

Shoebox Appeal 2021

It's that time of year again and Ella our little elf is seen with grandad Derek in the Morgan workshop assembling filling and decorating the boxes ready to go to people particularly children who wouldn't otherwise have anything for Xmas. Currently we are on our 40 th box and still more donations coming in so watch this space.



Important Diary dates to note.

The Chairpersons (is that woke enough?) of the clubs two biggest fundraisers ; Dragon Boat Challenge and Best Foot Forward, would like you to note the dates of these events. Although they are many months ahead , when the time comes we will need as many members as possible to give their time to help make the event a success.

Dragon Boats Challenge

Sunday 22nd May 2022

Best Foot Forward

Saturday 25th June 2022

Dennis Beddows.

We have received news that Dennis Beddows had a nasty fall in the bathroom at home recently and has broken his right arm. Tess tells me that he received excellent treatment at Bridgnorth Hospital and his arm is now in plaster and has support for the arm. He is, she tells me, in good spirits. I sent him our best wishes on behalf of Almoner Jeremy and all of us and asked her to let me know if any help is required. President Richard.

Carol Service With

regret we have to announce the cancellation of the Carol Service this year. The response from the members was a disappointment but it is understood that many are still apprehensive of the dangers of Covid. For myself, I thought that it was risky to have a vulnerable group of people(us) mixing in a closed environment with the most infectious group currently (the school choir)



Christmas Lunch

You should have received a flyer already but here is a reminder that Tuesday 21st December will not be a regular club lunch. This one-off meeting will be a Fellowship lunch with a Christmas message. We shall meet at the normal time of 1pm at South Staffs Golf Club for traditional Roast Turkey and trimmings followed by Xmas Pudding , Mince pies and tea



or coffee. Cost £19.95. It is important that you are aware that normal apology rules do not apply. Equally important is that you let Geoff Lowndes know that you wish to attend otherwise if you turn up expecting a meal it will not be there. Wives / partners welcome.

Boxing Day Wolves v Watford tickets

2 tickets available due to family commitments. Billy

Wright Stand

Contact Peter Wright

Club Diary

Dec	Tues 07	Special General Meeting
Dec	Tues 14	Zoom Speaker meeting
Dec	Tues 21	Christmas Lunch/ Message.
Dec	Tues 28	Bank Holiday
2022		
Jan	Tues 04	Bank Holiday
Jan	Tues 11	Lunch Meeting
Jan	Mon 17	Governing Council
Jan	Tues 18	Zoom Speaker
Jan	Tues 25	Lunch Meeting –Tree Presentation
W/C	31 Jan	Monsoon Meal TBC
Feb	Tues 08	Lunch meeting Club Forum
Feb	W/C 14	Rotathlon !0 Pin Bowls (TBC)
Feb	Tues 22	Lunch Meeting
Mar	Tues 01	Zoom Speaker
Mar	Tues 08	Lunch meeting
Mar	W/C 14	Charity Film night (TBC)
Mar	Tues 22	Lunch meeting
Mar	Mon 28	Governing Council
Mar	W/C 28	Winter walk (TBC)

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Simon Says...

Our newest member Simon Love sent me this good news story.

"We were overwhelmed to find out that we had been nominated for the Black Country Chamber of

Commerce "kindness in the community" award. We were then informed that we were finalists and invited to attend the awards ceremony at Wolverhampton racecourse. Unfortunately we didn't quite win the award but its a massive achievement to be recognised in the work we were doing in such a short space of time (started July 21). 2022 looks very bright and we look forward to providing lots of free breaks to the most deserving whilst celebrating the generosity of our sponsors."



PP Gaby was in touch with Brian and Mary Woolley recently and Brian thought you might like to that all is well in Italy

Dear Brian and Mary,



How lovely to hear from you, and many thanks for the good wishes, you won't believe this, but only last week I said to Pat, "must sent Brian an email and see if my trusted secretary can run a quick agenda for me". You are absolutely correct, we did have a fantastic year in 1996/97, and of course I wouldn't have been able to do it without your help and expertise, we were a very good team indeed. I was thinking about you and Mary 3 weeks ago, because I made some red wine, and if it is going to be half as good as last year I'm going to need some help drinking it. I particularly remember Mary loving it. Last week we harvested olives from my modest olive grove "10 trees" and managed to get 10 kilos of extra virgin olive oil. "About 11 litres" Talk about the good life. We usually get double that amount. Last year we had to prune severely, it will be better next year, the expert said. One thing is certain, the quality is much superior to the extra virgin available on the market.

A propos of those Italian trips..... Well, the mind boggles, singing competitions in Rome standing on tables... you J. Turner and I polishing a bottle of J. Walker after dinner in Rome... Singing in Rod and Jenny's bedroom at 3 am in the morning... Drank Hotel Bellavista out of Whiskey on the first night... The three tenors and J. Hobbs at my house... Lunch at Lake Trasimeno... Carmen at Arena di Verona... Pompei, Naples, my singing Dr. friend in Pescara, Florence, Lake Garda, too much, I want to do it all over again, such wonderful memories. Today we are celebrating 51 years of marriage, low key because my sister Marina is very poorly. Brian again, it's lovely to hear from you, keep well, look after each other and may god bless you both.

