and will continue to do so.'

## WESSEX

## Court Amity 4668

Mary 01963 250 632

## Court Anchor Of Hope 6209

Tony 07967 190 096

## Court City Of Bristol 1119

Karen 01384 626 561

## Court Concord 2240

Bobbie 01489 781 060

## Court Hampreston 5752

Jennifer 01202 428 183

## Court Henbury 5779

Ann 01258 857 576

## Court Lush &amp; Alexandra 5916

Glyn 01373 462 963

## Court Island Foresters 1821

Lucy 01489 809 198

## Court Merton 2201

Morag 07572 873 637

## Court Palace 6158

Jacqueline 01794 390 195

## Court Perseverance 3917 (Jersey)

Richard 01534 880 977

## Court Pride Of Hampshire 1734

Margaret 02380 740 471

## Court Pride Of Sarnia 8143 (Guernsey)

David 01481 728 864

## Court Progress 3038

Colin 01305 852 516

## Court Prospect 6575

Andrew 01305 264 316

## Court Sarum &amp; Pembroke 3260

Janet 01722 742 400

## Court Sir George Hewitt 5069

Bobbie 01489 781 060

## Court St. Andrew 7170

Glyn 01373 462 963

## Court Stanley 6967

Jacqueline 01794 390 195

## Court Vale Of Avon 5217

Jane 01425 839 665

## Court Yeovil's Pride 3024

Rebecca 01935 478 598

 Foresters – Wessex Area

## EAST ANGLIA SOUTH



## To the rescue



**The previous edition of Miscellany explored how members throughout the UK coped with lockdown and other Covid-19 restrictions. Colin Trowles, a Trustee of Court Pride of Essex 4174, was probably the only Forester who spent the summer restoring a lifeboat.**

'Lockdown affected many of us, with events across the country postponed or cancelled. For me, it was an opportunity to work on my retirement project. Having retired from the police in July 2019, I bought a lifeboat in need of some TLC. The Sir William Arnold is a former RNLI Arun Class boat originally stationed at St Peter Port in Guernsey. I had a clear vision in mind; to restore this Guernsey hero and make it the UK's only floating Lifeboat Education and Experience centre.

I have been interested in the RNLI since about the age of eight. A primary school project on the Lifeboat Service ignited something within that has remained with me ever since. My ambition was to eventually become a Lifeboat Volunteer, something I fulfilled when I joined the crew at Hayling Island. I then became a trainer / assessor on



inshore lifeboats. Long after leaving the RNLI, my interest in the organisation's history continued.

In the early 1970s, the RNLI were looking to design a new, much faster class of lifeboat. A 44ft steel design, adapted from the US Coastguard, became known as the Waveney Class. The fourth example built was the Faithful Forester, sponsored by the Society. Around the same time, the RNLI's naval architects were designing their own boats, which would become the famous and much-loved Arun Class.

The first Arun was built in wood and circled the UK coast on evaluation trials. By the time it arrived at St Peter Port in Guernsey, the second Arun was already being built at Osbourne's in Littlehampton. Guernsey residents had raised over £50,000 for their own boat. Their efforts were spearheaded by Sir William Arnold, Bailiff of Guernsey and vice president of the local RNLI branch. Sadly, Sir William died in office before his 70th birthday.



## EAST ANGLIA SOUTH



When the completed Lifeboat 5202 arrived in Guernsey (on 6 November 1973), it was named after Sir William by the Duchess of Kent. The Sir William Arnold was built in wood and aluminium. With a top speed of  $19\frac{1}{2}$  knots, she was the fastest lifeboat in the fleet. The boat was much loved and respected by all her crews, who affectionately referred to as 'Sir Willie'.

'Sir Willie' would go on to serve her Channel Island station until 1997. She was launched over 500 times, saving 223 lives. She is probably the most decorated lifeboat that the RNLI built, with her coxswains and crew being awarded fifteen gallantry medals. The most famous rescue was in December 1981 when the Sir William Arnold braved Force 12 hurricane winds to aid the Ecuadorian cargo ship MV Bonita. The coxswain made 50 runs in mountainous seas and a howling blizzard to rescue 29 people, including women and children.

In October 2019 we sailed Sir William Arnold up the coast from Blythe to Amble, where she was lifted out of the water to begin restoration. Since retirement from the RNLI, a lot of original features had been removed over the years. Other parts, including the propellers and prop shaft, were covered in barnacles. Using old photographs and accounts from previous crew members, I've tried to recreate how the boat would have looked in her RNLI days.

With the original Caterpillar engines serviced, we could sail south down the North Sea to her new home in London's St Katharine Docks. Among our crew of six was John Bougourd BEM, the boat's last RNLI coxswain and bronze medal holder from the Bonita rescue. The trip was eventful for many reasons. Stopping at Scarborough, we were honoured with a flypast salute by a Coastguard helicopter. The Humber Lifeboat gave us a sunset escort into Grimsby, where incoming storms meant a longer stay.

A few weeks later we set off again. We encountered some very challenging seas as we crossed the Wash and made our way to Lowestoft. At the beginning of March, we arrived at Heybridge Basin at Maldon in Essex. We intended to stay for few weeks, for some open days, maintenance and further restoration. Lockdown has kept us here ever since.

The plan is to move the Sir William Arnold to St Katharine Docks before May 2021, ready for her anniversary naming and re-dedication, again by the Duchess of Kent. There the boat will be permanently moored as a floating education centre'.

**For more information,  
including 'Sir Willie's' incredible history  
please visit [www.lifeboat5202.com](http://www.lifeboat5202.com).**

## EAST ANGLIA SOUTH

EAST ANGLIA  
SOUTH**Court Brave Old Oak 3658**

Bea 07885 909 869

**Court Indian Chief 6203**

Corinne 01245 328 825

**Court Lifeboat 4390**

Ashley 01206 211 391

**Court Pride Of Essex 4174**

Joan 01621 741 453

**Court Pride Of Walton 2678**

Judith 01206 298 658

**Court Prince Arthur 5432**

Ashley 01206 211 391

**Court Princess Royal 2948**

Joyce 01473 658 009

**Court Prospect 'B' 9737**

Kevin 01553 674 623

**Court Rangers Home 2094**

Ashley 01206 211 391

**Court Sailors Home 5105**

Ashley 01206 211 391

**Court Victory 3621**

Nicole 01638 561 832

 **Foresters – East Anglia  
North & South Area**

## Papal medal

Congratulations to Claire Reeve, a Trustee of Court Prince Arthur 5432, who has received the Papal Benemerenti medal and scroll. The Benemerenti medal (from the Latin 'bene merente' or 'well merited') is awarded sparingly, with nominations approved by the Pope. Claire received hers for service to the Catholic community in Great Dunmow, including raising around £40,000 for the parish and local charities. Claire (on the right with fellow recipient Margaret Howett), was presented with the medal and scroll outside Our Lady & St Anne Line church. Court Secretary Ashley Stammers adds, 'Claire works tirelessly for several organisations within Dunmow and has raised thousands of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Support.'



## SOUTHERN HOME COUNTIES

SOUTHERN  
HOME COUNTIES**Court Friar Tuck 4460**

Vicky 01825 371 548

**Court Lansdowne 2559**

Trudy 07870 955839

**Court Perseverance Of West Kent 3420**

John 01474 568 459

**Court South Sussex 2454**

Stephen 01323 899 101

**Court St. Leonards 2350**

Kim 01444 258 278

**Court Star Of Surrey 2767**

Linda 01273 833 281

**Court Unity 3665**

John 01474 568 459

 **Foresters -  
Southern Home Counties Area**


## A grand total

Readers will hopefully recall that Court South Sussex 2454 successfully completed their 'UK Sponsor Challenge' fundraiser for Rays of Sunshine (see edition 1634, pages 18-19 – Ed.), Assistant Secretary Diana Linsdell reports; 'Sadly our presentation with the High Chief Ranger and Rays of Sunshine has been cancelled due to Covid-19. Attached is the 'non-presentation' of the cheque for £1,780.48.'

Representing the Court with Diana (on the left) are members Brian and Teresa Marchant. Besides raising this fantastic amount for Rays of Sunshine, the Court also raised £770 each for two local charities, The Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team and Embrace East Sussex. Well done to all - Ed.



## SOUTHERN HOME COUNTIES



## Taking care of quizziness

The Southern Home Counties Area held their first virtual social event on 30 May - a quiz! Caroline Instance set the questions and reports; 'The event was just for fun and sadly did not come with a raffle. There were several visual questions, the most popular being 'Whose Poo?', with pictures provided by Sussex Wildlife Trust. As well as competing, Society Chairman John Instance used a spreadsheet to add up the scores. The National Quiz winners participated in two pairs, so the competition was fierce. The winner was Past High Chief Ranger Glyn Carpenter.'

