Foresters

Issue 1649

MISCELLANY

About you, for you, your community of friends

Foresters Friendly Society

HIGH COURT 2026 I High Chief Ranger and charity appeal

Join us on Facebook

Did you know that Miscellany has its own Facebook group? All Foresters are welcome to join it. Just like the magazine, the group is about Foresters, for Foresters and by Foresters.

Join the group today to:

- **keep up to date with the latest goings on across our network of Courts**
- **share news and photos from your Court with other Foresters**
- **access online copies of Miscellany magazine**
- **enjoy a first glimpse of forthcoming Miscellany articles**

The Foresters Miscellany group has been set up as 'Private'. This means there is no advertising and no spam. Furthermore, nobody else on Facebook can see who's in the group and what is posted there.

To join the Miscellany group, you will need to have a Facebook account.
Then follow these simple steps:

1. **Search for 'Foresters Miscellany' on Facebook or type in the following URL: www.facebook.com/groups/540397172820498/**
2. **Click the blue 'Join Group' button.**
3. **Answer the two simple questions that appear onscreen and click 'Submit'**

(The questions help the group administrators to confirm that you are a Foresters member. Only the administrators of the group will see your answers.)

The group administrator will then review your answers and add you into the group. It's as simple as that!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your Editor at:
editor@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk

Welcome to Miscellany

'Winter is coming' – **Ned Stark, Game of Thrones**

Hello and welcome to this edition of Miscellany. At the time of writing, the year is beginning another cycle. The nights are drawing in. There's a nip in the air. Leaves are falling, while bees and butterflies have flown away. Indoors, meanwhile, another new series of Strictly Come Dancing waltzes us towards Christmas.

As 2026 starts to turn wintry, this edition of Miscellany covers a record-breaking summer. For many people, summer in the UK was a season of blue skies, yellow grass and, sadly, the red of blazing wildfires. The latter felt especially poignant when fire broke out on Conwy Mountain in early July. A couple of weeks earlier, Foresters from nationwide had met at nearby Llandudno for High Court.

High Court, the Foresters AGM weekend, is the focus of this edition. There is a special report on High Court weekend plus we meet Bruce Hicks, our High Chief Ranger, and his chosen charity, Shelter. A big thank you to Helen Hicks, Bruce's wife, who took the photo at the top of this page. Regular readers will probably agree that she has captured my best side.

As well as High Court, this edition includes a summary of the regional Conferences and the outgoing High Chief Ranger's charity ball. The previous appeal was for Alzheimer's Society. Besides raising money for the charity, our Immediate Past High Chief Ranger, Gail Lancaster, wanted to raise awareness about dementia. One of her initiatives was a poetry and painting competition. This edition includes members' creative and heartfelt winning entries.

There are also updates from members and Courts nationwide. Look out for horses, dinosaurs, motorbikes, amateur axe throwers and a trophy winning professional basketball player. As always, thank you to everyone who sent items for publication. All are most welcome. Your Editor does feel sad that he can't fit everything in but is always most grateful for articles received - so please keep them coming!

Having looked back, it's time to look forward. I haven't read or watched Game of Thrones but have heard this famous quote from it. 'Winter is coming' is a short, simple phrase but full of meaning; wrap up warm, prepare for change, keep safe, look after others. Winter is the busiest time of year for homelessness charities like Shelter. Here's wishing all Foresters and friends a happy and healthy season.

Yours fraternally,

Rory

Rory Walsh, Editor

To receive Miscellany by subscription, please visit www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk/miscellany

FSC
www.fsc.org
MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C120778

Thank you everyone for your contributions to Miscellany.

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is **31 December 2026**. 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 Foresters - Miscellany

COURT

Introducing Bruce Hicks, our High Chief Ranger for 2026-27

Dear friends,

My name is Bruce Hicks and it is an honour to serve as your High Chief Ranger. I sought election as I really wanted to give something back to Foresters at the highest level – and to continue supporting and engaging with fellow members across the Society.

I have been a member of Court Foresters' Pride 9389 for over 20 years. I live with my family in Boston, Lincolnshire, where I was born and raised. I joined Foresters when my wife became a Court Secretary, initially to support our young family. It soon became clear though that Foresters would play a significant and lasting role in our lives.

During those early years we made many fond family memories on Foresters social events. We joined Court Unity 4893 to benefit from their excellent socials and were made very welcome by our good friends Ros and Chris Morris. Over the years, we have built many valued friendships. As a family we enjoyed becoming part of the wider Foresters family, both through our Court and Area activities.

Alongside being a member of Courts 9389 and 4893, I serve as the Assistant Secretary of Court Victory 3621, plus hold Area roles in both East Anglia North and South. I am also a Court Development Officer in the Court Support Team, having previously served as Area Co-ordinator from 2018 to 2021.

Through my Court Development Officer role, I have the pleasure of engaging with Court Secretaries and members on a near daily basis, giving me a strong understanding of members' views and expectations. I have attended numerous Court meetings, regional conferences and Society events. As High Sub-Chief Ranger and now as High Chief Ranger I have had the opportunity to meet many of you, listening carefully to your ideas and concerns.

Before I became an Area Co-ordinator and Court Development Officer, I worked for 28 years as a golf course greenkeeper, 23 of those years as Head Greenkeeper. I have worked as part of the match-day support at many British Open Golf Championships and been privileged to walk the course inside the ropes with some of golf's greatest players. This experience taught me quite a few things, the main one being that I was never going to be any good at playing the game!

Outside of Foresters, I enjoy watching local non-league football team Boston United, going for long walks, working out in the gym and spending time gardening with my wife, Helen. Our lawn is my pride and joy. My greatest pride and joy though are our two children, Charlotte and Thomas. They are both lifelong Foresters who have benefited from the Society's support and now play active roles within it. Charlotte is currently the Assistant Secretary to Court 9389 and Thomas also serves on the Committee.

Both our children were supported through university by the Educational Awards Fund. I would like to publicly thank you all for this. They both have good jobs, and alongside the financial support I am convinced that just being a Forester helps to produce confident, well-rounded, young people.

Charlotte has also served on the Membership Committee and I'm sure she will be known to a few of you. Since being elected as High Sub-Chief Ranger, I too have served on the Membership Committee. The role has been rewarding and, at times, challenging, while further broadening my understanding of the Society and what it takes to sustain it.

The Society is currently undergoing a period of significant change. I firmly believe that we have a real chance to honour our heritage while embracing change to secure a positive future for all members. As High Chief Ranger, I will work to be a strong and positive figurehead, promoting an organisation we can all be proud of. I believe we each have a role to play in contributing to a Society that continues to grow, adapt and build a sustainable future.

One of the things I am most looking forward to during my year is visiting Courts and meeting members across the country. I want to hear what is working well, what concerns you and what you would like Foresters to become. I may not always be able to provide the answer everyone wants, but I promise that I will listen. I hope members will feel able to talk to me when we meet, whether that is about the future of the Society, something happening within your own Court, or simply to have a chat about what Foresters means to you.

I also have the privilege as High Chief Ranger of selecting a charity for the Society's annual appeal. I have chosen to support the homelessness charity Shelter. The housing emergency in the UK continues to have a devastating impact on individuals, families and communities. A safe, secure and affordable home is the foundation of a stable life, yet for far too many people this basic need is not being met. I look forward to supporting Shelter and championing their important work over the coming year.

Most of all, I hope to enjoy this very special year with as many of you as possible. Foresters has given my family and me many wonderful memories, friendships and opportunities over the years, and it is a tremendous privilege now to serve as your High Chief Ranger. I look forward to meeting old friends, making new ones and, together, doing everything we can to ensure that the Foresters spirit continues for generations to come.

Yours fraternally,

Bruce Hicks

High Chief Ranger
Bhicks@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk

INTRODUCING OUR HIGH CHIEF RANGER'S CHARITY APPEAL FOR 2026-27: SHELTER

Everyone deserves a safe and permanent place to call home. A home is far more than four walls and a roof; it's a place of safety and security where we can build our futures together. But, across the UK, too many people are facing homelessness due to the devastating impact the housing emergency has on people and our communities.

As a national housing and homelessness charity, Shelter and Shelter Scotland believes that everyone should have a safe, secure and affordable place to call home. We work in partnership with Shelter Cymru and Housing Rights to support communities across all countries of the UK.

What is the housing emergency?

When people think of homelessness, they often picture someone sleeping rough on the streets. But this is the tip of the iceberg.

Thousands of households are living in temporary homeless accommodation, in cramped hotel rooms or hostels. Whole families can end up sharing a single room, with little space to eat, sleep and play. This is supposed to be temporary accommodation, but families can be trapped here for months, even years. What should be a very short-term solution often becomes a long-term reality, affecting the whole family's wellbeing and sense of security.

Renters are facing unaffordable and unfit housing. Some households are spending a large proportion of their income just to keep a roof over their heads, leaving little room to cover other essential costs, like heating. When rents rise faster than wages and genuinely affordable homes are in short supply, many families are left with impossible choices.

At the heart of this housing emergency is a shortage of genuinely affordable homes. We believe that social homes are the solution. For decades, the number of social homes being built has failed to keep pace with the need. As a result, millions of people are impacted by the housing emergency, waiting too long for a permanent place to call home.

How we support

For 60 years, we have supported people facing homelessness and unsafe housing, while campaigning for housing rights so that everyone has access to housing when and where they need it. We are there when people need support most, providing housing advice and helping people fight for their rights when facing homelessness.

Homelessness prevention helpline - Our free helplines provide urgent housing advice to people who are homeless, have nowhere safe to stay, or are at immediate risk of losing their home. Trained advisers help people understand their options and access the support they need.

Online housing advice - Our online housing advice receives millions of views each year. From applying for a social home, to repairs, evictions and knowing your housing rights we provide clear, expert information to help people navigate housing problems and understand their rights.

Local services - We work with partners in community settings to offer tailored advice, to build capacity to help prevent homelessness, resolve housing issues and access longer-term support.

Legal support - Our solicitors provide free legal advice and representation to help people with housing issues across England and Scotland. We provide advice and attend court to help people keep their homes, access housing and improve their housing conditions.

Fighting for housing justice - We are also campaigning to tackle the root causes of homelessness and unfit housing. By campaigning for a new generation of social homes to be built, calling for housing rights to be upheld and advocating for better housing policy, we are working towards a future where everyone has a safe, secure and affordable home.

Making a difference together

Whether you take part in fundraising activities, attend events or simply help spread the word, your support can help change lives. We will work alongside Foresters members throughout the year to raise awareness of the housing emergency and to support people facing homelessness and housing insecurity.

Together, we can help ensure that everyone has a safe place to call home. Your support could help:

- Provide expert housing advice
- Support people facing homelessness
- Campaign for lasting change
- Amplify the voices of people affected by the housing emergency

Every fundraiser, challenge event and donation helps defend the right to a safe and secure home.

HOME IS EVERYTHING

To find out more about our work or access housing advice:

England
Website: shelter.org.uk
Free helpline (Mon to Fri, 8am to 5pm):
0808 800 4444

Scotland
Website: shelterscotland.org
Free helpline (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm):
0808 800 4444

Wales
Website: sheltercymru.org.uk
Free helpline (Mon to Fri, 9am to 4pm):
08000 495 495

Northern Ireland
Website: housingrights.org.uk
Free helpline (Mon to Fri, 9.30am to 4.30pm):
028 9024 5640

Note: helplines are closed on weekends and public holidays

Get to know some of the mem

Name: George Yalden

Courts: Bosmere 2277, Castledean 3797, Crown 3832

Area: Hants and Sussex

Lives: Havant, Hampshire

George Yalden's Foresters journey began in his hometown of Havant, where he became a member of Court Concord 3832. 'I was introduced to Foresters by John Freeston, the Secretary and my mentor. I served as Junior Beadle for 22 years before the Court amalgamated with Court Bosmere 2277.' George has twice served as Court 2277's Chief Ranger and later became Secretary of Court Loyal Excelsior 3853. After Court Excelsior was amalgamated into Court Castledean 3797, George was honoured to serve as Chief Ranger three times.

In 1998, he joined Honorary Court John Spracklen 10182, serving as the Court's Chief Ranger in 2006. 'My commitment extended to the South Western District' George continues. 'I became District Chief Ranger in 2002.' George served on the steering committee that established the Hants and Sussex Area. 'In total, I devoted 23 years to the Area. I was honoured to hold the positions of Area Champion, Area Secretary, Committee Member, and Area Chief Ranger.'

In 1999, George became Secretary of Court Crown 3832. 'I thoroughly enjoy the role. I consider myself fortunate to serve alongside such an incredible group of dedicated and supportive members. Their friendship, commitment, and enthusiasm have made my time with the Court rewarding and memorable.'

After an appeal for volunteers to assist at the Foresters Museum, George became involved with the Foresters Heritage Trust. 'At the time, the museum was in College Place, Southampton' he recalls. 'Audrey Fisk introduced me to the world of Foresters regalia, badges and jewels.' George eventually became a Heritage Trust Trustee 'an honour and responsibility I greatly valued.'

When the Museum relocated to Tunstall, George had to step down from the role 'but my interest never faded. I keep a watchful eye for unusual or historic items connected to Foresters. History is central to the Society's identity - and its future. In my view, understanding where Foresters came from is essential for the Society's survival.'

Outside of Foresters, George has been happily married to Shirley for 54 years. 'Together we have been blessed with five children, although sadly we have lost two. We are also proud grandparents to eight wonderful grandchildren.' George works for South Hampshire College Group, where he teaches construction. 'I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience with future generations.'

George also has a passion for cycling. 'When I was younger, I raced competitively, earning medals and trophies. Work injuries brought my racing career to an end, but I still cycle whenever I can.' George's love of cycling has led to an extensive collection of memorabilia, and he follows major cycling races. 'One of my most treasured memories is watching some of the 2012 Paralympic cycling events. The atmosphere was electric.'

