

OAKLEY BOWLERS



CHRONICLE



DECEMBER 2016

ISSUE 4

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FROM OUR IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – Mary Varndell



Just to reiterate some of my comments at the AGM for those who were unable to attend.



I would like to say thank you to all members of Oakley Bowling Club for making my year as President most enjoyable, and I believe, successful. Particularly those who played in the friendlies and especially those who supported my tour to the Lake District. I would like to think we all had a great time – Terry and I most certainly did.

Also, a very big thank you to Oakley Bowling Club who have supported me and those who I have played with during my competitive time, especially Kay, Ruth and Carolyn. In particular times when Kay and I have reached National Finals. The support from the Club and its members certainly made a difference to us. Thank you. I am very proud to have been your President and wish President Jim, the Club and its members every success in the future which I know it will be.

FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT - JIM FITZGERALD



As your new President I am looking forward to a busy year ahead, also to my tour to Sidmouth, which is well in hand, I know you will give your whole hearted support.

I would like to congratulate Mary on her year as President and her tour to the Lake District, which is a beautiful part of the country.

My first duty was the great honour on behalf of the club to accept the Club Mark Certificate from Kit Malthouse M.P, on Thursday evening. My many thanks go to Peter Bown and his team for all their hard work, and to those who attended.

On Friday we had a very successful trip to Bath Christmas Market, thanks to Kay and the social team; we had a cold and sunny day which I did order.

My first friendly game was against Camberley; a win we did not have, but an enjoyable game none the less.

Finally our last event for the year is the Christmas lunch at Test Valley Golf Club, which as usual a great time will be had by all.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I hope to see you all on the green next year.

Captain's Log

from Barry Lee, Men's Captain



BARRY'S BANTER FOR THE CHRISTMAS CHRONICLE

Hi folks , sorry but I have a bit more Bowls information to rabbit on about.

I finished my last report saying about the Indoor Friendly Matches over the winter months.

Well as I said at the AGM the other week, we started off very well at Riverside Indoor Club Winchester with a good win for Mary, We won by 30 shots. This was soon hit on the head with our second game at Palmerston Fareham where Oakley got 67 shots to 122 not good but still a good day . The third game was more local Longmeadow at Whitchurch where we lost on all 4 rinks 47- 105 thats 58 shots, but at Mary's last game as President we did even worse. We lost on 5 rinks out of 6 giving a total of 74 -168 only -94 shots the only winning rink as I said at the AGM was Jocky's rink of Mary, Averil, Margaret and Jocky just by 3 shots again as I said at the meeting that was Jocky's 11th winning team over the whole season. Very good I think.

We now have a new President - JIM and on Sunday 4th Dec we travelled to Camberley and try our best again to try and win some matches. This is also where Arthur Meakin really tries hard at Camberley because his sister plays there, and strangely enough she always seems to be on the same rink as Arthur. Well we all turned up and I'm sure we all tried but alas we did not do that well for our new President Jim. Our total score was 67 and Camberley got 158 some 91 shots down. Oakley did win there in 2012 which happened to be my year as President. We only won by 2 shots overall but it was a win. 3 of the original team had to drop out due to illness, but with quite a few reserves it was soon sorted. It was quite hard to pick the team for Camberley as I had 35 names on the list and of course only needed 24 players. I have informed all the reserves that they will be picked for the next game at West Berks (Newbury) which is not until after Christmas on 8th January 2017.

Then I will have a bigger problem then because there are 42 names on the list .

I have got 51 names on my list to play over the 10 friendly indoor matches its fantastic and I must thank you all and I will make sure you all an equal number of games.

Now I have just received this last week, information regarding the Saturday night competition played at Loddon Vale IBC its called The" CUSHEON TROPHY", and starts in January not sure of the dates yet but it is a mixed game so we are looking for regular players who play indoors Ladies & Men. It usually starts at 6-30pm and is a full game of 21 ends played in Greys with club shirt. If you are interested please would you let the Men's Captain Ric or I know as soon as possible that would be great.

The format has changed this year to try and get more outdoor clubs to join in. It will be 1 rink of 4 players (mixed) playing another mixed rink. Oakley have entered 3 teams so far but if the response is good we may get a chance to put another team in. Oakley have won the Trophy several times over many years, I think we were runners up last year.

Very many thanks again for putting your names down for the Indoor games I think its the largest number yet.

See you in the New Year.