Area Co-ordinator and Past High Chief Ranger Linda Levett adds: 'When the first lockdown began, all meetings and social events were cancelled. Since May the Southern Home Counties Area have held meetings, quizzes, and 'Angela's Cocktail Hour'! I am very proud that the Courts have been very active and kept in touch with their members. The pandemic has not stopped us 'seeing' and looking after each other!'



## Mouse party

After making Doctor Teddies and Nurse Rabbits, Court South Sussex 2454 have carried on their crafty skills: 'One of our members is now knitting delightful mice for a donation to our chosen charities. If you would like to order one, please call or email the Court. Thank you for your support at this time.'

## NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES

## NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES

**Court Brownlow 6444**  
Malcolm 01525 220 778

**Court Fountain of Friendship 4480**  
Martyn 01582 616 865

**Court Perseverance 2796**  
Ted 01923 466 955

**Court Prince Albert 2643**  
Janet 01708 478 980

**Court Verulam Excelsior 6054**  
Ian 01582 426 540



**Foresters – Northern Home Counties Area**

## WALES AND THE BORDERS

## WALES AND THE BORDERS

**Court Bailey 2751**  
Gail 01446 736 244

**Court Coventry 7829**  
Rosemary 01452 535 897

**Court Loyal Hope 2949**  
Gail 01446 736 244

**Court Marquis Of Bute 2842**  
Gail 01446 736 244

**Court Pride Of The Wye 2849**  
Michael 01594 860 239



**Foresters – Wales and the Borders Area**

## SCOTLAND

## SCOTLAND

**Court Abbey 7167**

Patricia 01382 506 477

**Court Abercorn 5798**

Eileen 0131 241 6458

**Court Argyll 5968**

Malcolm 01586 552 599

**Court Donside 6770**

Kathleen 01224 312 185

**Court Dunedin, Heart Of  
Midlothian 5257**

Norrie 07816 091 908

**Court Neilson 6329**

Margaret 0141 644 3044

**Court Pride of the Forth 5686**

Lesley 01540 651 762

**Court Royal Oak 4640**

Eleanor 01698 826 854

**Court St. Bernard 5522**

Jeanette 0131 538 8272

 **Foresters – Scotland**


## Scottish safe social

In August, Scottish Foresters enjoyed the Area's 'Safe Social Takeaway' event. Members took part throughout the month, with a welcome subsidy provided by their Courts. Pictured here are members of Courts Pride of the Forth 5686 and Dunedin, Heart of Midlothian 5257. Area Co-ordinator Norrie Dudgeon reports; 'Courts 5686 and 5257 also put on a 'Safe Festive Takeaway' during December. We subsidised members up to £10 each towards their chosen takeaway.' (Norrie has also asked all those taking part to send photos to Miscellany; please do, look forward to seeing you in the next edition – Ed.)



## Banner bought



When this Foresters marching banner came up for auction in October, the Foresters Heritage Trust were able to make 'a magnificent acquisition'. Peter Nixon, Curator at the Foresters Museum, explains:

'These beautifully hand-painted creations, made from silk and canvas, were carried in parades. This example formerly belonged to Court Dalhousie 7036, founded in 1883 in Carnoustie. When it came up for auction in Scotland, a visitor to our Facebook page alerted the Heritage Trust.

The images put up by the auctioneers, Robertsons of Kinbuck, showed a beautiful item, including a wonderful painting of Panmure House (demolished in 1955) on one side. These banners were made by a few regional and national companies, such as George Tutill of London. This one

bears no obvious makers mark but an equivalent in Tutill's catalogue for 1905 cost 19 guineas. Allowing for inflation, the present day value would be £2,500. This would have been raised by the Court members, perhaps with the help of a bequest.

After a lot of thought, and speaking in detail to very helpful staff, we decided to place a bid. Deciding on an amount was not easy. Few of these banners come up for sale and each of them is a work of art, unique, and in a way priceless. Following the auction, we were very happy to find that we had won the banner at a cost of £1,945.60 including commission and VAT. We have added a very colourful and historic item to the Heritage Trust collection. The banner is now at the Foresters Museum, where we can research its past and preserve it for the future'.



## YORKSHIRE



## Goodwinners

Martyn Blueitt, Secretary of Court Goodwin 7225 reports; 'The Court had a really nice social event at Sheffield Greyhound Stadium in 2019, so when we found out that the Greyhound Trust's income had fallen due to the coronavirus pandemic we decided to help. We presented them with a cheque for £200 plus a supply of dog food and some bedding and towels donated by members. The Trust was extremely grateful for our support. The photograph shows Court Trustee Peter Perry, Management Committee member Michele Blueitt (my wife), and myself with the cheque.'



## Special deliveries

With High Court postponed, many award-winning members and Courts received their prizes through the post. Alison Davies (see the Member Portrait on p.6 – Ed.) got her badge and Certificate of Recruitment for introducing 100 new members to the Society; 'Very proud to wear my sash. Thanks to all the wonderful members of Court Chatsworth 2337 for passing on Foresters information to their friends and family for me!'. Elsewhere in the Yorkshire Area, Court William and Mary 332 proudly celebrated their Gold Business Achievement Award; 'National Award received today. Well done to all in Court 332'.



## YORKSHIRE

**Court Abiding Hope 2560**  
Andrea 01924 460 602

**Court Chatsworth 2337**  
Alison 07729 879 138

**Court Children Of The Forest 3710**  
Mike 0161 449 9665

**Court Excelsior 4634**  
Kathryn 07900 256 174

**Court Forester's Home 405**  
Elizabeth 0161 723 4812

**Court Friendship 9370**  
Abraham 01964 622 422

**Court George Stephenson 808**  
John 01434 607 673

**Court Good Intent 2795**  
Ron 0114 241 6136

**Court Goodwin 7225**  
Martyn 01709 511 923

**Court Hotham 719**  
Carole 01377 270140

**Court Knaresborough Old Castle 506**  
Kate 07814 229 075

**Court Lady Hilda 567**  
Michael 07979 953 133

**Court Marquis Grand United 4727**  
Shirley 0161 449 9665

**Court Perseverance 1586**  
Helen 01845 526 035

**Court Roebuck 2510**  
Christine 01142 453 111

**Court Sir Robert Peel 6088**  
Paul 0113 245 3062

**Court Spirit Of Bagthorpe 5317**  
Theresa 01623 659 511

**Court Swan 498**  
Ken 0113 264 8537

**Court The Three Marys 322**  
Joan 01422 315 646

**Court Victory's Pride 3067**  
Lindsey 01482 820 144

**Court White Rose 447**  
Helen 01845 526 035

**Court William & Mary 332**  
Adrian 01484 687 079

**f Foresters – North Western Yorkshire Areas**

## HANTS AND SUSSEX

HANTS  
AND SUSSEX

**Court Bosmere 2277**  
Carly 07715 256 548

**Court Castledean 3797**  
Carly 07715 256 548

**Court Constantia 2206**  
Ken 01243 788 190

**Court Crown 3832**  
George 02392 349 744

**Court Loyal Brethren 2290**  
Roberta 01489 781 060


**Court Loyal Sincerity 2271**  
Peter 02392 587 903

**Court Maberley Wyndham 4217**  
Patricia 01798 861 291

**Court Robin Hood's Castle 5373**  
Ken 01243 788 190

**Court Sir William Jolliffe 4479**  
Pauline 01243 788 190

**Court Star Of Selsey 3954**  
Patricia 07788 244 919

 **Foresters – Hants & Sussex**

## Stars in stripes

Congratulations to Carly Kelly, Secretary of Courts Bosmere 2277 and Castledean 3797, who gave birth to a baby boy on 16 September. New arrival Henry is pictured here with proud big brother William. (Best wishes to all the family, great co-ordinated outfits – Ed.)



## Funds and Friendship

While members kept safe at home last summer, Area Co-ordinator George Yalden shared some pre-lockdown pictures. The first shows High Chief Ranger Michael Charlton-Hubble receiving a cheque for £132 towards his charity appeal from Past High Chief Ranger Ken Strudwick. The Hants and Sussex Area Friendship Shield was awarded to Court Maberley Wyndham 4217. Court Secretary Trish Slade (right) received the Shield from Area Chief Ranger Dorothy Deacon.



## NORTH LONDON

NORTH  
LONDON

**Court Abbey Foresters 1940**  
Trevor 020 8202 9619


**Court Edmonton's Pride 1351**  
Wenda 020 8923 1148

**Court Old Oak 1620**  
Janet 01277 222 028

**Court Peaceful Valley 1753**  
Janet 01227 222 028

**Court Pride of Islington 2939**  
Cheryl 020 7281 6215

**Court Tubal Cain 2765**  
Shellie 07496 076 507

 **Foresters - North London Area**

## Cup winners

The Hants and Sussex sports reporter adds: 'The Area played the Oddfellows again at skittles. Everyone had fun and we had the help of one young lad who kept us old folk going by picking up all the skittles for us. He worked hard all night so we put all our loose change in a bag for him. Newcomers Court Bosmere 2277 won the Area Ted Voysey Cup, their first time at playing - or so they said! We are not sure as they outplayed everyone. A well-deserved win for the Court.'