Looking back over his time with Foresters, George says 'I feel immensely grateful for the friendships I have made, the opportunities I have been given, and the privilege of serving in different capacities. The Society has been an important part of my life, and I remain committed to supporting the values of friendship, community, and service that Foresters represents.'

bers who support our Society

Name: Geoffrey Thorpe

Court: Pride of Walton 2678

Area: East Anglia South

Lives: Ipswich, Suffolk

Describing himself as 'a four-times married, twice bankrupt, enthusiastic and multi-talented eighty-something with a retirement career as a professional Father Christmas', Geoffrey Thorpe is the first to admit 'I'm a bit of a character'. Geoff became a Forester at an early age, after being enrolled into the Society by his father. Geoff's first home was via a Foresters mortgage ('seven percent') and after leaving the Society for a period, he rejoined Court Brave Old Oak 3658. He served as the Court's Chief Ranger and is now a member of Court Pride of Walton 2678.

Aged seven, Geoff contracted polio and meningitis. 'I spent two months in an isolation hospital, with only weekly visits from my parents. They weren't allowed in the room; we had to talk through a window.' After missing a year's formal education, Geoff enjoyed recuperating in Felixstowe, 'messing about in boats.' Following five years at Stowmarket Grammar School, he gained an HNC in Mechanical Engineering from Ipswich College.

Geoff then worked as an engineering instructor at a Home Office approved school, 'for youngsters detained At Her Majesty's Pleasure' he explains. He also gained qualifications in radio and TV servicing. For many years though Geoff was a lorry and coach driver. He also owned and operated burger vans, catering at public and private events. In all, Geoff has held licences to drive motorcycles, cars, public service vehicles (PSV) and heavy goods vehicles (HGV1).

While driving a lorry, Geoff featured in the BBC TV series Challenge Anneka as part of a team dismantling a hospital in Dunfermline for shipping to Romania. Geoff also briefly acquired the naming rights to the Robot Wars series and helped to put on live shows. He previously ran a business staging discos and parties, building some of the equipment himself. Geoff jokes that at Foresters raffles, 'I still provide the PA system - my big mouth!'

After formal retirement in 2008, Geoff signed up with a Father Christmas agency. His festive assignments have spanned shopping centres, heritage railway trips and a Welsh mining museum. One 'very memorable' afternoon Geoff recalls was a hospital visit, where he helped a dying man say goodbye to his young children. Geoff himself has three daughters, a son, ten grandchildren, and two great granddaughters.

A St John Ambulance volunteer for 'over fifty years', Geoff is also a blood donor. 'Because of my blood group, a blue label is attached to my donations. This means they can be given to 'Blue Babies', including at Great Ormond Street.' To date, Geoff has made almost 140 donations. He also chaired the Ipswich and District Support Group of Diabetes UK and helped fundraise for the charity. 'As a Type 2 diabetic, it was a cause close to my heart.'

Besides organising Foresters raffles at Court and Area events, Geoff has attended the Southern Conference and High Court. He reflects, 'Foresters has helped me a great deal. My first mortgage, medical grants, help with a stair lift... plus the social outings, the friendships, doing things together. I'd like to thank Foresters for all they have given me. My motto in life is that if I can make a person laugh for five minutes and they remember it for half an hour afterwards then I have done my deed for the day!'

CENTRAL

CENTRAL

Area Secretary
Susan Cockhill

Court Garibaldi 3533
Jan 07493 695 322

Court Leek 2005
Adrian 07714 334 453

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 07740 585 070

Court Watt Villa 2455
Sam 0121 476 1726

Brothers and Badgers

Alison Carnell, Secretary of Court Three Brothers 4482, is pictured with the Badgers, Milford Hall Cricket Club's Under XI side. Alison (furthest right, back row) reported on 27 April, 'The Badgers are displaying their new Foresters sponsored kit. Court 4482 are delighted to be sponsoring the kits of all club's Junior sides this coming season.'

A night with Nell

On 5 May, Court Moorlands 9475 reported on an interesting social event. 'The talk given to 20 Foresters at the Rose Theatre, Rugeley will be a night to remember. Historian Lesley Smith, pictured left in her fabulous handmade period costume, portrayed Nell Gwyn, the actress and mistress of King Charles II. It was a thoroughly entertaining evening. A raffle raised £78 which will be donated to the High Chief Ranger's charity and to help with repairs to the roof of St. Michael's Church, Brereton. Thank you to Brenda Batt (right) for all your hard work organising the event.'

Wheelie helpful

Tuesday 17 March saw members from four Central Area Courts gather at The Royal Oak, Chapel Ash to find out about the local 'Blood Bike' service. Our reporter writes, 'Volunteer Alan arrived on a splendid motorbike, purchased with funds raised by The Royal Oak. We were later joined by Andy, another rider who had just finished his shift. Alan explained about the work of Midland Freewheelers 'Blood Bike' service. Blood Bikes are now recognised as emergency vehicles. They carry essential blood supplies, medical supplies, breast milk and so much more. The Midland Freewheelers group has 123 volunteers, including co-ordinators, fundraisers, riders and drivers. The riders work in shifts in all weather, every day of the year including Christmas Day. Through a very generous donation, gifts and raffle proceeds we were able to present the group with a £650 cheque.'

CENTRAL

Tee-Rex

Members from Courts Garibaldi 3533 and Pride of Norton 5249 spent 11 July enjoying a round of golf. Susan Cockhill, Area Secretary, reports: 'It was a very warm and sunny day at Dinosaur World Adventure Golf in Aldridge. The children especially enjoyed trying to navigate the course, while avoiding the water and the dinosaurs growling along the way!'

Cherishers cherished

Court Lord Stanhope 2804 donated to a local charity on 13 March. Brenda Batt, Court Secretary, reports: 'Cherishers is a community home care service. They help people in their homes, with tasks like laundry, food shopping and self-care. They have a singing group, an exercise group and are a non-profit organisation with lots of volunteers. Last Friday I went along with Court trustee Margaret to present Cherishers with a cheque from Court 2804 for £300. I would like to thank all the members who supported the donation.'

Foresters find Oak

'Who would have thought that in a built-up area of West Bromwich you could find such a beautiful seventeenth century gem?' Court Royal Rangers 1670 found out on 8 July at Oak House Museum. Our reporter writes, 'Eleven members visited and had a brilliant time. Our excellent guide for the day was Jon, who stepped in at the last minute and gave us a very comprehensive tour. Oak House, now a Grade 1 Listed building, was built around 1620 as a yeoman farmer's house. The Turton family lived there for many years before it changed hands, then in 1898 became a museum. The house is now administered by Sandwell Council. We each brought a picnic and enjoyed sitting outside in the shade, chatting and socialising.'

PRIDE OF KENT

PRIDE OF KENT

Area Secretary Douglas Coleman

Court Defence 4343
Ian 01634 723 477

Court Louis 5401
Chris 0118 228 0807

Court Maid Marian 5237
John Franks 01892 822 386

Court Pride of Greenstreet 5329
Ian 01634 723 477

Court Robin Hood 2694
John Springham 01474 568 459

Court Union Jack 3825
Janet 01708 478 980

DEVON AND CORNWALL

DEVON AND CORNWALL

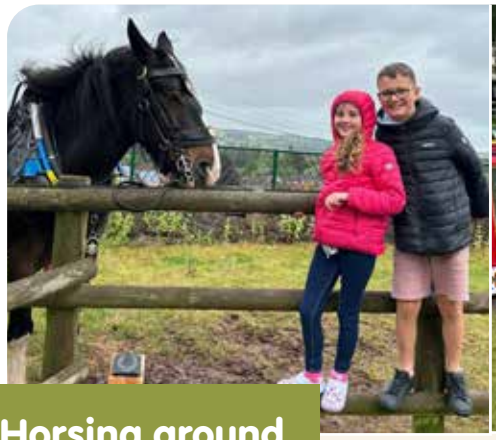
Area Secretary
Gary Webber

Court Goodwill 5077
Gary 01326 315 055

Court Pendennis 3754
Gary 01326 315 055

Court Pride of the Plym 4087
Gavin 01752 513 714

Court Semper Fidelis 4938
Margaret 01752 215 685



Horsing around

On 9 June, Court Semper Fidelis 4938 visited the Tiverton Canal Co & Horse-Drawn Barge, one of the last horse-drawn passenger barges in Britain. The Court reports, 'We learnt about some local history and the barge itself. Although it was raining, we still had a lovely time. Thank you all who joined us.'

Football funds strength for Scarlet

Court Pride of the Plym 4087 sponsored Saltash United Under 15s girls football team with a full new kit for the 2025-26 season. Pictured wearing it is 14-year-old member Scarlet Tookey. Nigel Tookey, Scarlet's dad and manager of the club, writes: 'I would like to say a big thank you for Court 4087's generous sponsorship. The team had a good season, winning the Fair Play Award, and are very much looking forward to 2026-27. Scarlet has been getting on well in her first season. Her confidence has grown so much on and off the pitch. She has made new friends, plus her schoolwork has improved a lot. Again, thank you Court 4087.'

Drawn to Devon

Court Semper Fidelis 4938 held their annual dinner at The Devon Hotel, Exeter on 4 July. 'The food and company were amazing as always. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets. We managed to raise £160 for the High Chief Ranger's charity appeal for Shelter. As normal, the youngest member attending on the night enjoyed doing the draw.'

Par for the courses

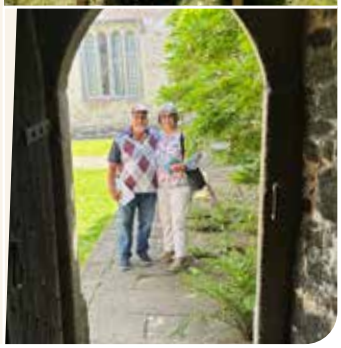
The Britannia Inn in Par hosted the Devon and Cornwall Area Lunch on 4 May. Our reporter writes, 'The event was attended by Gail Lancaster, High Chief Ranger, alongside Foresters members from across the Area. Special thanks were made to Gwynn and Natalie for organising the raffle and Area Secretary Gary Webber for his continuous dedication to the Society. The proceeds plus a lovely prize raffle raised over £100 for Cornwall Hospice Care.'

DEVON AND CORNWALL

A glittering occasion

On 11 April, Courts Goodwill 5077 and Pendennis 3754 hosted a spectacular dinner and dance at the Hannafore Point Hotel in Looe. Mike Chappell, Area Chief Ranger, reports: 'With sweeping sea views and a superb meal, the atmosphere was enchanting. The glittering occasion drew members from across the Devon and Cornwall Area. Special guest of honour was Gail Lancaster, High Chief Ranger. Gail spoke passionately about her charity appeal for Alzheimer's Society, with the evening raffle raising £300 for the cause. Ken Thomas gave a history of the Society in Cornwall and presented High Chief Ranger Gail with a beautifully crafted Foresters heraldic badge. As the night progressed, the dance floor came alive to the sound of live music. It was an event filled with laughter, giving, and memories to treasure.'

A grand day at Godolphin



Members of Court Pendennis 3754 made the most of the sunshine on 30 May when they visited Godolphin House in west Cornwall. Mike Chappell, Devon and Cornwall Area Chief Ranger, reports: 'Godolphin House has a rich and fascinating history dating back to the Tudor period. The estate is now cared for by the National Trust and today visitors can explore its historic buildings and extensive grounds. During our visit, members took part in a variety of activities, including traditional outdoor games and even hand milking a model cow! [see Caption Competition – Ed.] The colourful gardens were a particular highlight. Days out like these are what Foresters is all about - a chance for members to enjoy good company, discover new places and create lasting memories together. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day.'

SOUTH LONDON

SOUTH LONDON

Area Secretary Hazel Pudney

Court Apollo 3861
Janet 01708 478 980

Court British Flag 3213
Chris 0118 228 0807

Court Eleanor Rummyn 3182
Catherine 01483 481 203

Court Foresters Fancy 1968
Cheryl 07885 761 787

Court Foresters' Glory 2242
Libby 07856 455 331

Court Guildford Castle 3094
Anne 01252 404 276

Court Nelson's Pride 2338
Mike 020 8333 7668

Court Newark Abbey 4675
Anne 01252 404 276

Court Planet Of Streatham 3408
Ian 07856 747 299

Court Runnymede 2089
Janet 01708 478 980

Court Sir Colin Campbell 4399
Anne 01252 404 276

Court Wellington 3449
Rosemary 020 8652 7467

Court Wellington Hope 2215
Brenda 01474 568 459

Photo finish

Court Wellington 3449 meet in the Epsom Town Social Club on Saturday mornings. When the Court realised their June meeting would clash with the Epsom Derby, they moved it by a week so members could attend both if they wished. Pictured are the final furlongs of the 'Court 3449 Derby', run during the meeting to raise money for charity.

SOUTH LONDON

Happy anniversary

Court Runnymede 2089 celebrated its 175th anniversary on Sunday 15 February at the Boleyn Hotel, Staines. Janet Whitehead, Secretary and past High Chief Ranger, reports: 'Guest of honour was Alice Oatley, who had been a member of the Court for 73 years. Chas Patrick, Court Trustee, presented fellow Trustee Jason Dabney with a service jewel. Jason had just completed 40 years' service. Naomi Dabney, Court Chief Ranger was also honoured. Jason and Naomi, brother and sister, have both been Court members since birth.'

A very special day

Members and friends of Court Newark Abbey 4675 met on 14 June to celebrate the Court's 161st anniversary. Our reporter writes, 'The celebration lunch was held at Kingswood Golf Club, Tadworth. It was lovely to see everyone and catch up. A very special day.'