May I wish you all a very Merry and Happy Christmas and New Year.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Spencer Kerley



Numbers were down on last year's high for the Club's Christmas Lunch but nonetheless almost 50 members, including 10 Past Presidents were in attendance. Held as usual at Test Valley Golf Club the event was, for the second successive year, organised by our Immediate Past President Mary Varndell. After a drink or two in the bar to get us in the party mood we settled down at about 2 45 pm for an excellent three course meal with the starter and sweets being served at the tables and with our going up to help ourselves to whatever

we fancied from the extensive carvery.

All agreed the food was excellent as was the service from the very accommodating waiting and bar staff. Mince pies and coffee followed and around 5.00 pm, well fed and watered, and after a vote of thanks from President Jim to Mary and the Golf Club, we set off for home with everyone in the festive mood and looking forward to our return to Test Valley for the Club Presentation Dinner on the 3rd February.



Spencer's Snippets



from Spencer Kerley, General Secretary



The Club's congratulations go to Nicole Rogers who has been selected to represent England in the Junior International Series to be held at Islwyn IBC on 11th and 12th February. Nicole is due to play at two in a rink skipped by Katherine Rednall.

The Oakley Presentation Dinner and Dance will be on Friday 3rd February 2017 at the Test Valley Golf Club. Our guests for the evening are the Bowls Hampshire Presidents Ian Mulholland and Carol Eichen (accompanied by Ken) as well as Sir Michael and Lady Colman and Mr Jamie Colman. It is always a good evening so, if you have not been before, come along and enjoy yourself. Places can be reserved at the Pre-Season Meeting.

Do not forget also the Basingstoke and District Dinner at the Basingstoke Masonic Centre on Friday 27th January. This is your chance to support our League Champions and prize winners.

Congratulations to Hazel Marke of Alton Social who has been elected to be the Junior Vice President of Bowls England in 2017. Hazel is known to many of our members and particularly those who were with her on tour in South Africa in 2011.

The Bowls Hampshire Luncheon and Presentation was held at Fleming Park Bowling Club, Eastleigh on Sunday 23rd October. Disappointingly only four Oakley members attended but they had a very enjoyable afternoon. Twelve members also went on the Bowls Hampshire Mini Tour in November to the Dorset Golf and Bowls Resort. Such was the success of the event that many of this year's tourists have already paid deposits for the 2017 tour. Details of the 2017 trip will be circulated in the New Year.

At the Bowls Hampshire AGM in November Ken Eichen of Cove and Julie Greenwood of Milton Park Ladies were elected as the 2017 Vice Presidents. From Oakley, Kay Kerley continues as Vice Chair, Spencer Kerley as Secretary, Mary Varndell as North Area Secretary (Women) and Peter Bown is an Executive member.

At the Basingstoke and District BA AGM in December Alan Tait of Howard Park was elected President. From Oakley, Trevor Wearn continues as Vice Chair and Match Secretary.

World Bowls has approved the use, during games, of a device called "Bowls Eye" which claims to be an accurate way (better than the naked eye or crossed fingers) to determine the state of the head after the first two bowls of an end. Its supporters claim this will speed up games. Bowls England took the line it would delay games if everyone started using them and requested to be allowed to have a Domestic Regulation prohibiting its use. This request was rejected by World Bowls so you can now all go out and spend approx. £18 on this gadget. Note, however, it is only a guide to players during an end. The result of an end will continue to be determined in the traditional way.

Ladies Secretary's Salutation



From Lesley Allard, Ladies Secretary



What a great Club week! Not competition results – but social occasions.

50 members old and new and friends enjoyed a super coach trip to Bath Christmas Market on a very crisp but sunny day. It is these social occasions that help to make Oakley the great club that it is and this aspect was praised by the assessor at the Clubmark presentation on Friday evening. It was good to see the new local MP Kit Malthouse at the Club to make the presentation to President Jim. Special praise was given to Peter Bown whose hard work on the detailed criteria made it all possible.

Thanks to our Social committee who work hard to keep members joining in activities other than bowling. They deserve to be well supported. We look forward to the Christmas lunch and the Presentation dinner and dance in February.



In November Averil Adams was installed as President of North Hants Women's Bowling Association and Averil was presented with a flower arrangement on behalf of the Club. Congratulations Averil and we hope that all members, ladies in particular, will support Averil in her year of office.

There are still three more Indoor NHWBA Friendly fixtures to be played. The first is on Thursday 2 February at Loddon Vale IBC at 1.30 for 2pm. The second is on Tuesday 14 February at Chawton Park IBC, Alton and the third game is on Wednesday 8 March at Rushmoor IBC, Aldershot. All games are in the afternoon (2pm) with a meal afterwards. All Oakley ladies are eligible to play in these games and if you wish to play in any game please ring me on 397435.

P S I hope that the meal at Loddon Vale is an improvement on the North Hants Ladies luncheon! What a disaster!