Photo courtesy of Past High Chief Ranger Glyn Carpenter

## High Court 2020

High Court 2020, the Society's weekend-long AGM, was scheduled for 13-15 June. Almost 300 members were due to meet in Llandudno to discuss Society business and socialise with Foresters friends. As the Covid-19 pandemic developed, holding a traditional High Court became impossible. This special extended report relates how the Society's key event was held during lockdown.





High Court badges kindly loaned by Humphrey Clarke, Court 3449

**In the 187 years since the Ancient Order of Foresters was formed, High Court has been missed just five times. After the first UK lockdown began in March 2020, a sixth time looked a strong possibility.**

On 3 April, the planned High Court in Llandudno was formally postponed. The decision followed government guidance and recommendations to the Foresters Board from the Society's High Court Working Group (HCWG). The HCWG was set up to explore the Society's options as the Covid-19 pandemic developed. The Group is chaired by Helen Mackinnon, Non-Executive Member Director. The other members are John Instance (Society Chairman), Michael Charlton-Hubble (High Chief Ranger), Shirley Greal (High Sub-Chief Ranger), Lisa Russell (Company Secretary) and Michelle Collins (Court Services Manager).

With High Court postponed, the HCWG investigated how the Society could proceed with holding an AGM. The Group consulted Past High Chief Rangers, past Board members, and even the past itself through help from the Foresters Heritage Trust. At the same time, the Society supported its trade body, the Association of Financial Mutuals, in lobbying the government to relax legal requirements for AGMs.

On 21 May, the government published the 'Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill'. The Bill required friendly societies to hold an AGM before 30 September 2020. It also set out how an AGM could be held. Delegates did not have the right to attend in person or at a set location. Furthermore, the Treasury expected friendly societies to consider making changes to their rules, so that AGMs could still be held in future extraordinary circumstances.

The HCWG therefore recommended to the Foresters Board that High Court should be held online. On 12 June, Society Chairman John Instance wrote to the Courts with historic news. The Society's first ever virtual High Court would take place on Saturday 19 September 2020. It would only be accessible through the internet. The Agenda would be limited to votes on 'necessary statutory requirements.'

The Programme of Business included:

- presenting the Society's Annual Report and Accounts
- elections to the Board
- elections to the Membership Committee
- votes on Propositions 'necessary for the Board to ensure the smooth running of the Society'

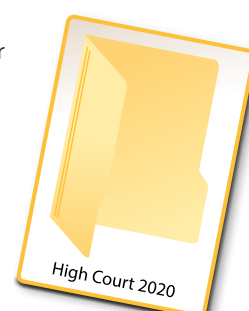
The Chairman concluded his letter by saying, 'The Board and the HCWG would like to reiterate that these have been very difficult decisions to make, but they have been made with the interests and safety of members as the primary consideration'.

Holding High Court online opened a series of challenges. The change of date and venue meant some delegates who had registered for Llandudno would be unable to attend. This issue was resolved where the Society Rules permit Courts to substitute delegates. More difficult to work out was the scope for participation. At a traditional High Court, socialising sits alongside business. A virtual High Court naturally meant no Coffee Morning, Evening Reception, High Chief Ranger's Dinner, Race Night, or Church Service.

Society business could not be decided in the same way either. Together in a large conference hall, delegates are usually able to discuss proposals and ask questions. From speeches at the rostrum to chats over cups of tea, debate thrives throughout. An online High Court meant any discussion before voting would be very limited. Therefore, Courts were advised to meet online in the weeks beforehand. Members also set up a Facebook group called Foresters Voice to pool their thoughts.

Delegates would be unable to ask questions or discuss proposals during the meeting. Initially, Courts were not permitted to submit amendments to proposals either. This decision created a great deal of concern, so the Board acquiesced. Courts could submit written amendments in advance, which would be voted on as part of the agenda. In High Courts past, delegates cast their vote by raising a hand. This time voters would select an option on the screen of their computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Foresters were surfing the internet rather than strolling the prom but at last High Court 2020 could be glimpsed on the horizon.





AA

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## Agenda

- Introduction
- 2019 Report & Accounts
- High Court 2020 Programme of Business
- Questions



John Instance



Charlotte Lenton



Erik Vynckier



Gillian Guthrie



Jeremy Jones



Michael Charlton-Hubble



Mike Ward



Nicholas Noden



Pauline Young



Phillip Howcroft



Trevor Batten



## High Court webinar

The HCWG recommended that the Society should hold a High Court webinar, a live internet presentation, to explain the proceedings. The webinar, held on 31 July, was broadcast live via video conferencing provider LUMI. It was open to all Foresters, not only High Court delegates, and lasted for 90 minutes.

Society Chairman John Instance explained the Board's propositions and Chief Executive Rachel Hardy presented the Annual Report and Accounts. Members could submit questions by email but there was only a short time available at the end for a Q&A. Therefore, questions were collated and answered in writing afterwards. The webinar was also recorded for members who could not make the live broadcast.

The recording was posted online at a special Foresters High Court web page. In the run up to High Court, several downloadable documents were added, including biographies and short video presentations of the candidates standing for election. (It was great to see more Foresters faces again – Ed.).

Overall, the webinar provided a taster and test bed. Some members reported glitches; a loss of audio and internet connection. A few did not receive a password beforehand to access the session. Court Perseverance 2796 summarised, 'We tiptoed through the new procedures and all felt relieved that it was a lot easier towards the end. High Court will benefit for the dry run.'

# High Court adjourned

**The Covid-19 pandemic is not the first event to disrupt High Court. The Society's AGM was also affected by the two world wars. Peter Nixon, Curator at the Foresters Museum, reports.**

'In 1914, High Court was held in Bournemouth from 3 August [the day before Britain officially entered the First World War – Ed.]. The Society's Executive Council recorded that 'a great calamity' had begun but they could not have known just how great. War would last until 11 November 1918. The 1915 High Court still took place, at Keble College in Cambridge. In 1916 the location was to be Norwich but a change to Cheltenham was approved.

High Court 1917 was due to take place in Leeds, with all business covered in just two days. In April, the Executive Council noted that the continuing war meant many members had been called up. Rail fares had also increased by 30%, which raised the cost of holding High Court. By July, the Executive Council applied to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies under the 'Societies (Suspension of Meetings) Act 1917', to dispense with holding High Court. The application was allowed and High Court was suspended.

Any members holding a Society office could stay in their posts until the next High Court meeting. The Society was also allowed to hold an election to replace a deceased member, Bro. W. B. Guyer, the Executive Council representative for Ireland. Due to the suspension, it was felt necessary to hold High Court in 1918. The agreed venue was Cambridge. An approach was made to the 'Food Controller' to provide the delegates with sustenance and the 1918 High Court was held at the Town Hall from 5-9 August.



The Foresters memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire (as featured in Miscellany 1629)



First World War memorials in the Foresters Museum at Tunstall



Photos courtesy of Bruce and Helen Hicks / Peter Nixon

The last High Court before the Second World War was at the Music Hall in Aberdeen, from 7 August 1939. The Executive Council noted the 'deplorable requirement of war in support of international justice'. The 1940 High Court was planned for the Guildhall in Plymouth but later a 'suitable' hall in London was preferred. By May that year, the Order had decided not to proceed, which was allowed under the 'Societies, (Miscellaneous Provisions), Act 1940. As in 1917, High Court was suspended by applying to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

The suspensions continued through to 1944. Given the Order's 'quiet confidence' that the war was heading towards victory, a High Court was proposed for that August, again in Leeds. Problems billeting and feeding delegates, however, led to a change. The 1944 High Court took place in Blackpool instead, opening on Monday 2 October. The cancellation of physical High Court in 2020 was only the third break and the sixth missed meeting in our history.'

## 'Will ye not come back again?'

Among the delegates at the 1939 High Court was Walter Cooper. These extracts are from his letter published in the January 1990 edition of Miscellany:

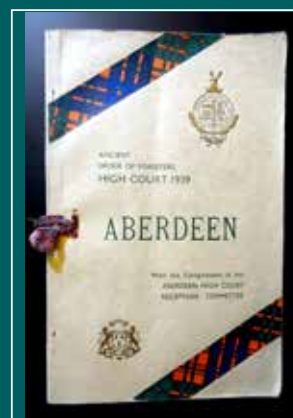
"We met in the Granite City of Aberdeen in an atmosphere of apprehension that the outbreak of war was only a matter of time. A reminder, if one was needed, was the sight of the giant German airship Graf Zeppelin cruising just off the coast as we went about our business.

I have photographs of some of the events of High Court week, including the impressive line of twelve coaches which took us over the heather on the afternoon outing. This High Court was, I believe, the last at which the Executive Council walked into the church parade in long black morning coats and black silk top hats. My memory of the actual business is a bit blurred, although I do remember being very impressed with some of the speakers.