Fish and chips fun

On Saturday 14 March, Court Wellington 3449 held a Fish and Chips Games Night for the High Chief Ranger's appeal. Our reporter writes, '50 members and friends met at St Barnabas Halls, Sutton. They enjoyed an interesting talk by Soya from Alzheimer's Society, followed by a board games 'brain gym' and delicious fish and chips. A raffle raised a generous amount for Alzheimer's Society. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.'

EAST MIDLANDS

Remembering Les Brown

Tony Stuart-Brown writes: 'Many members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Les Brown, former Secretary of Court Friend In Need 4820. Les was extremely proud of his involvement with Foresters and of the work he carried out on behalf of the Court over many years. Together with his wife, Shirley, who was also an active and committed member, he was a passionate supporter of the Friendly Society movement and a familiar figure within the Foresters community in Derbyshire for more than two decades.

Those who worked alongside Les remember him as conscientious and dependable. He took his responsibilities seriously and was known for his attention to detail. Les respected the Society's rules and traditions but equally showed kindness and care towards fellow members. He believed strongly in the values of friendship, mutual support and community.

Those same qualities defined Les away from Foresters. He was a devoted husband, a loving father and grandfather, and a loyal friend to many, active in his local church in Ashbourne.

Les was also known for his sense of humour, something that remained with him even after developing Alzheimer's disease. He continued to bring smiles to those around him.

Around ten years ago, Les stepped down from his role as Secretary as his health began to decline. Following Shirley's death four years ago, he moved to a care home in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire to be closer to family. Les passed away peacefully in June after a brief physical decline. He will be remembered with great affection by his family, friends and fellow Foresters.'

EAST MIDLANDS

Court Albert 2926
Stephen 07709 234 674

Court Benevolence 2568
Marianne 07456 949 722

Court Flower of England 2769
Brian 07973 966 476

Court Friend in Need 4820
John 01332 671 727

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

Tea for fourteen

On 25 April, 14 members of Court Benevolence 2568 enjoyed afternoon tea at Badgers Mount Hotel, Leicester. The Court reports: 'Savoury and sweet were on the menu. We tucked into homemade warm sausage rolls, scotch eggs, scones, clotted cream, jam, cheese, chutney and so many cakes. It was a delicious way to spend a Saturday.'

Hungerford holiday

Pictured are members of Court Flower of England 2769 from Belper, Derbyshire on a summer outing. On 30 July, Court member Jackie Clowes reported, 'We went on holiday last month at Warner's Littlecote Hall Hotel, Hungerford. A good time was enjoyed by all, thanks to the organisation of Brian and Sandra Butler, Secretary and Assistant Secretary.'

EAST LONDON AND ESSEX

EAST LONDON AND ESSEX

Area Secretary
Janet Pooley

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
Janet 01277 222 028

Court St. Augustine 6501
Cheryl 01279 437 230

Court Unity 3049
Andrew 01277 222 028

Court Wellington 3538
Janet 01708 478 980

It's not unusual

In March, Court Industry of Cobden 1752 welcomed 25 members and guests to an event surrounded by water and wings. Sandra Scotting, Court Secretary, reports: 'We had a great time on the stationary boat Tereza Joanne, moored opposite the runway of London City Airport. After a tasty two-course meal, a Tom Jones tribute act kept everyone entertained and the dance floor busy. Between the entertainment, huge picture windows by the tables meant there were great views of the London skyline and the planes taking off.'

Super Sunday

Court St Augustine 6501 held their traditional Sunday lunch on 3 May at the Age Concern Hall in Ware. Cheryl Eagleson, Past High Chief Ranger and the Court's Secretary, reports: 'Walkers Catering provided an excellent meal with a dessert choice being their signature meringue vacherin, which is to die for. The raffle raised a generous sum, which was donated to the incoming High Chief Ranger's charity, Shelter.' [May 2026 also marked Cheryl reaching 40 years of service as Court 6501's Secretary – Ed.].

Wellington winner

Congratulations to Jelani Watson-Gayle of Court Wellington 3538 for his fantastic professional basketball season. Janet Whitehead, Past High Chief Ranger and Court 3538's Secretary, reports: 'Jelani has been a Forester at Court 3538 from a very young age. Aged 16 he secured a full scholarship to the USA, where he pursued his dream to play basketball. He graduated with a degree in Business and Financial Management, as well as playing for his college and the Great Britain team. This year Jelani won two championships in Bulgaria and one in Canada. He also played for Great Britain, who won both their EuroBasket prequalifying games against Switzerland and Slovakia. Well done Jelani. Not many Court Secretaries can go on YouTube to watch one of their members win a championship'

THAMES VALLEY

Driving donation

During the Thames Valley Area AGM on 28 March, Foresters were pleased to invite a representative from Wallingford Volunteer Drivers. Wallingford Volunteer Drivers are a voluntary car scheme offering transport to medical appointments for people who have no access to private transport and are unable to use public transport. Alan Howes, Thames Valley Area Secretary, reports: 'The meeting took place at Crowmarsh Village Hall near Wallingford, Oxfordshire. In attendance were 17 members from the 12 Courts in the Area. Elaine Howes, Area Chair, and David Henderson, Society Chairman, presented Sylvia Wear from Wallingford Volunteer Drivers with a cheque for £860.'

THAMES VALLEY

Area Secretary
Alan Howes

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 Earl Leofric 4536
Kirsty 01902 342 918

Court Loyal Oxonian St. Frideswide 2991
Sharon 01869 240 528

Court Pride Of Reading 4961
Mandy 07733 478 777

Court Pride Of The Hill 5044
Sharon (Interim) 01869 240 528

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 01344 884 903

Court Victoria & Ivanhoe 7626
Sharon 01869 240 528

Tea on the Thames

On Sunday 3 August, Court Victoria & Ivanhoe 7626 held their annual Afternoon Tea. Sharon Blunsdon, Secretary of Court 7626, reports: 'This year it was at Shillingford Bridge Hotel in Wallingford, on a beautiful sunny day on the River Thames. We were joined by members from other Courts in the Thames Valley Area. Our honoured guests were Bruce Hicks, High Chief Ranger, and his wife Helen. They were presented with small tokens of the Court's appreciation, while a raffle raised £65.'

EAST ANGLIA NORTH

EAST ANGLIA NORTH

Area Secretary
Kevin Ayres

Court Excelsior 5956
Alison 01223 811 285

Court Eye Of Providence 1112
Glenys 01553 630 252

Court Foresters' Future 3443
Kevin 01553 674 623

Court Foresters' Home 2746
Mike 07977 664 478

Court Foresters' Pride 9389
Helen 01205 352 925

Court Guardian Angel 2523
Pemblah 07570 524 639

Court Gunners' Delight 1107
Sandra 01733 263 128

Court Motteux 1465
Glenys 01553 630 252

Court Perseverance 4892
Pemblah 07570 524 639

Court Poor Man's Friend 4098
Ros 01353 720 638

Court Pride Of Newborough 9399
Sandra 01733 263 128

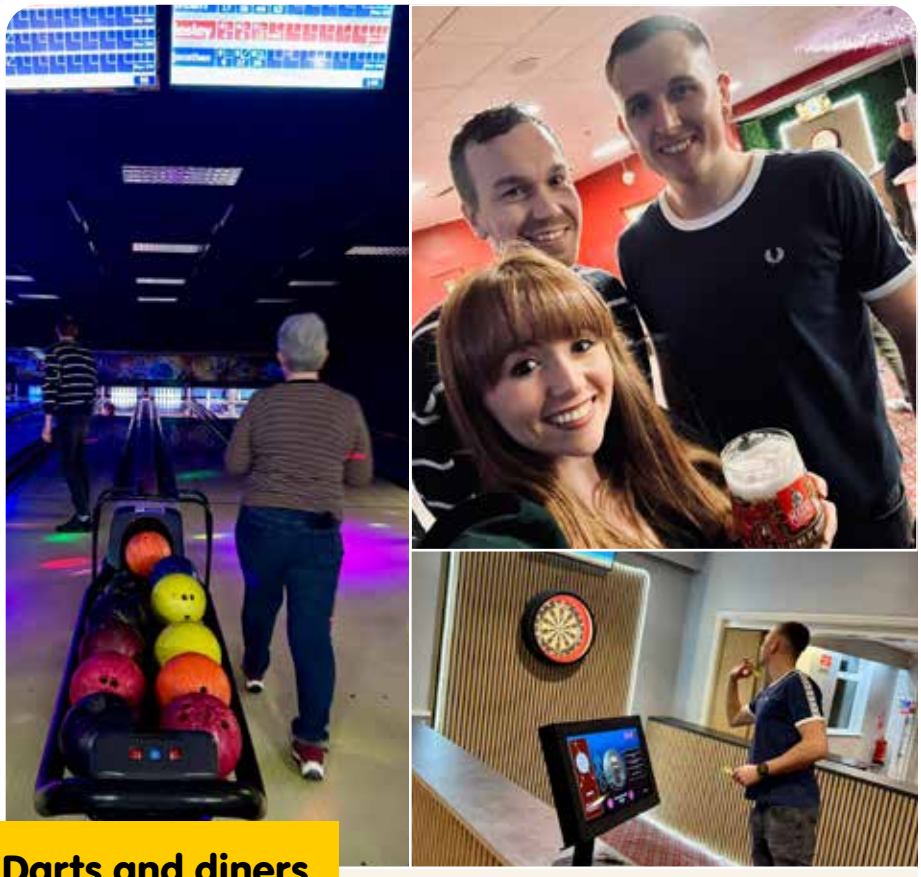
Court Prospect 'B' 9737
Kevin 01553 674 623

Court Robin Hood 1302
Kevin 01553 674 623

Court Unity 4893
Ros 01353 720 638

Seafront social

'For those looking for something different to do, why not join us?' Courts Guardian Angel 2523 and Perseverance 4892 made the most of the sunshine with an informal get together on 1 July. The Courts hired two beach huts, 'Bertie' and 'Bettie' at Gorleston-on-Sea. From 10am to 4pm members enjoyed tea, coffee ('or something stronger') and cakes on the seafront.



Darts and diners

On 21 February, members of Foresters' Pride 9389 met for an evening of fun activities at Boston Bowl. Charlotte Lenton, Assistant Secretary, reports '22 members enjoyed bowling, interactive darts, and a meal in Sliders Diner.'

Nunn at the run

Court Gunners Delight 1107 went to Peterborough racetrack on 12 September during the Race For Life event raising funds for Cancer Research UK. Richard Nunn presented a £200 cheque from the Court.

EAST ANGLIA SOUTH

Big Band night

Members from Court Prince Arthur 5432 attended a 'Sounds of the 40s' evening on 8 May at South Mills Arts Centre in Bishop's Stortford. Our reporter writes: 'We enjoyed music by Glenn Miller, Vera Lynn and many more. Performers included members of the Ivy Benson Orchestra and the BBC Radio Big Band. Quite a few people dressed in 1940s style and there were some great dancers!'

EAST ANGLIA SOUTH

Area Secretary
Bruce Hicks

Court Brave Old Oak 3658
Beatrix 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 Rangers Home 2094
Ashley 01206 211 391

Court Sailors Home 5105
Ashley 01206 211 391

Court Victory 3621
Helen 01206 352 925

Foresters greenhouse

On 10 June, Court Rangers Home 2094 visited Perrywood's Garden Centre in Tiptree, near Colchester. Ashley Stammers, Court Secretary, reports: 'Members gathered in the Greenhouse cafe for an interesting afternoon. There was a talk on low maintenance gardening, including refreshments and cream tea! The event rounded off with a leisurely stroll round the garden centre with some of those ideas in mind...'

EAST ANGLIA SOUTH

Easton promise

Court Prince Arthur 5432 also enjoyed a garden gathering. '15 members enjoyed a guided tour round the Gardens of Easton Lodge near Great Dunmow on Sunday 12 July. Thank you to our guide Ann for keeping everyone in the shade as much as possible on a hot day. Following the tour, tea / coffee and homemade cake were served. Afterwards some members went to see the birds of prey display and craft stalls.' [Glad you all kept safe in the sun, the treehouse looks a tempting shady spot – Ed.]

Later lunch

Eight members of Court Sailors Home 5105 enjoyed a visit to Beeleigh Abbey Gardens near Maldon, Essex on Friday 31 July. Our reporter writes: 'We postponed from Friday 26 June, when the country was feeling the extreme heat! The gardens have been attracting visitors since they were first laid out in the 1910s. They are huge, with many self-contained areas - flowers, vegetables, lawns, fruit trees and paths looking over the River Blackwater. A welcome break for lunch at the courtyard cafe was included. A very enjoyable day out.'

Don't panic!

On Sunday 17 May, 18 members enjoyed an Area outing at Bressingham Steam Museum. Bruce Hicks, High Chief Ranger, reports: 'Our visit coincided with the museum's annual 1940s event, which added plenty of period atmosphere to the usual attractions. A particular highlight was the unveiling of Corporal Jones's butcher's van from the much-loved television comedy Dad's Army. Everyone explored the museum and gardens at their leisure. Members enjoyed various railway rides on the museum's trains, plus the traditional carousel also proved popular. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the day such pleasant and enjoyable Area event.'

WALES AND THE BORDERS

Warm welcome

Rosemary Groves, Secretary of Court Coventry 7829, reported on 25 June: 'On a very warm day in Worcestershire, members gathered at the Bell Inn, Eckington to enjoy the annual Midsummer Lunch. Despite the heat, everyone was in good spirits. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all. Delicious food, excellent service and convivial company - who could ask for more?'