Lots of love from Pat and I

Tree of Remembrance. The Tree of Remembrance was officially launched on 20th November in The Wulfrun Centre Wolverhampton by President Richard. This followed a frantic few days when cabinets were dusted down and prepared for our public after two years in quarantine in Peter Williams' barn. With apologies to the various creatures who had taken up residence, the cabinets were cleaned and loaded on to the van ready for delivery to the Wulfrun Centre. The Centre manager was delighted that we were returning and allocated a prime pitch to us near to the busy Dudley Street entrance.

The committee were joined by Sylvia and Derek along with Lorraine and Ade in delivering and constructing the Tree of Remembrance stands.

Upon safe completion and a safety check on the exhibition stand by Chairman Mike the Tree and cabinets were ready for dressing and Val Colley duly obliged late on Friday evening in time for President Richard's opening. The Tree of Remembrance area was completed and along came the Stokes family with the very first entry of 2021! The Express & Star have been very supportive this year with two excellent articles and regular publication of names in the newspaper. Fundraising has just topped £4000 and it is hoped that, even without our Choirs and the Wolves shirt raffle this year (due to Covid concerns), that we can return to near pre-Covid fundraising levels.

PP Mike Colley



Stuart is reminded of a Visit to Berlin

Cliff Gammon's talk to the club about his visit to Berlin reminds me that I was there about a year after the Wall was built in summer 1961. I was the English 'Assistent' in a school in Schleswig Holstein and invited to join a sixth form trip. As we visited the sights I was in learning mode – street-smart Karlheinz made the girls laugh as he described relations with them as behaviour as 'green wood grating' (Grünholz raspeln). We visited several of the sights, Charlottenburg (where the Nefertiti head was), the Olympic Stadium (where Jesse Owens annoyed the Führer), the Reichstag (now the seat of government again), the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church (nickname Lipstick and Powder Compact, Lippenstift und Puderdose), Congress Hall (nickname Pregnant Oyster, schwangere Auster). And I heard what was surely already a very old joke : in Berlin we have a Kurfürstendamm but no Kurfürst (Holy Roman Empire Elector), we have a Kings Forest (Königswald) but no king, we have a Virgins Heath (Jungfernheide) but no virgins! We could not visit the Brandenburg Gate but



could see it over the Wall. (I alone was able to take a tram ride into a rather boring East Berlin.) The trip seemed neither political nor very educational but rather convivial and I was one of the gang with reasonably good German. (Some of us went to see the Bergmann film The Seventh Seal and I fell short trying to explain the plot to one of the teachers because I didn't know the German for 'rape'.) This trip made sure that I would visit Berlin again. And my year in Germany was so absorbing that I applied to spend the following year in France. PP. Stuart Williams.

Quiz post-mortem..

I cannot tell a lie, the response from members to the quiz was a disappointment. Several hours had gone into its preparation so for only 16 members to take part (and two of those were the organisers), out of 50 plus members, was a bit of a downer. Furthermore only 7 members attended the Tettenhall Players recent production. Now in fairness Geoff and I, being ex retailers , have always ascribed to the view that if the goods on the shelf don't sell you cannot blame the customer.

The fellowship Committee are charged with providing you with a varied and interesting programme throughout the year. There are many things planned , some of which are in the diary, each event being the responsibility of a member of the committee. It is dispiriting to that member to give freely of his/her time in booking a venue and managing the event to find so little support.

Of course we have to take into account the effects of Covid and the limited time of working members, neither of which should have affected the attendance at a zoom meeting. Logically, of course, in the end there will be little enthusiasm for organisers to give of their time and few if any events will be provided. That would be a great shame as it would rob us of the opportunity for fellowship. Equally, not every event will appeal to everyone. We must address this problem and the President is hoping to assemble a small group to discuss the problem and hopefully come up with some suggestions. We still welcome suggestions from members for events which they feel they and others would attend. ED.

the production of 40 Shoeboxes! Thank you Simon. The remaining boxes were either given by our club members or in the most, donations were sent to Treasurer Derek so that I could quite possibly be 'shopper of the month' at Poundland. When applicable gift aid was added, I had just a touch over £1,150.00 to spend. I spoke to Nigel Danby who is one of the organisers of the Shoebox scheme to ask how things were going and whether needs were being met by the scheme. He said that if they had double their annual total of over 50,000 boxes, it wouldn't be enough! There really is such a need still out there. Our 314 boxes will bring great delight to many families in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine. So thank you-to everyone who contributed - this really is a wonderful scheme. PP Mike Boyce.



Shoe Box progress

The Shoebox operation of 2021 is now completed and on Friday December 3rd all boxes were delivered to Shoebox HQ in Oldham. As you can see from the photograph of the boxes in my garage prior to loading, we have managed to contribute this year a magnificent total of 314 Shoeboxes. Of those, over 70 were provided by Sylvia Morgan and Julie Hickman, who, along with their family and friends deserve this special mention as their contributions are really significant. They clearly both put an enormous amount of effort into filling so many boxes. My friend Peter Kay and members of the Bethel Christian Fellowship in West Bromwich produced an amazing 31 boxes and cash donations of £300 enabling me to fill a further 45 boxes on their behalf. So we give many thanks to them. They are a busy Church but always find time to help those in need. New member Simon Love managed to procure many items suitable for youngsters which went toward