At that time accommodation was usually the home of a local Forester, or a guest house. The large hotels were

not so much used then.

We stayed at the home of a Forester's widow in the city. The son of the family took us around in our spare time, including a visit to the quarry at Peterhead. We still have as a souvenir the lump of granite which we have used as a doorstep ever since.



The plea of the pipes in the last item at the reception was 'Will ye not come back again?' The imminence of war can be gauged by the fact that at the close of High Court we had to rush back on the Saturday to take in evacuees from a London children's home. They were billeted on our Suffolk village for the duration of the war, which began less than a month after. [...] I am glad I had a glimpse of a High Court of the old days."

**Walter G Cooper, Order Historian**





# High Court in session

When High Court was first held at Llandudno in 1958, the Miscellany report that followed began; 'The morning was one of brilliant sunshine and blue skies with a millpond sea, as delegates and friends gathered at the Pier Pavilion'. On the morning before High Court 2020, there were blue skies and brilliant sunshine once again. At least where your Editor was taking part on the outskirts of London. Instead of gathering at a pier, delegates and friends were in their homes and offices up and down the land.

Back in 1958, High Court ran for a whole week. More recently, the Society's AGM spans a long weekend. Most delegates arrive on Friday with the agenda usually completed on Monday afternoon. The 2020 High Court would last for approximately an hour. Ahead of the meeting itself, delegates could watch a short video from the High Chief Ranger's charity Rays of Sunshine. This played on a loop along with lists showing Court donations to the Foresters Child Support Fund and the 150th Anniversary Educational Awards Fund.

Many Foresters were in reflective mood. Court Edgmond 2447 wrote on their Facebook page; 'So today is the Society's very first virtual High Court. Members look forward to getting together at the AGM and re-connecting with friends, so this year's is certainly going to be different.' Court Foresters' Pride 9389 added; 'It certainly feels very strange to be sitting comfortably at home voting on an iPad, instead of sitting side-by-side with other Foresters from across the country in a conference centre!'

Then at 11am, High Court 2020 began. Society Chairman John Instance formally welcomed the delegates and guests. Throughout the meeting, he was the only person that delegates saw onscreen. Delegates were asked to vote on 20 propositions, with Courts submitting four amendments. For each proposition, the Chairman read out the wording and formally 'moved' it, with the Company Secretary acting as the 'seconder'. Delegates then had 30 seconds to cast their vote. After each poll closed, the results were displayed onscreen as bar graphs.

## Propositions

All the Board's propositions were carried and the four submitted amendments were lost. The Annual Report and Accounts for 2019 were approved, as was the Remuneration Report. BDO LLP were re-appointed as the Society's external auditors. The list of members appointed to the Arbitration Tribunal was approved, as were the five nominations for Portraits in Miscellany. Your Editor would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegates for supporting this proposition.

Increased grants of £3,360 were approved for the Foresters Homes Bexleyheath and the Portsmouth & District Friendly Societies Homes. The Yorkshire Foresters Convalescent Home was unable to open in 2020 and a grant of £5,000 was proposed to support its significant loss of revenue. This grant was also approved. The Heritage Trust Levy (5p per £100 of Court net assets) again remained unchanged.

## High Court highlights

277 delegates from 154 Courts pre-registered to take part. 36 were first-time delegates

Trevor Batten was re-elected as a Non-Executive Professional Director

Michael Charlton-Hubble was re-elected as High Chief Ranger until High Court 2021

Erik Vynckier was elected as a Non-Executive Member Director

Shirley Greal was re-elected as High Sub-Chief Ranger until High Court 2021

Charlotte Lenton was elected to the Membership Committee

The current charity appeal, for Rays of Sunshine, will also extend to High Court 2021

The levy for the Member Care Benefit Fund (formerly the Convalescent Home Benefit Fund) was the first proposition where delegates were asked to vote on an amendment. An increased levy for this Fund was rejected at High Court 2019. Court St Andrew 7170 proposed a levy of 10p per £100 of each Court's net assets. This amendment was rejected by 127 votes to 96. As a result, the vote moved on to the Board's proposed levy of 12p per £100 of each Court's net assets. This was approved with 188 votes to 37.

## Management Charge

Two amendments were submitted regarding the Management Charge. The Board proposed that Courts pay £1.85 for every £100 of net assets. Amendment 1 was submitted by Court Pride of Islington 2939 and suggested that the Charge should be £1.40 per £100. The amendment was rejected by 153 votes to 76. Voting then moved on to Amendment 2, from Court St Andrew 7170. This amendment suggested a Charge of £1.75 per £100. This was also rejected but only by five votes (117 Against and 112 For).

With both amendments rejected, the Board's original proposal was approved by 193 votes to 38. The two amendments – and the closeness of the vote on Amendment 2 – suggest an appetite for a lower Management Charge. After High Court, the Board asked the Membership Committee to investigate ways that the Charge might be reduced, in particular by saving running costs. A consultation process is underway and the results will become apparent before High Court 2021.



Michael-Charlton Hubble



Shirley Greal



Erik Vynckier



Trevor Batten



Charlotte Lenton

## A new Rule

In his letter announcing the online High Court, Society Chairman John Instance highlighted that changes to the Society Rules may be required 'to allow for extreme circumstances such as those we have seen resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic'. Proposition 17 was the addition of a new rule, numbered 23.6, in the section Voting At High Court. The proposed rule began:

- The Board may determine in exceptional circumstances, when it is not possible to hold a physical High Court Meeting or Special High Court Meeting where Delegates attend a physical place as detailed in the Notice of that meeting, that business including the election or re-election of the Directors and any resolution (whether a Special Resolution or not) be conducted by postal, electronic or combined ballot.

The proposed rule generated considerable debate. Future electronic ballots could discriminate against Foresters who are unable to access the internet. Combining an electronic ballot with postal voting may also create confusion and delay, especially if postal services are disrupted during such 'exceptional circumstances'. The major worry though was that the new rule could give the Board the authority to dispense with holding a physical High Court.

Courts Perseverance of West Kent 3420, Hampreston 5752, and St Andrew 7170 submitted an amendment to clarify 'exceptional circumstances'. The explanatory note read: 'This amendment limits the circumstances in which the Board may dispense with a physical High Court only where it is unable to hold a physical meeting that delegates can attend as a result of a declared pandemic or national emergency. It also removes the option of a postal or combined ballot on the grounds that these are slow, unwieldy and inefficient.'

The Board suggested that delegates should reject the amendment because 'it is unduly restrictive'. On the day of High Court itself, the original proposal was carried by 171 votes to 51. The number of votes Against was a reflection of members' concerns and their active involvement in how the Society is run.

## Election results

One of the most important events at High Court is the installation each year of the new High Chief Ranger. This traditionally takes place with a ceremonial presentation, as the outgoing High Chief Ranger invests their successor with the chain of office. The pandemic has seriously affected the High Chief Ranger and High Sub-Chief Ranger's duties, especially engaging with Courts and promoting the annual charity appeal. Therefore, it was proposed that High Chief Ranger Michael Charlton-Hubble and High Sub-Chief Ranger Shirley Greal should be allowed to remain in office until High Court 2021.

Delegates approved unanimously. As a result, Rays of Sunshine will also continue as the High Chief Ranger's charity until High Court 2021. A precedent for extending offices like this was set during the Second World War. The conflict meant that the High Chief Ranger and High Sub-Chief Ranger elected in 1939 eventually remained in office for five years. To ensure that she doesn't have to wait that length of time, Shirley Greal will be installed as High Chief Ranger at High Court 2021.

There were also elections for two places on the Society Board and one place on the Membership Committee. For elections to the Board, candidates must receive over 50% of the Votes Obtainable. The Society Rules define this as the number of ballot papers issued to delegates. With no papers being issued for this online High Court, the Votes Obtainable was defined as the number of delegates online at the start of the meeting. The election results were as follows:

- Trevor Batten was re-elected as a Non-Executive Professional Director
- Erik Vynckier was elected as a Non-Executive Member Director
- Charlotte Lenton was elected to the Membership Committee

## A new experience

The elections marked the end of the Programme of Business and the end of the Society's first-ever online High Court. This landmark event in the Society's history wasn't without controversy beforehand but the meeting ran smoothly after all. Court Perseverance 2796 reflected, 'The new system worked well and may well be the way ahead. Voting was easy to understand and the results were quickly available. A new experience for us all.'

It was still desperately sad not being able to see and socialise with fellow Foresters. High Court usually concludes with the assembled members and guests linking arms and singing Auld Lang Syne, before wishing each other a safe journey home. Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? Of course not. For now, let's stay safe in our homes so we can meet again in better times.

## Pen friend

Delegates arriving at High Court receive a welcome pack complete with their voting forms and other necessary documents. The pack often includes some complimentary stationery. Frank McAll, Secretary of Court Min-Y-Don 1464 had a timely lockdown find... 'Do you remember these being part of the High Court goodies bag some years ago? Yes, it is an anti-bacterial hand sanitiser pen. I knew it would come in handy one day.'