WALES AND THE BORDERS

Area Secretary
Gail Lancaster

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

NORTH WESTERN

Court and bowled

Court Edgmond 2447 are sponsoring Newport Cricket Club for their 2026 season. At the start of May, members of the Court Committee of Management attended the club's first home match. Jayne Herriman, Court Secretary, reported 'The Foresters board is on display at the ground, as are our banners, membership info, flyers and business cards. Members are wearing the Foresters tops and are ready to spread the word to the teams and spectators about how great it is to be a member of our fabulous Society. We are really looking forward to being involved with this local club, who have various teams featuring both adults and children. With the pitch side banner are Margaret Howells, Court Chief Ranger, and members Dave, Michael and Oliver. Oliver is not only a Court member but plays for Newport's 1st XI.'

NORTH WESTERN

Area Secretary
Tony Lewis

Court British Lion 44
Paul 07901 558 100

Court Edgmond 2447
Jayne 01952 403 489

Court Faithful Abraham 1549
Peter 07802 652 123

Court Farmer's Ploughboy 122
Peter 0161 283 8518

Court Garibaldi's Rest 4075
Ted 01226 289 408

Court Leek 2005
Adrian 07714 334 453

Court Livingstone 6050
Katarzyna 01229 463 554

Court Manchester's Honour No.1
Samantha 07591 370 059

Court Min-Y-Don 1464
Frank 01492 517 952

Court Promise 153
Ian 07976 275 137

Court Royal Windermere 697
Veronica 01524 593 768

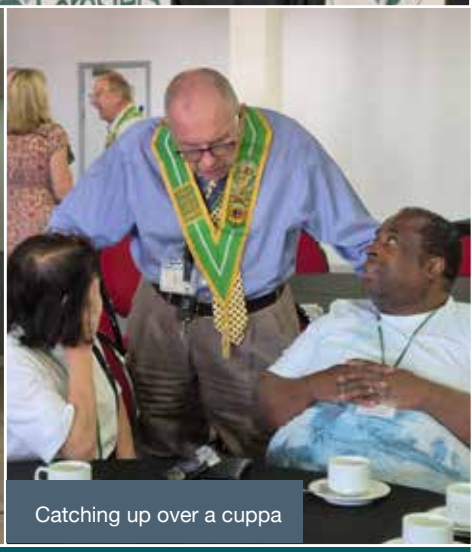
Court Tunstall 1839
Tony 07990 307 339

Court William Henry No.70
Karen 07904 624 780

High Court 2026 opens

High Chief Ranger Gail welcomes delegates

William Smith with nephew Miles



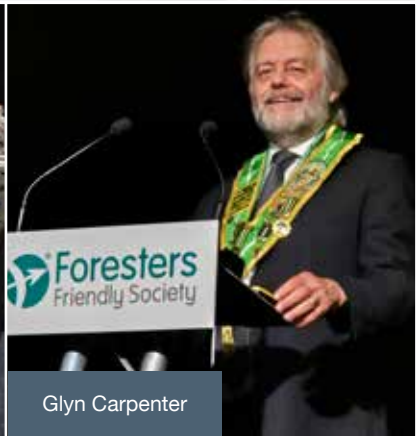
Catching up over a cuppa

High Court 2026

Michael Charlton-Hubble

Delegation

Delegates and Teddys



Glyn Carpenter

From Saturday 20 to Monday 22 June, Foresters from nationwide met at Venue Cymru in Llandudno for High Court 2026. Llandudno, known as 'the Queen of Welsh resorts', has now hosted the Society's AGM eight times. The first was in 1958. The most recent before this year was 2022, when the weekend saw UK temperatures reach 40 degrees Celsius. High Court 2026 was also a landmark occasion. Delegates discussed transferring Foresters' insurance business to another friendly society. There were sessions on what a transfer would involve and what format the 'new Foresters' could take afterwards. David Henderson, Society Chairman, stated 'This is only my second High Court but I believe it to be one of the most important in the Society's history. Use this opportunity to engage and enjoy.'

Songs and prayers

The day before High Court began, Llandudno was drenched by heavy rain (the last wet weather your Editor felt for almost three months). The clouds parted though on Saturday morning. As attendees arrived, Venue Cymru's bright white foyer echoed with chatter and footsteps. Before the official proceedings there was an informal session in the Conwy Room. Gail Lancaster, High Chief Ranger, welcomed first-time delegates and explained how the Society's AGM is run.

Meanwhile, music played in the Arena. Given where we were and our High Chief Ranger hailing from Barry Island, it was not unusual to hear some Tom Jones. Then, as the opening notes of 'Greensleeves' began, the Board of Directors processed into the hall followed by the Past High Chief Rangers.

Andrew Montgomery of Court Marquis of Bute 2842 carried in the High Chief Ranger's standard. High Chief Ranger Gail welcomed everyone to Llandudno then Michael Charlton-Hubble, Past High Chief Ranger, read the Foresters Prayer. The Society's 187th High Court was underway.

At the start of the meeting there were 268 registered delegates, including 26 taking part for the first time. As with the previous four High Courts, delegates at the venue were joined by those online. There were 154 delegates (57 percent) in Llandudno and 114 (43 percent) participating and voting elsewhere. Another 36 delegates were accepted as late applicants, making 304 in total.

Presence and absence

First item on the agenda was the High Chief Ranger's Address. High Chief Ranger Gail reflected upon her year in office; 'What I remember most are people. Their kindness, humour, loyalty, the fellowship that runs right through Foresters.' She thanked everyone who had raised money for her charity appeal for Alzheimer's Society. The High Chief Ranger especially thanked Chris Moore of Court Runnymede 2089, Sandra Davies of Court Loyal Hope 2949, and Laura Allcock, Court Marketing Manager, for their support.

High Chief Ranger Gail also spoke about her work with the Membership Committee and the Board to secure the Society's future. She concluded, 'If I have learned anything it is that leadership is not really about titles or chains of office. It is about service. It is about listening, encouraging, and trying to leave things better than you found them.'

Ray's million metres

January 2026 saw the launch of the '982 Mile Challenge' for Alzheimer's Society [see Miscellany 1648, p10-11 – Ed.]. The aim was to complete a combined 982 miles of sponsored activities by the end of High Court. Ray Milne, Non-Executive Director, challenged himself to walk 982,000 metres, almost a marathon every week for 25 weeks. Before High Court resumed on Sunday morning, Ray walked up the Little Orme: 'I thought for the last day I would hike to the top of the hill east of Llandudno. I have reached 1.3 million metres and raised £6,462.'

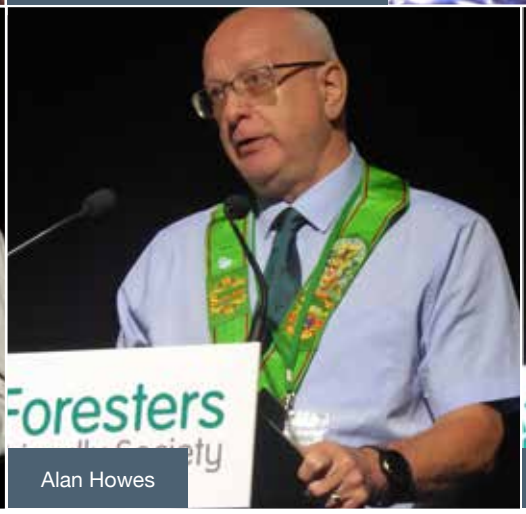
Gail Lancaster, High Chief Ranger, thanked Ray for his outstanding efforts. The total he raised is probably a record by an individual member. Ray, a member of Court The Three Marys 322, took up walking during the pandemic. 'I started by going around the streets near my home in Yorkshire. When cars returned, I took to the countryside. I aimed to complete 5 kilometres a day. After I'd done this for 100 days in a row, a friend suggested I should walk for charity. Things grew from there.' Ray would like to thank everyone who sponsored him for their generosity. He has already completed another Foresters fundraising walk for Shelter. Look for a report in the next edition of Miscellany.

Heritage Trust display

Bruce Hicks and Sharon Blunsdon

David Henderson

Martin Jackson



Alan Howes

Nigel Spencer

Thoughts next turned to absent friends. Members were invited to speak at the rostrum about fellow Foresters who had died since the previous High Court. Among others, extensive tributes were paid to Peter and June Chase, Ken Demby, Malcolm Prechner, Jackie Ingman, and Ken Strudwick, Past High Chief Ranger. The remembrance concluded with a minute's silence.

There were different absences later in the meeting. The Society Chairman requested to leave Monday's sessions to attend a medical appointment. Stuart Tragheim, Deputy Chairman, also departed early. High Court weekend coincided with his wedding anniversary, plus his mother's 89th birthday. He took part in High Court 2025 online while his mother was unwell.

Elections

On Saturday morning, Stuart Tragheim presented the Nominations and Remuneration Committee Report. Part of the Committee's role is to evaluate candidates standing for election. One candidate stood for High Chief Ranger. Two candidates stood for one place as a Member Non-Executive Director. Another two candidates stood for two places on the Membership Committee. To comply with the Friendly Societies Act, Chairman David Henderson stood for re-election due to his age.

Sadly, for only the second time in the Society's history, there were no candidates for the office of High Sub-Chief Ranger. Stuart Tragheim explained that candidates would be accepted 'from the floor'. To apply, members had to obtain nominations from ten High Court delegates. Prospective candidates would be interviewed, then subject to approval could stand for election. Three candidates came forward: Sharon Blunsdon, Michael Charlton-Hubble and William Smith. Before the vote took place, Michael Charlton-Hubble decided to withdraw.

For the fifth time, High Court voting was completed electronically. Delegates in the room were given a small machine and cast their votes by selecting the appropriate buttons. Online delegates voted using onscreen prompts. Through this method, the following members were elected on Sunday afternoon:

- High Chief Ranger - Bruce Hicks
- High Sub-Chief Ranger - Sharon Blunsdon
- Non-Executive Independent Director - David Henderson
- Non-Executive Member Director - Nigel Spencer
- Membership Committee - Alan Howes, Martin Jackson

Although Bruce Hicks was elected using modern technology, he was provisionally voted into office using a traditional manner. Delegates were invited to give votes 'by acclamation'. The room resounded with a chorus of assent: 'AYE!'

Award and Prize winners

Congratulations to Maggie Czyz of Court Pride of the Wye 2849 for winning the Society's 2026 Achievement Award. Maggie was nominated by the Court for her fundraising work: 'Maggie is always a keen supporter of the High Chief Ranger's charity appeal and organised a coffee morning at the local community centre in aid of Alzheimer's Society. Bearing in mind Maggie is not well, it was a lot of hard work for her. The event was a great success, raising a substantial amount for the charity.' Gail Lancaster, High Chief Ranger, presented Maggie with a certificate of recognition, glass trophy and £100 cheque.

High Chief Ranger Gail also conducted the 2026 Miscellany Prize Draw. The annual draw is open to all members who subscribe to the magazine. This year's winner was Clara Howell of Court Tunstall 1849. Clara reports, 'I'm delighted. I only joined Foresters two months earlier, along with my son, so it was beginner's luck it seems!' Congratulations Clara. She has since received her £250 prize. The Draw is now open for 2027, details on how to enter can be found on p47 of this edition.

Transfer of engagements

The weekend included an update on the proposed 'transfer of engagements'. At High Court, it was confirmed that the transfer partner is Shepherds Friendly Society. Founded in 1826, Shepherds are a mutual based in Cheadle, near Manchester and provide a range of insurance products.

A transfer of engagements to another Society is a long and complex process, with various legal stages. Richard Dickinson, Chief Executive, and Mark Allen, Finance Director, set out the steps involved. Earlier in 2026, the Board signed the 'framework agreement'. This formally commits Foresters to transfer its insurance business to Shepherds Friendly Society. The key principles of the transfer are:

- Foresters insurance operations (individual and Group business) will be transferred to Shepherds, excluding the Guernsey insurance policies
- all the product terms remain the same
- the proposed effective date of the transfer is Quarter 2 of 2027
- Foresters members will receive a monetary distribution (amount to be confirmed)
- after the transfer, Foresters policyholders will retain free Foresters membership for three years
- the With-Profits funds will receive a cash injection
- Foresters will receive a share of any future profits from the transferred Group business over the next five years

The transfer is subject to actuarial opinions, the submission of an Independent Actuaries report and would require regulatory approval. Foresters need to hold an 'affected member' (policyholder) vote. Both Societies must also hold a special delegate vote at their AGM or at an SGM (Special General Meeting). To pass, they all require 75 percent or more of the voters taking part to vote in favour. Upon completion, Foresters would be deauthorised as an insurance provider and become a discretionary benefit society, structured around the Courts.

The Board had hoped that the Foresters delegate vote could take place at High Court 2026. Delays meant this was not possible, however. Instead, a special online vote will be held later in the year. Delegates will receive details in due course. The next edition of Miscellany will report the result.

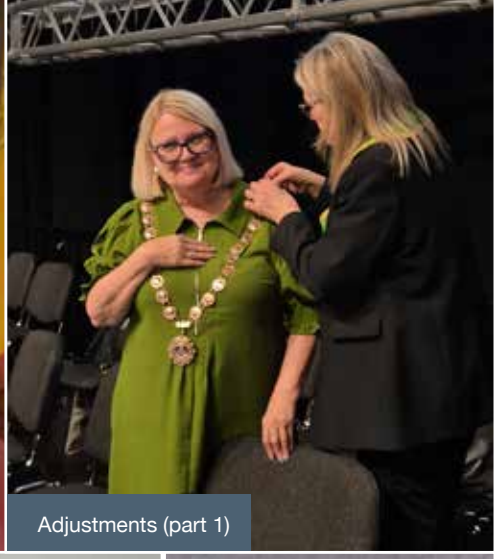
Delegates at Llandudno were introduced to Jonathan Sandell, Chief Executive of Shepherds Friendly Society. He compared the transfer to 'two branches of a family joining together'. He assured delegates 'Your money will be safe. We have a robust solvency position. We invest carefully and manage risk deliberately.' Both he and Richard Dickinson urged members to support the transfer.

'This is our moment'

Mark Allen also provided an overview of the Society's finances, including a funding review ahead of the transfer. He summarised that the Courts are financially stable with £100 million of income. If a proposed transfer failed, however, Court funds could be used as a last resort to fulfil a 'run off' of the insurance business.

Mark Allen at the rostrum

Zoe Shaw


Adjustments (part 1)

Paul Handley's lucky penny

Thorn between two roses

Violet Smith

Baby Miles

At the end of 2025, the Society had an estimated 55,280 members. Paul Handley, Interim Membership Director, spoke on plans to grow the membership. A session on 'Returning to our Founding Principles' invited delegates to consider how and why Foresters began. He suggested that 'we can't look to our future until we understand our past' and stressed the Society's motto - Unitas, Benevolentia, Concordia (Unity, Benevolence, Concord) - as an example that 'we stand for something really special.'

Paul Handley then set out the Society's potential for attracting new members. He reported that his research reveals various UK population trends: more people describing themselves as lonely; 25% struggling with unexpected bills; retirees especially looking for structure and purpose; more people saying they wanted to engage with community organisations. Paul Handley summarised, 'Foresters has a clear purpose. We join together, we support each other, we help others in our communities. This is our moment'.

Membership matters

The next session looked at actions the Society needed 'to make this real'. Priorities include: clarifying and modernising the Society's membership offer; making it easier for members to connect with each other; supporting Courts; and building public awareness of Foresters. To implement these things, the Membership Committee are focussing on four workstreams. Caroline Instance, Chair of the Committee, introduced speakers on each of them.

Alan Howes reported on the Membership Offer and Charitable Development, including possible additions to the Foresters Plus benefits. Paul Handley and Zoe Shaw, Non-Executive Director, spoke on Attracting and Retaining Members. Ideas included local press adverts, online recruitment, a new welcome pack, reintroducing a Member Get Member scheme, identifying partner organisations and revising the Foresters website. Kathryn Wenn spoke on reviewing the Court Structure. Chris Beetham spoke on the Court Delivery Project, which looks at Court and committee roles, skills, standards and guidelines.

Throughout the sessions, delegates were encouraged to comment and ask questions. Those at the venue spoke at the rostrum. Online delegates were connected by LUMI (the High Court IT team) and appeared on the room's big screens. For delegates who preferred not to speak publicly, written questions were accepted. Delegates could also talk informally to the presenters during the breaks.

Sun, sea and socialising

As well as a business meeting, High Court is a social occasion. Delegates and visitors alike can meet old friends and make new ones. At Llandudno, attendees could chat in the foyer or go outside for sunshine and sea air. On Saturday lunchtime, some Foresters browsed a classic car show of 200 Jaguars lined up on the promenade. The PS Waverley, the world's last sea-going passenger steamer, added to the scenery on trips to and from Llandudno Pier.

Inside Venue Cymru, the Foresters Heritage Trust displayed diverse items from the Museum collection. There were also goods for sale to support the High Chief Ranger's appeal for Alzheimer's Society. The Membership Committee set up laptops for people to browse the Society website and Foresters Plus portal. In the Hall, Foresters Brass played

Banner background

Eagle-eyed readers may have spotted a Foresters banner in several photos from High Court. Peter Nixon, Curator at the Foresters Museum, brought it to Llandudno as part of the Foresters Heritage Trust display. While he was setting up, Zoe Shaw and Caroline Instance had the bright idea of putting the banner onstage. It was duly hung behind the rostrum and made a very effective backdrop.

The banner is a vinyl copy of an original in the Heritage Trust collection. Peter Nixon reports: 'Court Almarez 2025 was founded in 1845 in Hodnet, a small Shropshire village only 25 miles from the Foresters Museum in Tunstall. The Court was long associated with the Bear Inn on the High Street and closed in July 1998. Their banner is one of over thirty in the Museum. Made from heavy canvas with silk surrounds, they range from around 8 feet (2.4 metres) to 16 feet (5 metres] square. During a parade, up to six people would carry them.'

'Once they have been well-used and worn thin, banners can rapidly come apart. The Heritage Trust wanted one that could be transported and displayed as a symbol of the Society's long history, without damaging an original artefact. The Trust and Society collaborated to have this replica made. We chose the Almarez banner because it is in great condition. Plus, as a smaller example, it can be hung up or displayed on the floor. To create it, we photographed the original and a local company, Printdesign in Stone, printed the image on vinyl. We may want to parade the banner in future, so we have added the Society's current logo to the back.'

The banner front, including the Foresters motto

The reverse - 'I was sick and ye visited me'

during the Saturday and Sunday lunch breaks. On the Saturday and Sunday evenings, Cheryl Fox of Court Pride of Islington 2939 organised online parties so delegates not in Llandudno could also enjoy the social side of High Court.

Sunday evening saw the Hall bathed in purple lighting for the Gala Dinner. The three-course meal was followed by a disco. A raffle raised £835 for the High Chief Ranger's appeal. During the dinner, Violet Smith announced the results of her 'Guess the Dress' competition. Violet, a member of Court Constantia 2206, invites members to guess the colour of her outfits at the High Court Gala Dinner and High Chief Ranger's Charity Ball [see p41 – Ed.]. A small donation is required to take part, with all proceeds going to the High Chief Ranger's charity. Violet's fundraising efforts raised £164.50 for Alzheimer's Society. Dawn Barwell of Court Pride of the Wye 2849 won a bottle of wine for guessing Violet's fabulous High Court dress would be… Forest Green. Violet's baby son Miles also made a fashion statement.

Propositions

Besides the five elections, the AGM included 27 propositions. Sixteen were from the Board, with ten from the Board on behalf of the Membership Committee. There was one proposition submitted by a Court. There were no amendments.

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2025 were approved, as was the Remuneration Report. MHA Audit Services LLP were re-appointed as the Society's external auditors. The list of members appointed to the Arbitration Tribunal was approved. The nomination of Linda Levett, Past High Chief Ranger, was approved for Portrait in Miscellany. Your Editor would like to sincerely thank delegates for supporting this annual proposition, which recognises some of the members who do so much for our Society.

Increased grants of £4,243 each were approved for the Yorkshire Foresters Convalescent Home and the Foresters Homes Bexleyheath. The Foresters Brass Donation increased slightly to 0.018p per £100 of Court net assets. The Heritage Trust Levy also increased to 6p per £100 of Court net assets.

There were also changes to the centrally managed benevolent funds. The levy for the Member Care Benefit Fund increased, to 13p per £100 of Court net assets. The Foresters Child Support Fund levy increased to 11p per £100. The Educational Awards Fund levy decreased, meanwhile, to 7p per £100 of Court net assets. The levy for the Foresters Support Fund also decreased, from 8p per £100 to 6p.

Charges and changes

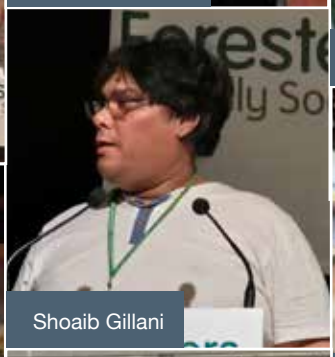
At High Court 2025, delegates agreed a Management Charge 'per £100 of the Court gross assets.' The Management Charge and other levies are usually based upon 'net' assets.

The move from 'net' to 'gross' was to mitigate for a reduced sum of interest going into the Court Investment Fund (CIF).

Miscellany archive

Stuart Tragheim

High Chief Ranger Gail


Shoaib Gillani

Shelter knitted houses

Jim Launchbury

Chris Beetham

Adjustments (part 2)

Foresters Brass

This arose after Courts in the Leeds Investment Association (LIA) introduced tiered interest rates on their deposits, resulting in a fall of investment income for the CIF. Since High Court 2025, the Board and LIA have reached an agreement. Part of that agreement means that levies should return to be charged on net assets.

The proposed 2027 Management Charge was '£2.40 per £100 of the net Court assets.' The Board stated '2027 will be a year of transition for the Society and there are many areas which remain uncertain'. As a result, 'high-level assumptions' were applied 'to cover estimated annual expenditure of £1.9m.' Subject to the transfer, the Society's running costs would change emphasis. Some costs, especially Governance and Compliance, would decrease. In their place, more budget was allocated to member services, including the Court Helpdesk, marketing and IT. The 2027 Management Charge was approved.

Delegates were informed that after a transfer it was anticipated that the Society's Southampton office would close. Insurance staff roles, including those of Chief Executive and Finance Director, would disappear. In acknowledgment, a proposition had been submitted by Court Charterhouse 5671: 'That this High Court recognises and thanks all members of Head Office staff for their support, hard work and friendship over many years.' The vote was carried unanimously.

New Rules

The remaining propositions involved changes to the Society Rules. Delegates voted in favour of them all. One was to increase the minimum age of High Court delegates from 16 to 18 years old, in line with the Friendly Societies Act. The other propositions related to the transfer of engagements.

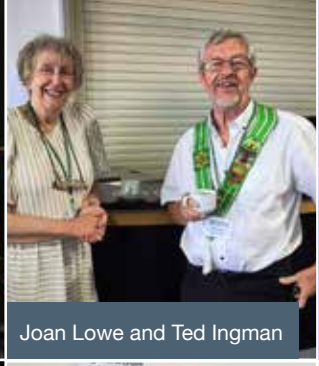
Proposition 29 offered policyholders free membership of the Society for three years after a transfer takes place. Proposition 30 applied to members in Guernsey. Guernsey is a Crown Dependency, with different legal and healthcare structures to the UK. The proposition ensured that Guernsey policyholders are recognised as members until December 2027, while the Guernsey insurance business is restructured.

The last proposition was to create a new Society Rule that would allow a delegate vote on the transfer to be completed as soon as possible. Titled 'Special High Court Meeting to Consider Special Resolutions to Approve a Transfer of Engagements', it would let the Board call a Special High Court Meeting with 14 days' notice. The Special High Court Meeting could be held virtually and would only apply to the transfer, not any other business. The proposition was carried with 246 votes in favour to 7 against.

Traditions and celebrations

After the AGM, Monday was full of traditions and celebrations. The morning saw the High Chief Ranger announce how much money had been raised for her charity appeal. Gail Lancaster, High Chief Ranger, was joined at the rostrum by Andy Paul. Andy is a Dementia Voice member and lives with dementia. The drumroll moment came when High Chief Ranger Gail opened the giant envelope and held up the cheque. The

Ross Boon from Alzheimer's Society


Joan Lowe and Ted Ingman

Gala Dinner

Richard Dickinson

Tony Luckett

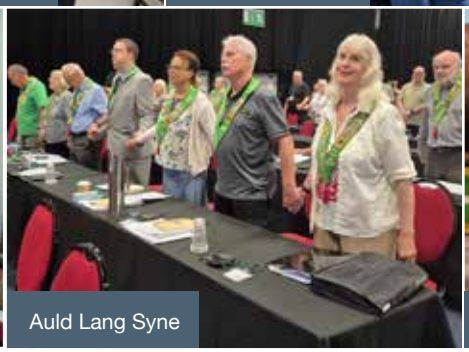
Michelle Collins

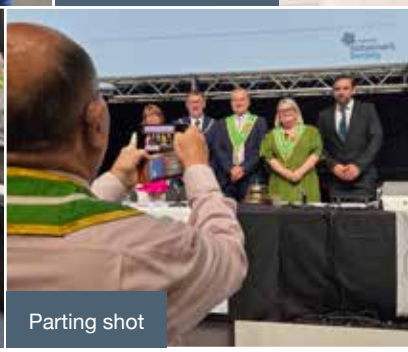
Christina Shallish

Karen Preston and Margaret Williams

Janet Whitehead and Erik Vynckier

Heritage Trust


Auld Lang Syne


Parting shot

provisional amount raised for Alzheimer's Society was £61,133.08.

High Chief Ranger Gail restated her thanks to everyone who had supported the appeal. Delegates also heard a video message of thanks from Alzheimer's Society. Andy Paul added after High Court, 'I'd just like to say thank you to everyone that raised money for Alzheimer's Society. It means so much to people like me living with Alzheimer's and our families. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all so much'.

In one of his last duties as High Sub-Chief Ranger, Bruce Hicks introduced his appeal for the homelessness charity Shelter. Bruce welcomed Matt Cavan, New Partnerships Executive, who gave an informative talk about the charity's work. Delegates were also shown 'Kimberley's Story', a powerful video about a family overcoming homelessness. More information about Shelter appears on p6-7 of this edition of Miscellany.

After an open Q&A session, High Court 2026 concluded in the traditional way. The newly elected officers were officially installed, beginning with Bruce Hicks as High Chief Ranger. High Chief Ranger Bruce wished everyone a safe journey home and formally closed the meeting. John Levett, Past High Chief Ranger, led the ritual of Foresters Fire then delegates linked arms to sing Auld Lang Syne. From 'the Queen of Welsh resorts', High Court will next take place on 'the English Riviera'. The confirmed venue for High Court 2027 is Torquay on the south Devon coast.

Thank you!

'It's always a privilege to celebrate supporters whose dedication creates real change for people affected by dementia. Through a fantastic range of fundraising activities, Foresters Friendly Society have raised an incredible total.

Your remarkable achievement was possible because of the support and enthusiasm shown across the whole Foresters community. Dementia is one of the biggest health challenges facing us today. The reality is that it takes more than one organisation to beat it. It takes all of us. Businesses, communities, families and friends, coming together to create change.

Thanks to your support, Foresters is now part of that movement. You have been an absolute joy to work with. Your motivation, enthusiasm and determination to make a difference have been inspiring from day one. The biggest thank you to you all.