High Court 1953 at Bridlington

# High old times

**High Court 2020 was very different from the Society's traditional AGM. Peter Nixon looks back at High Court's origins and notable events from meetings gone by.**

The Ancient Order Foresters was formed in Rochdale on Monday 4 August 1834. That was when 179 Courts from the existing Royal Foresters Friendly Society gathered for a Special Delegate Meeting. The Royal Foresters had become increasingly autocratic, reflected in officer titles such as Supreme Secretary and Most Worthy Supreme Chief Ranger. Only senior members of the Royal Foresters' first Court, based in Leeds, could take part in making the Society's laws.

The breakaway Courts at Rochdale wanted any member to have the opportunity to take up any position, from Junior Woodward to High Chief Ranger. The first resolution they passed was 'that this Meeting resolve itself into a High Court of Forestry, to consist of every delegate who has been duly and legally appointed to represent the wishes of his Court on the present occasion'. A new society, our Society, was formed. The gathering at Rochdale was in effect the first Foresters High Court.

The members also agreed how their annual general meeting should be held from then on. Royal Foresters Court 225 Stone of Ezel had suggested earlier that the AGM should take place in a different town or city each year, with the location chosen two years in advance.

This was agreed. As members had to work full-time for a living, and public transport was still largely horse-drawn, the earliest High Courts were held in cities near large existing populations and with good public transport.

Each High Court meeting would be organised by a local committee. The first Executive Council was chosen from eight members who lived within five miles of the 1835 venue - Manchester. Any nearby members could be put forward for election to a position on the High Court. To maintain continuity, it proved necessary to have a permanent Secretary. One of the earliest - and longest serving (from 1842 to 1889) - was Samuel Shawcross. He had to move to a new house each year, taking his family and the Order's paperwork with him. The Society did not have fixed head office until the early twentieth century.



Devon and Cornwall delegates, 1885



High Court Parade 1898, Chester



Aberdeen 1939



## 1847

A total of 48 towns have **hosted High Court only once**, including Newcastle-under-Lyme, the location of our Heritage Trust Museum, in 1847.



Bridlington 1953

## 1834

Since 1834 High Courts have taken place in 86 towns, some of course more than once. The **most frequent location** is Scarborough with eleven visits. Torquay comes second with nine. In third is Eastbourne with eight.

## 1864

At the Halifax High Court of 1864, eight Courts were granted an application to form the new 'Oldham Borough' District. They were all formerly part of **The Order of Independent Druids**. Forming a District fulfilled the promise made to them as part of their joining Foresters.



Scarborough 1981



Felixstowe 1955

## 1867

Bath hosted the **longest High Court**, running from Monday 5 to Saturday 10. This was possibly due to the poor acoustics of the domed meeting room which left members struggling to hear each other.

## 1868

High Court at Wolverhampton saw the first known **overseas delegates**. They were two Australians, Brother J. T. Holl from the Bendigo United District and Brother Pearce from the Melbourne United District.



All aboard for the High Court 1946 outing to Canterbury



## 1873

Cardiff became the **first High Court outside England**. Edinburgh in 1876 was the first in Scotland. Southampton in 1875 was the first repeat visit, having been the location in 1853.



Llandudno 1958

## 1884

The Jubilee High Court in Manchester had the first known **High Court badge**. They became continuous from 1931.



## 1891

During High Court in London the **Sunday church service was held in St Paul's Cathedral** and presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury.



Aberdeen 1959

## 1892/94

In 1892 delegates voted in favour of official **female Foresters** and 1894 saw the first female delegates. The first female High Chief Ranger, Sister E. M. J. Rivett, was not elected until 1971. [see Miscellany 1631 for further information – Ed.]



Eastbourne 1970

## 1934

Delegate numbers have varied considerably over the years. The **largest number of delegates** was some 1,135, including 29 from eight overseas countries, in Nottingham in 1934.

## 1953



High Court adjourned to Flamborough Head so that delegates could attend the naming ceremony of **the Friendly Forester lifeboat**. This was the latest in a series of lifeboats that Foresters donated to the RNLI. Delegates at this High Court also received a **telegram of thanks from the Queen** after the Society sent its loyal greetings following the Coronation.



# 1955

During the High Court in Felixstowe the Sunday church service was recorded by BBC Radio and **broadcast on the BBC Overseas Service.**

# 1961



**The Channel Islands** first hosted High Court in Guernsey. One delegate's son recalls, 'The venue had a flat floor and was laid out with round tables. Apparently, this caused chaos as delegates were facing all different ways and couldn't see or hear each other!' Guernsey has hosted two further High Courts, 1985 and 1993. Fellow Channel Island Jersey has hosted just once, in 1972.

# 2003

As the first High Court after the Society's **incorporation**, this was the first AGM of The Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Societies Ltd. Delegates were joined by 'visitors' who could take part in discussions but not vote. This boost in attendees led to **Courts having two voting delegates** in future years.



Foresters Brass at High Court 2017

# 1975

Foresters Brass made their first High Court appearance at Bournemouth, under their original name - the Leicester Foresters band.

# 1963

The 1963 High Court on the **Isle of Man** was the second held outside of the United Kingdom. The Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey are all self-governed British Crown Dependencies.



Guernsey says it with flowers, 1985

# 2012

At recent High Courts, the **High Chief Ranger's annual charity** receives a cheque for funds raised during the previous year. Allowing for inflation, the largest cheque presented so far was for £94,037 at High Court 2012 in Birmingham. High Chief Ranger Richard Darlington's appeal for Guide Dogs for the Blind ultimately raised over £100,000.

## Medway memories

Doug Coleman from Court Defence 4343 kindly sent in a copy of this informal High Court photo. 'This was taken at the 1974 High Court at Skegness and shows delegates from the former Rochester and Medway District. Relying on memory I can recall the names of most of the delegates and visitors. Standing at the back: Lillian and Alfred Eves. Middle row, standing: Maurice Dawton, Jack Coleman. Ken Croucher, Tony Wright, Doug Coleman (myself), Mabel Simmons, Peggy Trice, Jim Simmons and Norman Cornhill (District Secretary). Front row, sitting / kneeling: Joyce Croucher, Janet Croucher, Joan Coleman, Edith Cornhill, Kath Dawton and Bobby Trice. My mother Joan Coleman was District Chief Ranger in 1973-1975 and a delegate at this High Court. I went along as a visitor, although I have attended several High Courts since as a delegate. I was District Chief Ranger in 1991-1992, and my father Jack Coleman was also District Chief Ranger in 1995-1996.'







## The AGM at MUFC

### What it is like to preside over High Court? Past High Chief Ranger Pat Swadling looks back at High Court 2009.

I had the privilege of being High Chief Ranger during the Order's 175th Anniversary year. There are many memories but one of the first must be the High Court venue, The Manchester Suite at Old Trafford (the Manchester United football stadium). There were over 400 delegates and visitors attending. One sad memory though is that Rev Dr John Tudor was in hospital and unable to be with us. I remember naively asking Company Secretary Jill Chipchase who was going to lead the High Court opening prayers and receiving the answer 'You are'.

The formal opening of High Court and giving the address was an experience never to be forgotten. As was the Civic Reception with the Lord Mayor at the Hilton Hotel, followed by the Delegates' Conference Dinner with Andrew Pooley as Master of Ceremonies. Then there was the Blues Night Disco, organised by Liz Abbott, a really special event that raised a great deal of money for my charity appeal. Liz and Andrew are now, of course, both Past High Chief Rangers. Another fun event was the Race Night organised, I quote, from Ken Houghton's Racing News, by 'the North West Gang of Six with a couple of Yorkshire Tykes thrown in'.

The Church Service, sadly without Rev Dr Tudor, was a wonderful occasion. I can still see Peter Chase proudly carrying the High Chief Ranger's standard through Salford Cathedral. I remember the whole of High Court as being positive and friendly. There were some fascinating presentations on the conference theme of Past, Present and Future, particularly from Dr Roger Logan of the Heritage Trust and Past High Chief Ranger Don Wild, Chief Ranger of Court No. 1. The delegates' memories and anecdotes were sometimes quite moving.

I expect everyone who was there remembers the excitement of the delegation group photograph in the Old Trafford stands. It was taken by the football club's photographer. There was a large board on the pitch, which he had to step onto then balance on a set of steps to give him enough height to get everyone in. None of us were allowed to put a toe on the hallowed turf. But we were treated to the singing of the delegates from Suriname!

Another particular memory must be giving a very large cheque to representatives of my charity appeal, the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Finally, investing Jim Launchbury as High Chief Ranger, and my wife Margaret investing Janet Launchbury with the Lady's chain. We remember it being tinged with sadness, knowing our year was over, but delighted for the new HCR and Lady. So many memories crowding in. These are just a few - and of the many members who helped make them.