Nic Skipwith, Senior Regional Fundraising Manager, Alzheimer's Society

Poetry and Painting Competition Winners

As part of her charity appeal for Alzheimer's Society, High Chief Ranger Gail Lancaster launched a Poetry and Painting competition. Members were invited to create an original poem and / or painting, inspired by the Forget Me Not flower. These small blue flowers are a powerful symbol of remembrance, compassion and support for everyone affected by dementia. High Chief Ranger Gail writes: 'It was impossible to choose between all the incredible entries. Therefore, I am delighted to announce that all entrants have been selected as winners and will all receive a certificate and prize. Huge congratulations to everyone and thank you all for your thoughtful submissions.'

Joy, Court 3207

Forget Me Not

A forget-me-not.
Blue like a summer sky
I remember that.
Blue like the sparkling sea
I remember that.
Blue like a loved one's eyes
I remember them.
I may not always remember you
But please, sometimes, remember me
Forget me not.

Joyce Dewick, Court 2948

Louise, Court 7829

Emily Byrne, Court 3449

Forget Me Not

It feels like your there, but I know that can't be
You're seeing your past, in your memory.
I'm there with you always, and never stop caring
After so many years of love and sharing.
Where are you sweetheart? Where can you be?
Are you with someone other than me?
I can see by your face, you don't know me today
But maybe tomorrow you'll come back and say
'Forget Me Not'

Lesley Heatley, Court 9389

Forget Me Not

Flowers so small with such a strong meaning
Ornate and delicate in the sun they are gleaming
Raising their heads so blue and so small
Growing older like our memories they begin to fall
Everyday memories that need to be made
To make them to remember before they all fade.
Memories that once were held oh so dear
Each one now a treasure not to disappear.
Nothing seems quite the same as they were
Once they were so bright but now not so clear
Trying to keep them forever so dear and near.

© Gill D'Arcy Court 4668

FORGET ME NOT

FORGET ME NOT When I can't remember what's going on,
FORGET ME NOT When I am muddled and confused and forget the words for things,
FORGET ME NOT When I have forgotten how to dress myself,
FORGET ME NOT When I can't eat properly, walk properly or even control my bodily functions,
FORGET ME NOT When I can't remember who you are and muddle people up,
FORGET ME NOT When I get angry with my predicament and hurt those whom I love,
FORGET ME NOT When I see hallucinations which scare me,
FORGET ME NOT At the darkest times.
FORGET ME NOT But REMEMBER ME before Alzheimer's

REMEMBER the happy times years ago when I was at the top of my game: a happy husband or wife, grandad or grandma or a good friend.

REMEMBER ME and SMILE

Janice Clarke, Court 3445

TRACY BALL
COURT 3260
WESSEX AREA
WATERCOLOUR

WESSEX

WESSEX

Area Secretary
Bobbie Smith

Court Amity 4668
Jill 01963 220 790

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
Tony 07967 190 096

Court Island Foresters 1821
Lucy 01489 809 198

Court Loyal Brethren 2290
Bobbie 01489 781 060

Court Lush & Alexandra 5916
Glyn 01373 462 963

Court Merdon 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
Lucy 01489 809 198

Court Pride Of Sarnia 8143 (Guernsey)
Holly 01481 728 864

Court Progress 3038
Colin 01305 852 516

Court Prospect 6575
Tony 07967 190 096

Court Sarum & 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

Hedgehog help

Sandra Gill of Court St Andrew 7170 (right) is seen here presenting a £250 cheque from the Court to Jeannette Hampstead (left), founder of Hedgehog Rescue of Hazelbury Bryan. With assistance from the local community, Jeannette and her fellow volunteers rescue wild hedgehogs that are sick, injured or disabled. Sandra reported on 28 April, 'Also pictured is Dandelion. Jeanette names the hedgehogs according to where they were found or the circumstances they were found in. You can probably guess where Dandelion was discovered. Jeannette was extremely grateful for the donation and will be putting it towards an incubator ready for baby hedgehog season.'

Foresters al fresco

As the UK sweltered in summer heatwaves, some Foresters kept cool by moving their Court meeting outdoors. Court Stanley 6967 did this in July. Jacqueline Butcher, Secretary, reports: 'Court 6967 held their recent meeting in the lovely grounds of Furzey Gardens in the New Forest. Furzey Gardens is run as a social enterprise of local charity the Minstead Trust, giving people with learning disabilities the opportunity to thrive.'

Scooter support

In June, Court Amity 4668 helped member Rosemary Perrett. Jill Springett, Court 4668's Secretary, reports 'Rosemary is a long-standing, active member of Foresters. She previously served as the Court's Secretary, Treasurer and is currently a Court Trustee. Rosemary started having difficulty with her mobility, so asked Foresters for financial assistance with purchasing a scooter. Our Court felt she deserved support and granted her a substantial amount towards the scooter, along with an amount from head office. Rosemary and the Court wished to publish her photo to promote the support that Foresters can give to members.'
[Happy to oblige and well done to Court 4668. As a reminder, members can find out more about the Society's grants and other financial support available by contacting the Court Helpdesk on 0800 101 8310 – Ed.]

NORTH LONDON

Remembering Stella Jesshope

With great sadness members of North London Area heard of the passing of Sis. Stella Jesshope on 31 May at the age of 92. Stella was a long-standing Forester, originally in Lewisham, South London where she was born, and later in Court Edmonton's Pride 1351 in Enfield. With her late husband Philip, Stella regularly took part in Court and Area events and was a great supporter of the Foresters Charity Stewards UK Trust. Stella was always busy helping others and active in various community organisations. She helped to run the Foresters Enfield Bowls Group and worked tirelessly for charities over many years. Stella was the driving force behind the Bowls Group's Annual Charity Day, usually raising money for the High Chief Ranger's appeal. An excellent cook, Stella loved to bake cakes for meetings and fundraising events. Her lemon drizzle cakes were legendary! Stella was a lovely lady who will be sadly missed by many Foresters and friends. Our thoughts are with her sister, Glynis to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

NORTH LONDON

Court Abbey Foresters 1940
Janet 01277 222 028

Court Amity 6105
Brian 01255 850 401

Court Edmonton's Pride 1351
Ann 07956 300 202

Court Old Oak 1620
Janet 01277 222 028

Court Peaceful Valley 1753
Andrew 01277 222 028

Court Pride of Islington 2939
Cheryl 07885 761 787

Court Tubal Cain 2765
Janet (Interim) 01277 222 028

Ride by Pride

Cheryl Fox, Secretary of Court Pride of Islington 2939, writes: 'A few weeks before it was due to begin Adrian 'Grumps' Fox, a lifelong Forester and member of Court 2939, decided to take part in the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride. This annual motorcycling event is held worldwide to raise money for prostate cancer and men's mental health charities. It is open to riders of vintage or classic-styled motorbikes, who are asked to dress in 'dapper style'.

On 17 May, Grumps set off on the Cardiff ride on his Royal Enfield 650 Interceptor. The route started at Sophia Gardens in central Cardiff, with police stopping traffic to allow over 200 bikes to join the main road in convoy. Many people lined the way and gathered at the stops in Penarth and Kings Square in Barry. The ride ended in Roald Dahl Plass in Cardiff Bay.

Knowing he had little time to gain sponsorship, Grumps set a modest fundraising target of £250 and asked family, friends, colleagues and fellow Foresters to make donations. He was blown away by the fantastic support he received totalling £787. The total raised in Cardiff was over £13,000 and worldwide over £5.3m. Grumps sends his very grateful thanks to everyone who encouraged and sponsored him. He said the ride was a great experience and looks forward to taking part again in 2027".

Scones and studying

On a gloriously sunny April afternoon, members from Court Pride of Islington 2939 enjoyed a traditional afternoon tea at West Lodge Park, Hadley Wood. 'There were stunning views of the grounds, including the famous Beale Arboretum. The food was delicious and plentiful, while tea and coffee flowed all afternoon. One of our younger members, Daniel Ullmer, wanted to come but was revising for A-Levels and felt he should stay at home. When we sent him a 'cake parcel' he was thrilled.'

SOUTHERN HOME COUNTIES

SOUTHERN HOME COUNTIES

Area Secretary
Linda Levett

Court Friar Tuck 4460
Vicky 01825 371 548

Court Lansdowne 2559
Roger 07714 736 737

Court Perseverence Of West Kent 3420
John 01474 568 459

Court South Sussex 2454
Hannah 07746 464 330

Court St. Leonards 2350
John 01403 741 369 (interim)

Court Star Of Surrey 2767
Kathleen 07769 252 616

Court Unity 3665
John 01474 568 459

Dance grand

The previous edition of Miscellany recorded that four members of Court South Sussex 2454 had joined in with the High Chief Ranger's '982 Mile Challenge' [see Miscellany 1648, p10-11 – Ed.]. Hannah Scotcher, Court Secretary, reports: 'To take part, the fab four - organiser Gordon, Trish, Diana and Steve - agreed to complete 100 miles of sponsored dancing. They exceeded their goal and actually danced 242.08 miles! On 1 June, Alzheimer's Society representative Alex Hales attended and joined in with the dance group, who presented her with a cheque from the Court for £1,000.'

SOUTHERN HOME COUNTIES

Musical note

Court Landsdowne 2559 hosted their annual Foresters Music Quiz Fundraiser on 9 May. Roger Trace, Court Secretary, reports: 'This event is always well attended by the local community at East Dean near Eastbourne, also of course with members of Court 2559 and Court South Sussex 2454. We had the honour of hosting Gail Lancaster, High Chief Ranger, and raised £300 for her appeal for Alzheimer's Society. We also raised £100 for Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice and £100 for Off the Fence, a homeless charity in the Brighton area.'

Animal aid

On 14 July, Court South Sussex 2454 donated £505 to Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare, based in Lewes. The Court reports: 'After another year of fundraising for local charities, from June 2025 to June 2026, the Court presented a cheque to Louise from Raystede.' The presentation was made by Hannah Scotcher, Court Secretary (left) and Diana Linsdell, Senior Woodward (right).

Amberley amble

Members from Court St Leonards 2350 took a trip to Amberley Chalk Pits Museum on 9 April. The Court reports that it was 'A most enjoyable day out together.' Caroline Instance, Court member and Non-Executive Member Director, is seen here meeting a four-legged friend and working in the print shop.

Skittles and Shelter

A photo taken on 2 August during the Southern Home Counties annual Area Skittles match. Our sports reporter writes, 'The Area committee team won, mainly because of the number of strikes scored by John Instance, former Society Chairman. The raffle raised £65 for the High Chief Ranger's charity appeal for Shelter.'

YORKSHIRE

YORKSHIRE

Area Secretary
Helen Mackinnon (interim)

Court Abiding Hope 2560
Beverley 07910 371 557

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
Martin 07875 284 883

Court Friendship 9370
Abraham 01482 441 750

Court George Stephenson 808
Chris 07393 806 584

Court Good Intent 2795
Sarah 07717 492 374

Court Goodwin 7225
Martyn 01709 511 923

Court Hotham 719
Carole 01377 270 140

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 Peveril Of The Peak 1972
Tracey 01663 751 151

Court Roebuck 2510
David 07729 709 568

Court Sir Robert Peel 6088
Paul 0113 245 3062

Court Spirit Of Bagthorpe 5317
Theresa 01623 659 511

Court Swan 498
Peter 07802 652 123

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

Walking wonders

Regular readers of Miscellany will have seen that various Courts support local youth sport teams. Court Sir Robert Peel 6088 have done something slightly different. Julia Williment is a member of the Court and treasurer for Bramley Walking Wanderers, a walking football team for older adults. Julia writes, 'Court 6088 agreed to donate £100 to Bramley Walking Wanderers to purchase some new Foresters sponsored training bibs. Since receiving the bibs in February, the delighted players have worn them at all their training sessions'.

Hospice help

On 28 May, Court William and Mary 332 made a big donation. 'Patricia Taylor, Past Chief Ranger, presented a cheque for £4,100 to Sarah from Forget Me Not Children's Hospice'. Based in Huddersfield, the hospice supports children with life shortening conditions and their families. Their website records 'By providing outstanding nursing care, hydrotherapy, creative therapy, days out, memory-making, end-of-life care, bereavement support and counselling to families facing or living with the loss of their child, we help them to make the most of every moment together.' [Incredible total, well done Court 332 – Ed.]

Forest friends

Members from Court Children of the Forest 3710 met at the St James Hotel, Grimsby on Wednesday 22 April. Michael Grealy, Past High Chief Ranger and the Court's Secretary, reports: '22 members attended. As usual a raffle was held for the Court Chief Ranger's charity appeal, which raised £65.'

YORKSHIRE

Lifeboat support

Thursday 23 April saw members from Court Children of the Forest 3710 donate to Cleethorpes Lifeboat Station. Michael Grealy, Secretary and Past High Chief Ranger, presented the £500 cheque from the Court to RNLI volunteer Steve Burton, who had just retired as an active member of the crew.

Motoring along

Court Chatsworth 2337 took to the road on 1 April with a day at the Great British Car Journey motoring museum in Ambergate, Derbyshire. Alison Davies, Court Secretary, reports: 'It was a wonderful trip with 30 members. A delicious brunch set us up for our journey through time. Thanks to everyone who made the day a success. The museum is well worth a visit if you are in the area.' [Agreed, your Editor and family have visited and can confirm it's a great place for car fans of all ages – Ed.]