#### Pat Swadling

Past High Chief Ranger





## NATIONAL

### THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE BOOKED FOR 2021:

#### JUNE

26-27 virtual High Court - held online

#### OCTOBER

15-17 Northern Conference  
- Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport

### Contact details:

#### Court Development Officers

Joanne Andrew  
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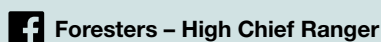
#### Foresters Brass

The best way for anyone to check details, buy tickets and CDs and generally keep up to date is to keep an eye on our website which is: [www.forestersbrass.co.uk](http://www.forestersbrass.co.uk)



#### High Chief Ranger

mcharlton-hubble@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk

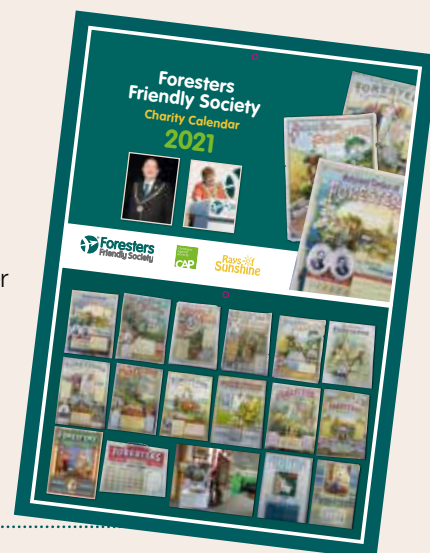


# Out and About

*within social distancing guidelines*

## 2021 Calendars

The Society's 2021 charity appeal calendar features A4 colour illustrations from the Heritage Trust collection. A number remain available at £3 each. All the proceeds will be shared equally between the High Chief Ranger and High Sub-Chief Ranger's charity appeals, for Rays of Sunshine and Christians Against Poverty respectively. To order a copy please email [cheg@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk](mailto:cheg@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk)



## Bear with us

If you went to Foresters head office in early September, you'd be sure of a big surprise! To support the High Chief Ranger's charity appeal for Rays of Sunshine, Society staff assembled lots of Build a Bear kits for National Teddy Bear Day. The kits were then donated to children at nearby Southampton Children's Hospital. (Well done to Lorraine, Grace and Elaine for all your hard work – Ed.)



## Pupdate II

Arrow II and Ashen II, the latest Canine Partners puppies sponsored by Foresters, are now nine months old and progressing well in their training to become assistance dogs. Canine Partners write: 'Arrow lives with other dogs in a lovely rural area in Hampshire. He enjoys his free walks and is very happy to learn. His sister Ashen is very affectionate. She works hard to follow cues given and loves having her photo taken. Socialising the puppies has been a real challenge during the pandemic. We re-opened our National Training Centres last September and managed to place a further seven assistance dogs before the second lockdown. We are so grateful for the extra help from our supporters and volunteers that has seen us through this challenging period. Thank you.'



Ashen



Arrow



## Lest we forget

Once again, Courts throughout the UK paid their respects to the fallen on Remembrance Sunday. In Cornwall, Kevin Wadland laid a wreath at Launceston War Memorial on behalf of Court Goodwill 5077, something he has done for over 12 years. In the East Anglia South Area, Court Trustee Peter Rudlin laid a wreath from Court Sailors Home 5105 at Mersea Island. Also pictured is the Court Foresters' Pride 9389 wreath at the war memorial in Boston.



## Sunflower power

Foresters' Pride 9389 (see p13) weren't the only Court to reach for the skies by growing sunflowers. This proud example [photo 3] was cultivated by Mike Bell of Court Moorlands 9475 (Central Area). After a bit of debate about the correct way to measure it - 'I included the roots' claims Mike - it was calculated to be 4 feet 8 inches high at the time. Christine Carpenter spotted this specimen at the bottom of her garden [photo 1]. It eventually got to 6 feet 2 inches and was one of several surprise sunflowers; 'I didn't grow them, they just appeared. The seeds must have been in the bird food mix!'. Tallest of all however may have been this North London Area giant, [photo 2] tended by Laurence Beales of Court Peaceful Valley 1753; 'Nearly 10 feet, highest yet - only 9 feet last year'.

(Ed. – Wow, well done everyone. While following this story I was struck by a suggestion from Brenda Batt, Secretary of Court Lord Stanhope 2084, who asked 'Maybe we should have a competition next year to see who grows the biggest sunflower?' Great idea Brenda, any members interested in giving this a go?)







## Flora spread

As reported in the previous Miscellany (Foresters in Lockdown, Issue 1634), members lucky enough to have some garden space made the most of a sunny summer. Here are some of the fantastic flowers and plants that show Foresters are also gardeners. (Ed. - Lovely pictures all, thanks for sharing them. Special mention to Marylyn Springham, Secretary of Court Peaceful Valley 1753, whose creative balcony garden had room for a unicorn!)

Photos courtesy of Glyn and Christine Carpenter, Rosemary Groves, Sandra Scotting, Marylyn Springham, and others











# How should Foresters support vulnerable customers?

Chris Davidson would like to hear members' views

If there is one word which describes the Covid-19 pandemic it must be vulnerability. Individuals, schools, charities, local government, and businesses have become vulnerable as the pandemic and lockdowns disrupt normal life.

Foresters have been helping many members in need, for example through the Foresters Support Fund. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), our insurance business regulator, requires us to pay special attention to the treatment of vulnerable customers. Many factors can affect peoples' vulnerability. Examples include:

- physical or mental health conditions
- stressful events, such as divorce or bereavement
- 'resilience', such as over indebtedness or lack of a support structure
- 'capability', such as poor numeracy or English language skills

A 2017 report from the FCA found that 50% of UK consumers currently show one or more characteristics of potential vulnerability. This means we must consider how we communicate with our members. Members who may, for example, be hard of hearing, confused, or suffering from stress. Our team that handles claims on death are always conscious of vulnerability when speaking to people suffering from bereavement. Independent surveys consistently give Foresters ratings of over 95% member satisfaction.

The FCA says that we must identify potentially vulnerable customers. We are also very aware that we should only hold information on our systems that is needed to manage members' policies. So, we are considering if we should make any changes in our approach with vulnerable customers.

Although Courts' benevolent activities are not regulated by the FCA, the approach we take may also be useful for Courts. We are going to ask charities such as Age Concern, RNIB, Action on Hearing Loss and MIND for their views on vulnerability. We also want to hear from members. How do you think we should be identifying and looking after vulnerable customers?

Here are some points where we would like your feedback:

1. Should we have a question in our application forms asking whether a customer is vulnerable?
2. Should we record vulnerability on our computer systems, such as an 'extra care' marker?
3. Should we issue guidance to Court Introducers on how to identify and treat vulnerable customers?

Please contact me by phone or email using the details below. I will report back on your feedback and seek the views of the Membership Committee.

Yours fraternally,

*Chris*

**Chris Davidson, Chief Compliance Officer**

**Foresters Friendly Society**

**Phone: 07875 888 224**

**[cdavidson@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk](mailto:cdavidson@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk)**





## Carmen Graham

### Past High Chief Ranger's Lady

Carmen Graham died peacefully at home on 9 December. A member of Court Abbey Foresters 1940 for many years, Carmen served as the Court's Chief Ranger on numerous occasions and held the role of Social Secretary. She was also a Trustee of the Foresters Homes at Bexleyheath and Miscellany readers may recall her 'Cooking with Carmen' articles.

Carmen and her late husband Malcolm encountered Foresters in the 1950s. Their daughter Madelaine explains, 'They were taking part in a cabaret act in Kilburn, doing American square-dancing, and discovered they were at a Foresters Dinner Dance. The rest is history!' Malcolm was eventually appointed High Chief Ranger in 1987. Carmen supported him throughout as High Chief Ranger's Lady, including at the 1988 High Court in Torquay.

In the 1980s Carmen served as Secretary of Court Industry of Cobden 1752. As a member of numerous Courts, she was a regular delegate at District and Area meetings, and High Court where she loved meeting her many Foresters friends. She attended High Court 2018 at Southport just six months after a hip replacement. Our condolences are extended to Madelaine and all Carmen's family and friends.

## Carl Genese

### Past Chairman

Carl Genese, Past Chairman of the Society, passed away on 24 July. Carl had a long history with Foresters and held various positions in the Society. Besides being the Society's Chairman, he was a Court Secretary, District Secretary and served as Chairman of the Foresters Heritage Trust. From 2003 he was also Chairman / Trustee of the Society's closed Pension Schemes.

Carl served as Secretary of Court Coventry 7829. When the Foresters Leicester and Northampton Districts joined together to create a new Shires District, he became the Shires District Secretary. Carl later became the Midlands District Secretary and was elected to the Board in September 2007. Appointed Deputy Chairman in September 2009, he then served as Chairman from September 2010 to June 2012.

Outside of Foresters, Carl worked within the insurance industry for many years, including overseas postings. Sadly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic his funeral took place with limited numbers. Our condolences are extended to his family and friends, especially his wife Roseann.