Light activities

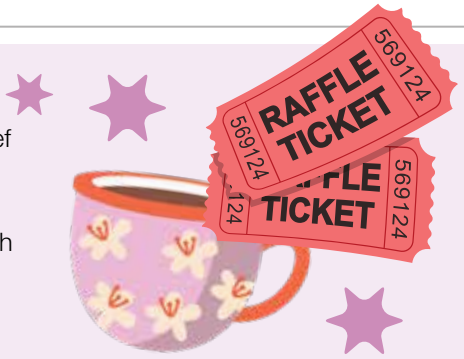
On 11 July members of Court The Three Mary's 322 went to The Light family entertainment centre in Huddersfield for an activity afternoon. The Court writes, 'There were lots of things on offer, including axe throwing, curling, crazy golf, ten pin bowling, laser quest, darts and more. Everyone really enjoyed what they chose to do.'

Thank you John

Court George Stephenson 808 held their AGM on 29 March. The meeting saw John Garrett, former Secretary, retire from the Court committee. The Court writes: 'For over 16 years John has done a brilliant job in building a strong local branch of Foresters. His efforts to build a community based on friendship and support mean the Court is well prepared for the future. John is pictured with Kath Alderson, Chief Ranger, who presented him with a bottle of whisky and engraved glass on behalf of all members. Many thanks John.'

Afternoon delight

Shirley Grealy, Secretary of Court Marquis Grand United 4727 and Past High Chief Ranger reports: '35 members of Leeds-based Court 4727, other Foresters and friends enjoyed a particularly fine Afternoon Tea at Tong Garden Centre. The food was plentiful and very delicious. A raffle with 25 prizes raised £160 for Aireborough Voluntary Services to the Elderly, our Chief Ranger's choice of local charity. The members of Court 4727 are always excellent at supporting raffles at our social events and I would like to personally thank them for their generosity.'



HANTS AND SUSSEX

HANTS AND SUSSEX

Area Secretary
Trish Slade

Court Bosmere 2277
Katie 07951 730 629

Court Castledean 3797
Linda (Interim) 01273 833 281

Court Constantia 2206
Pauline 01243 788 190

Court Crown 3832
George 02392 349 744

Court Loyal Sincerity 2271
Morag 07572 873 637

Court Maberley Wyndham 4217
Trish 01798 861 291

Court Robin Hood's Castle 5373
Chris 0118 228 0807

Court Sir William Jolliffe 4479
Pauline 01243 788 190

Court Star Of Selsey 3954
Trish 01798 861 291

NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES

Area Secretary
Martyn Fisher

Court Brownlow 6444
Martyn 01582 616 865

Court Fountain of Friendship 4480
Martyn 01582 616 865

Court Nell 6443
Katie 07349 957 154

Court Perseverance 2796
Ted 01923 466 955

Court Prince Albert 2643
Katie 07349 957 154

Court Star of Hertfordshire 3511
Christine 01525 643 691

Court Unity 9286
Ian 01525 643 691

Court Verulam Excelsior 6054
Ian 01525 643 691

Jo Dallas from Headway

Shandrika Day from Marvels & Meltdowns

Richard Blythin from Abbys Heroes

Trevor Conduit from Sophie's Legacy

Sincere support

Court Loyal Sincerity 2271 held their annual Spring lunch on 22 March at the Lysses House Hotel in Fareham. During the event the Court donated over £3,000 to four local charities. Susan Squire, Court Chief Ranger, presented cheques of £799.50 each to representatives from Abby's Heroes, Sophie's Legacy, Headway Portsmouth, and Marvels and Meltdowns.

David Fawcett from Abby's Heroes said 'We are extremely grateful to Foresters for this generous donation. We can only continue to support children with cancer and their families through the support of individuals and groups like Court Loyal Sincerity.'

Nikki Martin from Marvels and Meltdowns added 'We are extremely grateful to receive such a generous donation from Foresters. This donation will be used towards school summer holiday activities for children and families living with autism and / or ADHD'.

Court 2271 report, 'An important part of what we do is to make a difference to our local community. It was wonderful to speak to each of the charities and find out what they plan to do with the donations and the differences they will make.'

NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES

A grand cruise part 1

On 12 July, Court Perseverance 2796 enjoyed their annual cruise along the Grand Union Canal. Ted House, Court Secretary, reports: '29 members boarded the boat. While getting over a late night watching England reach the semi-final of the World Cup, everyone had a really relaxing social time. Perfect weather, perfect company, good service from the National Waterways crew, plus a good lunch mid cruise. A new Court member attended, another was recruited.'

A grand cruise part 2

The following Sunday, it was the turn of the Northern Home Counties Area to take to the water. Ted House, Secretary of Court Perseverance 2796, explains 'There is always a great clamour to get on the Court boat trip, so the Area booked a boat as well to accommodate more members.' On 19 July, 32 members set off along the Grand Union canal from Nash Mills. Our reporter writes, 'We had a wonderful time, stopping at Langleybury to pick up fish and chips. Some members helped to open and close the locks, while others took turns in steering the boat. A lovely day, thanks to Martyn Fisher and Ted House for organising.'

Area afternoon tea

On Tuesday 30 June, 26 members from the Northern Home Counties Area met at Burston Garden Centre for afternoon tea. Our reporter writes, 'A big thank you to John Hurley for arranging this event, a real winner. Good food, good conversation, good company!'

SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

Area Secretary
Norrie Dudgeon

Court Abbey 7167
Lesley 07773 990 393

Court Abercorn 5798
Julie 07759 719 624

Court Argyll 5968
Malcolm 01586 552 599

Court Donside 6770
Kathleen 01224 312 185

Court Dunedin, Heart Of Midlothian 5257
Norrie 07816 091 908

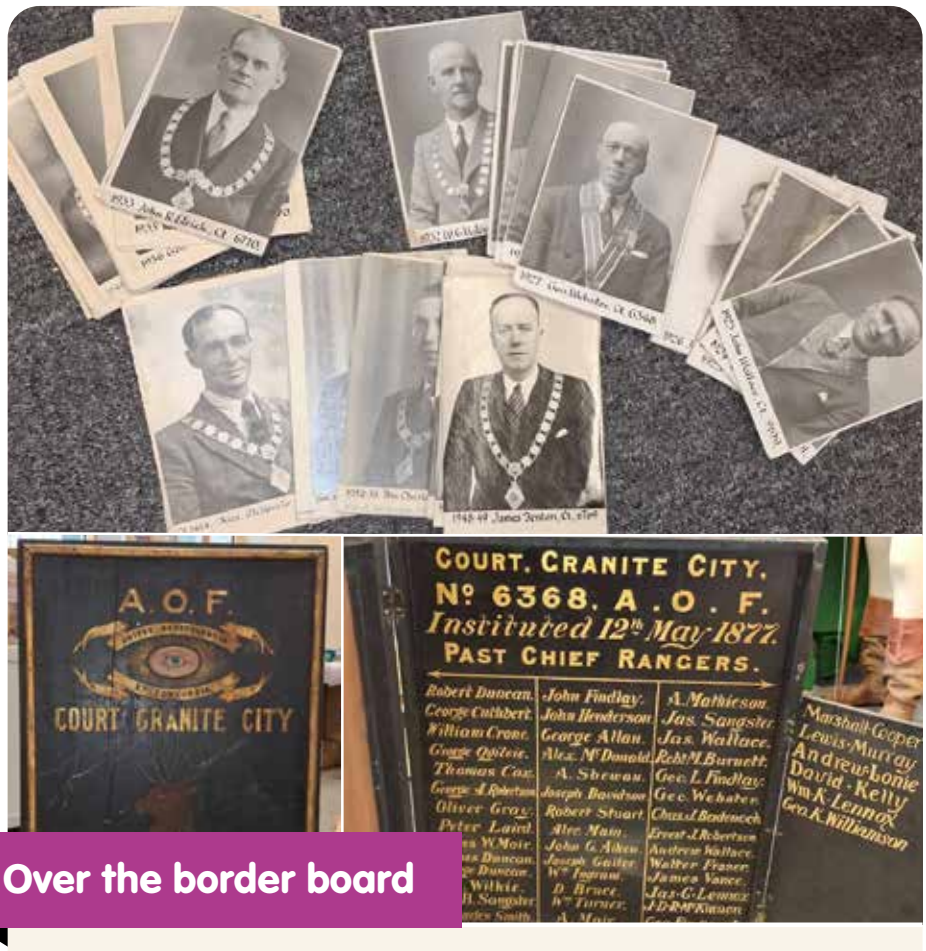
Court Giant's Causeway 2024
Julie 07900 993 043

Court Neilson 6329
Eleanor 01698 826 854

Court Pride of the Forth 5686
Lesley 07773 990 393

Court Royal Oak 4640
Eleanor 01698 826 854

Court St. Bernard 5522
Matthew 07713 434380



Over the border board

The Foresters Heritage Trust received some interesting Scottish items on 1 August. 'We have welcomed a great new donation to our collection today. A Past Chief Ranger board (minus the dispensation document) for Court Granite City 6368 based in Aberdeen, plus a series of photographs of the Past District Chief Rangers for the Aberdeen District.' [The Foresters Heritage Trust welcomes donations to the Foresters Museum collection. For further information contact Peter Nixon, Museum Curator at forestersheritagetrust@outlook.com. – Ed.]

On the road

In April, members of Court Donside 6770 took part in a four-day coach trip. Kathleen Sinclair, Court Secretary, reports 'These photos were taken by one of the Court's members at the Rob Roy Hotel, Aberfoyle. I have been told that everyone enjoyed the break.'

Out and About

with Foresters

2026 High Chief Ranger's Grand Charity Ball

On Saturday 25 April, Gail Lancaster, High Chief Ranger, welcomed 73 Foresters and friends to her Grand Charity Ball at the Royal Hotel, Weston-Super-Mare. Attendees included five Past High Chief Rangers, the High Sub-Chief Ranger, members of the Board and Membership Committee, plus special guests Alan and Olly from Alzheimer's Society. There were traditional homemade Welsh Cakes upon arrival, followed by a three-course meal. Michael Charlton-Hubble, Past High Chief Ranger, said the grace. John Springham, Past High Chief Ranger, was toastmaster. After a very sunny day, the venue provided panoramic sunset views. The raffle raised £501 for Alzheimer's Society. High Chief Ranger Gail wrote afterwards: 'I can't thank everyone enough for making the Charity Ball a great success, I'm blown away by the funds raised. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.'

NATIONAL

DIARY DATES

19-21 FEBRUARY 2027

Southern Conference -
The Queens Hotel, Southsea

12-14 MARCH 2027

Northern Conference –
Weetwood Hall Hotel, Leeds

17 APRIL 2027

High Chief Ranger's Charity Ball -
Belton Woods Hotel, Grantham

19-21 JUNE 2027

High Court 2027 – The Riviera International Centre, Torquay

Contact details:

Court Helpdesk
0800 101 8310
cheg@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk

Court Development Officers
Sharon Blunsdon
Bruce Hicks
Vicky Rajah
Trish Slade
cdo@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk

High Chief Ranger
Bhicks@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk

Foresters Brass
forestersbrass@gmail.com

Court email addresses
The email address for each Court has the same format – the Court number followed by the Society email address.

For example:
Court1234@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk

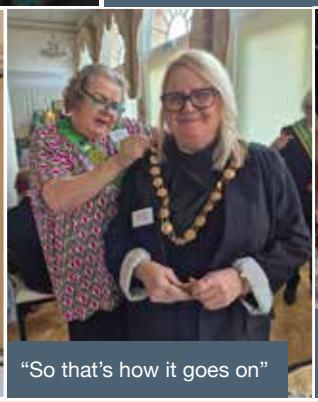
Foresters on Facebook
www.facebook.com/forestersfriendly

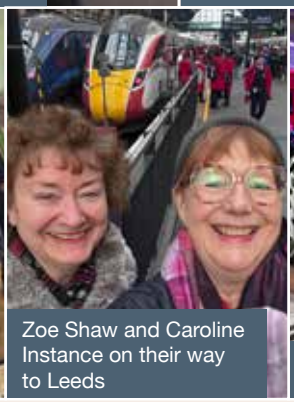
Live at Leeds - a Foresters who's who

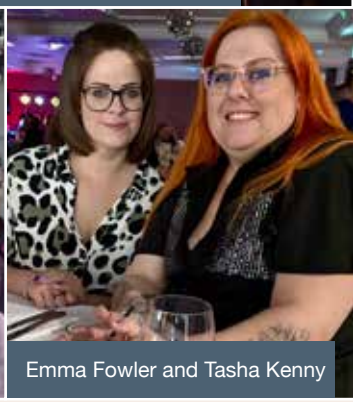
Alison Davies and Chris Beetham

Supporting Alzheimer's Society

Bruce Hicks announces Shelter


"So that's how it goes on"


Zoe Shaw and Caroline Instance on their way to Leeds


Emma Fowler and Tasha Kenny

2026 Southern and No

The Society's regional Conferences returned at the start of the year with members from various Courts meeting to discuss all things Foresters. Held in February and March, these weekend events allow members to exchange views and opinions in an informal setting. The Conferences are also excellent opportunities to meet fellow Foresters, including our High Chief Ranger, High Sub-Chief Ranger, Membership Committee and Directors.

Conference season started on Saturday 28 February at The Queens Hotel in Southsea. As in previous years, the Southern Conference was organised by Linda Levett, Past High Chief Ranger, with support from the Southern Home Counties Area Committee. There were 143 attendees. Among the group were ten Past High Chief Rangers, six members of the Board, plus three Court Development Officers. The 129 delegates included 23 who took part for the first time. Overall, there were Foresters from 72 Courts.

The Southern Conference was held towards the end of the month to avoid Valentine's Day, which fell on a Saturday this year. As a result, Conference concluded on 1 March, St David's Day. The timing felt fitting given our High Chief Ranger was from Wales. Another quirk in the calendar meant that the Northern Conference took place just two weekends later, over 14-15 March at the Weetwood Hall Hotel in Leeds. There were 78 attendees, among them six Board members and two Past High Chief Rangers.