**Foresters Friendly Society would like to offer our deepest sympathies to all those who have recently lost someone in the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time.**



# Your Voice...



To write in to Miscellany,

email: [editor@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk](mailto:editor@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk)

post: Miscellany Editor, Foresters Friendly Society, Foresters House, 29-33 Shirley Road, Southampton, SO15 3EW.

## Corn Doll Poem.

It's but a thing of straw, they say,  
Yet even straw can surely be  
Plaited into doll like me.  
And in the days of long ago  
To help the seeds once more to grow?  
I was an offering to the gods  
A very simple idea indeed.  
Of asking them to intercede  
That barn and granary ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> food!  
At harvest time, with fruit and corn  
To fill again Amalthaea's horn.  
Anon.



NEW  
HOBBY  
FOR  
2020

... but Lockdown was  
the final straw ..!

## LOCKDOWN SPECIAL Free Range Eggs For Sale



CLUCK  
and  
COLLECT

Dear Editor,

May I congratulate you on such a full Summer Miscellany, with so many great photos showing Foresters coping with lockdown. Of which...

As a hobby letterpress printer, lockdown has meant more 'press time' so I thought readers might enjoy seeing a couple of my efforts. I printed them as part of Covid-related 'exercise' for the British Printing Society, so the prints weren't for sale. I don't keep chickens or make corn dollies but hopefully they will make Miscellany readers smile.

Yours fraternally,

**Pat Swadling, Past High Chief Ranger**

Many thanks for your kind comments - and I like the idea of 'Cluck and Collect' - Ed.

Ed's note: - The previous edition reported on a social event held by Courts Loyal Oxonian St. Frideswide 2991 and Victoria and Ivanhoe 7626. Excluding the word 'Court' and their numbers, these two Courts total 42 letters in their names (45 if 'St.' is written as 'Saint'). So, would another two Courts total even more if they held a joint event?...

Dear Editor,

Having received our copy of Miscellany 1634, we respond to your question ['Joint venture', p11]. Just before lockdown on 8 March, our Secretary Barry Toomey organised a joint Sunday Lunch at The White Hart at Nettlebed for Courts 4265 and 4961. Despite about 20 of us attending, and having a brilliant carvery meal, unfortunately no pictures were taken.

Counting the letters in their names and adding them together - Court Robin Hood and the Merry Men of Sherwood Forest 4265 with 39 letters and Court Pride of Reading 4961 with 14 letters - would this be considered as Thames Valley Area having a 'joint Court event' exceeding 45 letters?

Yours fraternally,

**Chris and Lin Harrop,**

**Court Robin Hood and the Merry Men  
of Sherwood Forest 4265**

**Court Pride of Reading 4961**

**Court Pride of the Hill 5044**

I think so! I wonder if Court 4961 have held an event with Court 2991?... - Ed.



Dear friends,

Some of you know that on 5 September I had to leave the South London Area Zoom Meeting rather abruptly and without explanation. The reason was that I was having a stroke. Having not lost consciousness or any cognitive ability, I was able to recognise the symptoms immediately and asked my husband Ron to call an ambulance. The ambulance crew arrived within five minutes and in less than thirty minutes, I was receiving treatment at a specialist emergency stroke unit.

After eleven days in hospital, I was discharged with support from the community rehab team. The support I have received from physio, occupational therapists and others has been fantastic. With Ron's constant support too, I am making a good recovery. There is still a long way to go. I still need to rest a lot but things are improving daily and hopefully it won't be too long before I will be fully recovered.

I know that some of you have already reminded your members of the **FAST** test for stroke [see below - Ed.]. Recognising these signs and calling 999 immediately can give someone having a stroke the best chance of a good recovery. Please always remember FAST and remind your family and friends too. I can't tell you how grateful I am that I remembered FAST and was able to get emergency help so quickly.

Since the stroke, I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and concern shown to us by individual Foresters, Courts, Areas and Head Office. My thanks to all of you who have asked after me, phoned, texted, sent cards, flowers and gifts. This has meant so much and really helped to brighten up some very dark days. It has been a reminder too that Foresters really is a friendly Society.

**F** = face: can the person smile? Has the person's face fallen on one side?

**A** = arms: can they raise both arms and keep them there?

**S** = speech: can they speak clearly and understand what you say? Is their speech slurred?

**T** = time: time to call 999 if you see any of these three signs

Yours fraternally,

**Cheryl Fox, Secretary, Courts Pride of Islington 2939 and Foresters Fancy 1968  
Chairman, South London Area**

Dear friends

Through Miscellany I would like to thank all our friends in Forestry who sent cards of sympathy and condolence on the death of my husband Denny. I am sorry that he did not get the funeral he so rightly deserved. We are hoping that in the not too distant future we may have a memorial service.

Sincerely,

**Pat Orton, Past High Chief Ranger's Lady**

## Foresters Password 2021:

\* ♪ ♂ ≡ Π ♀ ♪ \* † ♂ \* ≡

The High Chief Ranger sets the Society Password annually. The key to the code is in the Court Handbook, which is held by your Court Secretary.

# 2020 Quiz (with Covid-free questions)

- 1 In Chinese astrology 2020 was the year of which animal?
- 2 At the Academy Awards (the Oscars), which film won Best Picture?
- 3 Donald Trump became the third US President to be impeached, who were the others?
- 4 Who moved out of Frogmore Cottage in March?
- 5 Which country became the 30th member of NATO?
- 6 And which one made all public transport free of charge?
- 7 Who became the first England fast bowler to reach 600 Test wickets?
- 8 Among the 503 new animal species recorded in 2020, what is a Popa langur?
- 9 What was posted to English Heritage with an anonymous note, 'Borrowed 1973. Returned 2020. Sorry for the delay'?
- 10 Donald Fear became the first person in the UK to do what on television since 2006?
- 11 Which world landmark grew two feet taller after it was remeasured?
- 12 Who had their first US number 1 hit, at the age of 78, with a 17-minute song about John F Kennedy?
- 13 The UK set weather records by passing what temperature for three days in a row?
- 14 Which Belgian-born sports star cost a world-record \$1.9 million?
- 15 Who was awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize?
- 16 Which rocket made the first commercial flight to the International Space Station?
- 17 In football, Premier League champions Liverpool won 7-0 and lost 7-2 against which teams?
- 18 What is the real first name of Strictly Come Dancing winner Bill Bailey?
- 19 Sir Lewis Hamilton is the third British racing driver to receive a knighthood, after who?
- 20 Which two Christmas songs finally topped the UK charts 26 years and 36 years after their first releases?

Answers on  
opposite page

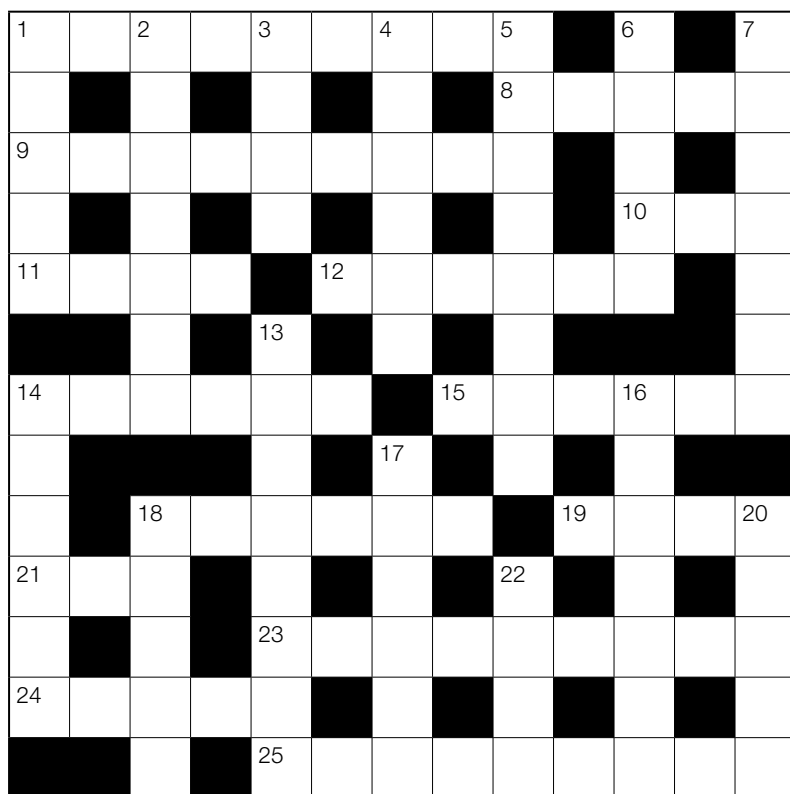
## Who's poo?

Here is the picture round from the Southern Home Counties Area online quiz (see p19). Can you identify which animals left these behind?





# Classic CROSSWORD 10



## Across

1. Yorkshire Court with Spirit (9)
8. Home of Dennis the Menace (5)
9. Flight of steps (9)
10. Manage (3)
11. An eleven (4)
12. Fabled foot? (6)
14. Past High Chief Ranger \_\_\_\_ Pooley (6)
15. 1972 High Court venue (6)
18. Column (6)
19. Cardiff river (4)
21. Wildebeest (3)
23. Festive singing (9)
24. Additional (5)
25. A Cabinet desk? (9)

## Down

1. Justification (5)
2. A father's father (7)
3. Lease (4)
4. Bookworm (6)
5. Scrooge's first name (8)
6. Scottish landowner (5)
7. Nation (7)
13. Copies (8)
14. Zenith (6)
16. Endurance (7)
17. Material (6)
18. Golf shots (5)
20. Misty (5)
22. Here's a hint (4)

Answers to be published  
in the following edition

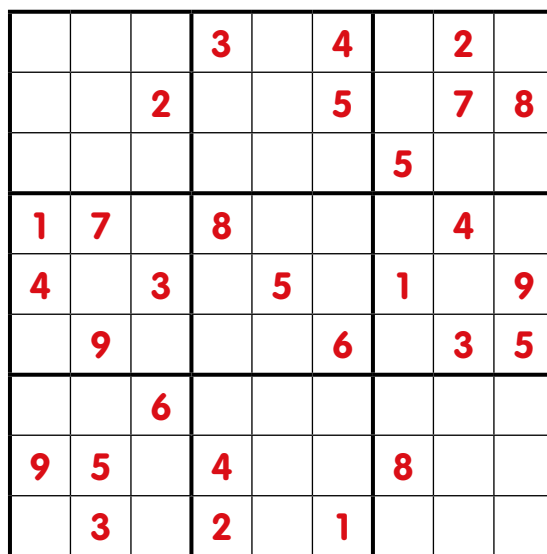
## Answers to Crossword 9 (issue 1634)

**Across:** 1. Llandudno 8. Untie 9. President 10. Kit 11. Logo 12. Umpire 14. Yorkie 15. Census 18. Rifle 19. Soap 21. HCR 24. Inspiring 25. Reign 26. Goddesses

**Down:** 1. Lapel 2. Avengers 3. Drip 4. Dreams 5. Outsider 6. Stoke 7. Beatles 13. Visiting 14. Yoghurt 16. Stories 17. Closed 20. Pages 20. Lilac 22. Rail 23. Side

# Sudoku

Answers  
in the next  
edition



## How to play:

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

### TO ISSUE 1634

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

## 2020 Quiz answers

1. The Year of the Rat
2. Parasite (the first non-English language winner)
3. Andrew Johnson, a racing pigeon
4. Harry and Meghan, Duke and Duchess of Sussex
5. North Macedonia
6. Luxembourg
7. James Anderson
8. A monkey
9. A medieval key to St Leonard's Tower
10. Win the top prize on 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?'
11. Mount Everest
12. Bob Dylan
13. 35 degrees Celsius
14. New Kim, a racing pigeon
15. The World Food Programme
16. SpaceX Falcon 9
17. Crystal Palace, Aston Villa
18. Mark
19. Sir Stirling Moss, Sir Jackie Stewart
20. 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' by Mariah Carey and 'Last Christmas' by Wham!

## Who's poo answers

- A Badger  
B Bat  
C Otter  
D Fox  
E Water vole  
F Hedgehog

# Clare the cook

## Late-winter warmers

A couple of comfort recipes to warm body and soul alike



Hi there! My name is Clare Abbott and I'm a member of Court Benevolence 2568 in the East Midlands. What a strange year. I think most of us are pleased to see the end of 2020, with hopes for some sort of normality in 2021. With frost on the ground and a chill in the air, it's time to enjoy some comforting food. One of my favourite dishes in cold weather is warm soup. Home-made soup is very easy to make, plus a healthier and cheaper alternative to shop bought soup. Another comforting recipe is winter red cabbage, which makes an ideal accompaniment for a roast dinner. I have my mother's friend to thank for this delicious recipe, ideal for those with a sweet tooth - like me!



### Winter red cabbage

#### METHOD

1. Finely chop the red cabbage into thin strips and place into a large microwave-proof bowl.
2. Core the apples and cut them into thin slices, then finely chop the onions. Add the apples and onions into the bowl.
3. Halve and then squeeze the orange. Pour the orange juice into the bowl, then add the water and vinegar.
4. Add the cinnamon and sugar. Stir all the ingredients together until well combined.
5. Cover the bowl with cling film and pierce it a few times with a fork. Heat the bowl in the microwave on full power for ten minutes.
6. Carefully remove the cling film and give the cabbage mixture a good stir. Place the cling film back over the bowl and microwave for a further ten minutes on full power.
7. Leave the cabbage mixture to stand for five minutes before serving.

#### INGREDIENTS

**makes 3-4 side servings  
with a main meal**

400g / 14oz red cabbage  
2 red apples  
2 small red onions  
1 large orange  
2 tbsp cold water  
3 tbsp cider vinegar or white wine vinegar  
1 tsp cinnamon or 1 cinnamon stick  
4 tbsp white sugar  
Note: this recipe requires a microwave





## INGREDIENTS

**makes 6-8 servings**

3 small red onions

4 large carrots

4 large parsnips

2 ½ pints / 1 ½ litres of vegetable stock

A small amount of oil and butter

Salt and pepper for seasoning

## Carrot and parsnip soup

### METHOD

1. Finely chop the red onions and place in a large saucepan with oil. Cook on a medium heat for 10 minutes, until the onions have started to soften.
2. Peel and chop the carrots and parsnips into thin slices. Then add them to the onions along with the butter and vegetable stock. Add salt and pepper to your taste / preference.
3. Give the ingredients a good stir and bring the mixture to the boil.
4. Leave to simmer on a medium heat for 30 minutes until the carrots and parsnips have softened.
5. Blend the soup together using a stick blender or food processor until you have a thick smooth mixture (be careful when blending the hot soup).
6. Ready to serve – I like mine with a warm crusty roll!

# Keeping the conversation going



'Keeping the conversation going'. This is a phrase I have heard a lot recently, referring to the different ways we have tried to keep in touch with one another during the months of the pandemic. When we were able to meet with friends or in a group, of course we all talked. And hopefully listened too. But maybe sometimes there would be a lull in the conversation, until someone broke the silence by introducing a new topic (and off we would go again).

Maybe this has become more of a problem recently. Maybe we haven't much new to talk about and the frequent phone calls of the early days have tailed off. We have decided in my family that our occasional Zoom meetings were becoming a bit pointless; having talked frequently on the phone or via email, we hadn't got much else to share. The teenagers in particular looked somewhat bored!

So how can we keep 'the conversation', the link, going?

Well, as I write, the opportunity to be vaccinated has given us something to talk about. Perhaps that also gives us a clue as to how to keep going - finding something that provides a glimmer of hope in these dark days. Maybe we can find some more glimmers of hope to share.

*The promise of spring. That surely is more than a mere glimmer of hope!*

A friend of mine who lives in Brighton (sorry – Hove, actually!) takes her daily exercise by walking around her local streets. She looks at peoples' gardens and notices the changes, like the new green shoots and the first of the snowdrops. As she shares these sightings, others of us too have begun to do the same. We share our finds with her: buds on a magnolia tree, heather, daffodils, some other new growth we can't name. Whenever we can, we look for more the next day.

In a book about the Christian year by John Booker, one chapter is headed 'Easter comes at garden time'. Many of the scenes of the Easter story are set in gardens. They are mainly scenes of suffering and death. But one is of resurrection and new life. Perhaps we can look at the Resurrection as God's way of 'keeping the conversation going', by taking us through the barrenness of winter, with its grief and hardship, and then creating hope.

The love and care we extend to each other reflects God's love for us - and how life can be created anew in days to come. So, let us 'keep the conversation going' as we look forward to seeing each other again and sharing all the exciting new life we will have to talk about.

Every blessing wherever you are.

*Cynthia Tudor*



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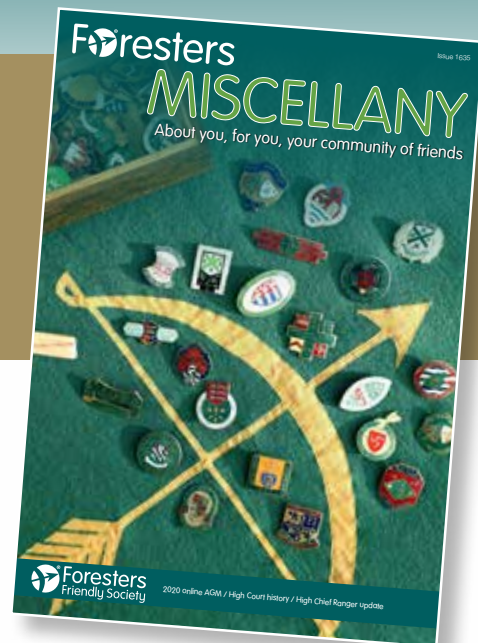
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