For 2026, the Northern Conference was hosted by Chris Beetham and Alison Davies of the Yorkshire Area Committee. A clever new Conference logo, featuring a compass pointing northwards, appeared on T-shirts worn throughout the weekend. Attendees were encouraged to share photos from the event on Foresters social media, including the Miscellany Facebook group. Your Editor enjoyed seeing members making their different journeys to Conference by road and rail.

With the Conferences running a fortnight apart, they followed similar agendas. Gail Lancaster, High Chief Ranger, chaired both events and provided updates on her charity appeal for Alzheimer's Society. At Southsea, delegates took part in a Dementia Friends training session. Ross Boon, Regional Fundraiser, and Val Down, a volunteer for the charity, led a varied presentation about dementia and its effects. The session included delegate activities and even a game of bingo.

Dominating the agenda at Southsea and Leeds was the Board's plan to pursue a transfer of Foresters' insurance business to another friendly society. At the time of the Conferences, the Foresters Board were not allowed to name the preferred transfer partner. Richard Dickinson, Chief Executive, and Mark Allen, Finance Director, could however speak on the financial background behind the plan and the effects that a transfer would have upon the Society's structure.

Dementia Friends session

Gala Dinner at Southsea

William Smith dressed to impress

Peter Nixon

Kathryn Wenn and Jane Dumeresque

Glyn Carpenter

rthern Conferences

As mentioned elsewhere in this edition, a transfer would see Foresters become a discretionary benefit society. The Board asked the Membership Committee to lead a consultation on the Society's membership offer. At both Conferences, the Committee ran workshops spanning eight topics: strengthening individual Courts; Court IT systems; the tier between Courts and head office (currently Areas); Court support; growing membership; member benefits and identity; fairness and consistency; removing barriers to growth.

Conference delegates were asked to discuss these topics in groups and provide feedback. The sessions fed into the Membership Committee's four workstreams presented later in the year at High Court. The Conferences also saw members introduced to Paul Handley, who was appointed as Interim Membership Director in January 2026. He spoke on his experience with membership organisations and explained his role, working with a sub-group of the Board to shape the Society's future after the transfer.

Both Conferences also heard from the Foresters Heritage Trust. Peter Nixon, Curator at the Foresters Museum based in Tunstall, provided updates on the building, including the new boiler system and roof repairs. He also unveiled a new part of the Heritage Trust website which features digitised Court Directories and Miscellany back copies, going back to the 1830s. People can read these documents online and search their contents using key words.

As part of 'Project 200', the Heritage Trust aims to photograph every object and artefact in the Foresters Museum collection, in time for the Society's bicentenary in 2034. Details on how to access the archive are included in Miscellany edition 1648, p30-31. Readers who don't have a printed copy can find this edition on the Society's website at https://www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk/miscellany/

At Southsea, members of Honorary Court Heritage 1834 demonstrated the ritual for initiating new members. Foresters protocol means that descriptions or photographs of the ritual cannot be published. Your Editor can confirm however that Bruce and Helen Hicks were initiated. As High Sub-Chief Ranger, Bruce also maintained another tradition. At the Conferences he formally announced Shelter as his charity appeal for 2026-27. Readers can find out more about Shelter elsewhere in this edition.

Although they are working meetings, the conferences embrace the social side of Foresters. Attendees at both weekends enjoyed a gala dinner, complete with a fundraising raffle. Violet Smith of Court Constantia 2206 launched her annual 'Guess the Dress' fundraiser for the High Chief Ranger's appeal. Violet was unable to attend the Northern Conference, so her brother William took the lead at Leeds - suitably dressed. The 2027 Conference dates have been confirmed. Your Editor will hopefully see you there!

'Wrigley Walk 2': the Gower

In April 2024, a group of Foresters completed a sponsored walk along Hadrian's Wall. They did it to raise money for the then High Chief Ranger's charity appeal, plus to honour the memory of a late colleague, Steve Wrigley. [See Miscellany edition 1645, p25-30. – Ed.]. In April 2026, thoughts turned towards a second sponsored walk. Glyn Carpenter, Past High Chief Ranger and one of the walkers, reports:

"How about another 'Wrigley Walk' as a fundraiser for the High Chief Ranger? An easy one this time, the Wales Coast Path round the Gower Peninsula? Nice and flat, half as long?" Just 40 miles over two days seemed simple enough. So, on the bright morning of 23 April we assembled at Crofty. There were the Hadrian's Wall walkers - Trish Slade, Alan Mackinnon, Helen Hicks, me, and Charlotte Wrigley-Clark (Steve's daughter) - plus our excellent logistics and transport team of Madelaine Harris and Richard Wyborn. Together with some intrepid additions - Bruce Hicks, Sandra and Gerwyn Davies, Paul Francis and Andy Hayes - we were ready.

Our start was a 10-mile walk west, along the edge of the River Loughor. By the saltmarshes of the Loughor Estuary we traversed flat, easy country before crossing a wide area of sand dunes to reach the Atlantic coast. There, we turned south for the next 10-mile stretch. We continued along stunning wide, empty beaches to Rhossili. The day ended with all of us struggling up a steep path from the beach to the cliff top, after seven hours' walking. Rarely has tea, ice cream and a park bench been so welcome.

The next day, Richard and Madelaine delivered us back to Rhossili to complete the walk, minus Charlotte and our day trippers. The route turned east. What a different coast! From the wide, flat sands of Rhossili Bay we followed the rugged inlets and cliffs of the southern peninsula. Our route took many turns - and ups and downs - as we negotiated steep gullies. We soon felt the effects of climbing up fine, soft sand.

We soldiered on to Port Eynon, Oxwich, and, eventually, Mumbles Pier on Swansea Bay. There we were greeted by Emma, Steve's other daughter, and her family. They had come a long way from Cheshire to support us. Walking 40 miles in two days sounded easy - but it was not. It proved at least as challenging as the 85 miles of Hadrian's Wall. The walk was (mostly) enjoyable though and we raised around £3,000 for Alzheimer's Society thanks to the generosity of Foresters and friends.'

Wordsearch

The Wordsearch below was created during High Court 2026 by younger member Maddie Riley of Court Knaresborough Old Castle 506. Words appear horizontally, vertically, diagonally and backwards. Well done Maddie.

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

ANCIENT ORDER
BELONGING
BENEVOLENCE
BROTHER BRUCE HICKS
COMMUNITY
FORESTERS
FRATERNAL
FRIENDLY
HERITAGE
HIGH COURT
LLANDUDNO
MUTUALITY
PAST AND FUTURE
SEASIDE
SHELTER
SOCIETY
VENUE CYMRU
WALES

Caption competition

This super photo of Foresters member Ken Thomas milking a model cow was taken during Court Pendennis 3754's day out at Godolphin House. Just for fun (no prizes) what could those involved be saying or thinking? Send your suggested captions to the Miscellany contact details on p46. Favourite entries will be published in the next edition.

Sudoku

Answers in the next edition

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

How to play:

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

SOLUTION TO ISSUE 1648

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

Answers to Crossword 21 (issue 1648)

Across 1. Jean Copperi 9. Lift off 10. Singe 11. Cars 12. Trainers 14. Essex 15. Court 20. Raincoat 22. Amis 24. Drama 25. Eternal 26. Weston Super

Down 2. Efforts 3. Noon 4. Oxford 5. Poseidon 6. Range 7. Flock 8. Cease 13. Merchant 16. Romance 17. Pride 18. Cavern 19. Psalm 21. Image 23. Peru

The Crossword will return in the next edition of Miscellany

Your Voice...

To write in to Miscellany:

Email: editor@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk

Post: Miscellany, Foresters Friendly Society, Genesis Centre, Innovation Way, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4BF

Freepost:
Freepost FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to see your piece in the last edition of Miscellany on the recent national charity appeals [Miscellany 1468, p26-31 – Ed]. In 2019 to 2021 my chosen charity as High Chief Ranger was Rays of Sunshine. It was such a marvellous charity, as are they all.

As an Ambassador for the charity, I recently took part in an event day assisting 20 children at a private cinema in Bath for a showing of Minecraft. Lots of screams and chatter, drinks and popcorn and a free toy at the end. It was a great afternoon to see some of the children again.

I still fundraise for Rays of Sunshine. We collected £127,760 at the time of the appeal and the total now is £148,167!! Many thanks to Court Pride of the Wye 2849 for their continued support and generous donations. Rays of Sunshine are holding more events outside of London - if you would like to get involved, just let me know and I can put you in touch.

Thank you to all those Foresters who have helped with the appeal, it is so appreciated. The smiles on the children's little faces says it all.

Best wishes,

Michael Charlton-Hubble
Past High Chief Ranger,
Secretary, Court Pride of the Wye 2849

Dear Michael,

What a fantastic update. Sadly, limited space meant Miscellany 1648 could only include details of the three most recent appeals, so it is great to hear about Rays of Sunshine again. (A reminder of their website: https://raysofsunshine.org.uk/)

Past High Rangers who wish to provide updates in Miscellany about their charity would be most welcome. Well done to all fellow Foresters who have supported the appeals over the years. Long may it continue.

Yours fraternally – Editor

[The following poem was forwarded for publication by Linda Levett, Past High Chief Ranger and interim Secretary of Court 3797]

A.O.F.

Does it stand for Any Old Fool?
Words I've not heard since school.
Is it Admiral of (the) Fleet?
There is a sailor (AB) in our street.

How about Academy of Fine Arts?
A place to mend or break hearts.
Or Angles of Fluctuation
An education for the Nation.

Or the use of Agent Orange Footwear
By cricketers or footballers? No, never…
Enough of this, let's be exact
A.O.F. is Ancient Order (of) Foresters

The most friendly of societies, that is a fact.
We care for our members, we are all true friends
We help those less fortunate to meet their ends
We provide financial help for their health care.

We give education grants for them to share
We have our own social events, indoors and outside
And we raise funds for others far and wide.
And Ancient in our title does not mean old and past.

But we have traditions, and long may they last.
Yes, we have passwords, gestures and a handshake
But not compulsory but for our Order's sake
Throughout the Foresters, benevolence and trust go hand in hand.
We even have our own prize-winning Band!

Paul Marshman,
Court Castledean 3797

Member subscriptions

Miscellany is your membership magazine - for you, about you, your community of friends. If you would like to receive future editions, please let us know.

Inside each edition you can read about the great social events we offer and the fundraising work we do for charities, all while having fun. You can subscribe to Miscellany as a benefit of belonging to Foresters Friendly Society.

To receive Miscellany by subscription visit our website at **www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk/miscellany**

Alternatively, you can complete and return the form below. (Photocopied and scanned forms will be accepted if you don't want to cut up your magazine). You can also subscribe by contacting your Court Secretary.

When you subscribe you will be automatically entered into our FREE PRIZE DRAW for £250. Enter now so you don't miss out!

Win £250

Please enter your details below using capital letters and return to:

Freepost FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Title:

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

Post code:

Contact number:

Email address:

Court name/number:

How would you like to receive Miscellany?

Print subscription ☐

Online subscription ☐

Thank you!

Terms and conditions: Free Prize Draw. You must be a Foresters member aged 16 or over. Employees or agencies of Foresters Friendly Society or their immediate family members, or anyone else connected with the Prize Draw, may subscribe to Miscellany but may not enter the free Prize Draw. The winner will be chosen at random and informed after the Draw closes. The editor's decision is final. For full Terms and Conditions visit www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk/miscellany

Your Foresters Plus benefits

More value, same community spirit!

As a valued member of Foresters Friendly Society, you're part of a community built on support, connection, and shared purpose. Your membership is a gateway to a range of meaningful benefits designed to enrich your life, offer reassurance during difficult times, and help you feel part of something bigger.

Here's a reminder of everything that's already included as part of your membership.

Support when you need it most

Life can be unpredictable, but you don't have to face challenges alone. Through the Society's discretionary grants, members can receive financial help during difficult moments. Whether you're dealing with illness, hardship, or unexpected circumstances, this safety net is here to offer comfort and stability when it matters most.[1]

Shopping & Lifestyle Discounts

Your membership also unlocks Foresters Plus Shopping & Lifestyle Discounts brought to you by our trusted partner, Parliament Hill. With over 2000 brands included, savings are available across shopping and lifestyle, travel, wellbeing, and much more.[2]

Foresters Care: personalised nurse support

Your well-being is at the heart of the Society. For our Foresters Care service, we've partnered with RedArc, whose registered nurses can provide tailored support by telephone for serious illness and mental health support, bereavement support, and much more. You'll speak to the same nurse throughout, providing important continuity. It's compassionate, confidential, and tailored to you.

To speak to a RedArc nurse, call 0800 276 1023, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

A community that welcomes you

Foresters is like one big family. Your local branch offers opportunities to meet new people, enjoy social events, and get involved in community activities. From coffee mornings and day trips to fundraising events and celebrations, there's always something happening. You're invited to take part whenever you wish.

Thank you for being part of the Foresters family

We're here to help you make the most out of every part of your membership. If you're unsure of how to access your member benefits, or to find out more, visit www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk/membership/member-benefits/

Thanks again for being a member of Foresters Friendly Society. We're proud to have you with us, and we look forward to supporting you for many years to come.

1 Terms and conditions apply. Financial grants are discretionary and depend on your individual circumstances. Qualifying periods apply.

The membership benefits provided by Foresters Friendly Society aren't regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority or the Prudential Regulation Authority and are regularly reviewed by us to ensure they are relevant to our members.

2 The Foresters Plus Shopping and Lifestyle Discounts are managed and run on behalf of Foresters Friendly Society by Parliament Hill Ltd. Parliament Hill is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, and the discounts platform contains regulated products and services. Offers are subject to change without notice and terms and conditions apply.