It was good to see Janette Frost on the Bath visit, following her heart problems a few weeks ago, but unfortunately she is due to undergo a further operation in the New Year. We wish you well Janette!

Denis Carter is still in hospital as, following another fall, he had to have a partial hip replacement and things have not gone well. We sent our best wishes to his wife Margaret.

Our good wishes have been sent to Margaret Cannell who has been unwell recently. Get well soon Margaret!

Former member Sandra Ayres came on the coach trip to Bath and it was good to see her looking so well following serious health problems during the last year.

Finally may I thank members of the Club for all the support and sympathy given to me and my family during Barry's long illness and death in late October. The church was packed with old friends at his funeral and the

magnificent sum of £1100 was collected on the day, in his memory. This money will go to St Michaels Hospice where he was superbly looked after for the last five weeks of his life.

Happy Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to you all!

Special Thanks

From Beryl Chaplin

Thank you to Pat Goodall, Lesley Allard and Linda Poynter for my personal support.

Joy, Antony, Jamie and I wish to thank Spencer and Barry for the tribute that was included in the funeral service. Also all the support given to us at the ceremony and their presence at the Kestrel of the Club members. We really appreciated it.

Christmas Greetings



John and Valerie would like to wish all OBC members a very happy Christmas, also to all who have lost loved ones this year, our thoughts are for you and your families, and for those who have been ill, we are wishing you a speedy recovery.

Christmas Carols

We Three Kings Of Orient Are
Away in a Manger
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Deck The Halls
Silent Night
Good King Wenceslas



Christmas Songs

Pogues & Kirsty McCall - Fairytale of New York.
Nat King Cole - The Christmas Song (often known as Chestnuts Roasting on the Open Fire).
Slades' "Merry Christmas Everybody"
Cliff Richard's "Mistletoe and Wine"
Billy Mack "Christmas is all around"
Paul Nicholas "Grandma's Party"

Many thanks to all of you have sent me their favourite Carols or Songs.

Blasts from the Past - Memories of old Basingstoke Town Pubs

by Trevor Wearn

I wrote this piece for the first 'Chronicle' that Coral edited way back in 2010 when she took over from Chris Heath. As I'd promised Sandie I'd contribute something for this edition and then running out of time, I had a quick delve back into the archives for something that some of you probably hadn't seen before – and something a lot more of you have probably forgotten about anyway! If it does nothing else I hope it will provoke a few memories and possibly a bit of discussion.

It's a sad fact of life that there are dwindling number of us native Basingstoke folk left who can remember the town pre-1965 when the powers to be began to knock most of our town centre down and create a wonderful new concrete jungle for us to shop in. An inevitable talking point when a few of us do get together is the abundance of watering holes we had access to. Recently, having forked out £3.70 for a bottle of beer, my thoughts again turned to the good old days when 1/4d bought a half-decent pint of bitter and £1 gave a good night out drinking for two of you and I started to think about the old town pubs that are no more and I'd like to invite you to join me in a nostalgic crawl around them.

My (legal) drinking days started really in the '**Cricketers Inn**', tucked up under the railway embankment at the end of May Street with a small social hall attached to it. Mrs Fowles, the landlady, used to let a skiffle group I belonged to at the time, 'The Sunnysiders', rehearse – or at least that was our excuse! Less than 100 yards walk, down Brook Terrace past 'Speedy's' Gents Hairdresser's, brought you to the divergence of Essex Road and Brook Street, known as Victory Square which was faced on the west side by '**The Victory**', a large Courage pub offering B&B under the auspices of landlord Harold Hancock. This pub now lies buried under the Victory Roundabout - so you can now get your bearings! A stroll now towards the bottom of the town centre along Brook Street, past the Andover Timber Company and the Central Electricity Company's generating station on the right and the former Mays Brewery (latterly Haskins, a metal working firm) on the left, brought you to the crossroads of Chapel, Brook and Church Streets where traffic for the first time in Basingstoke was controlled by traffic lights. Turning right here and crossing Church Street roughly to where the Argos store now is brought you to the '**Self Defence**'. Back down to the traffic lights now and across the road and you were in the '**The Rose**'. Leaving the Rose and carrying on along Brook Street for only 100yds, past the fire station, to the corner of Station Hill was the '**Railway Arms**', situated exactly opposite a very well known and sometimes notorious establishment, the '**Barge Inn**', named due to its proximity to Whites Wharf, the terminus of the Basingstoke Canal, and no, even I don't remember that! - although I do remember the wharf being the depot for Venture Buses, the predecessors of the Wilts and Dorset Bus company. Anyway, back to the pubs, and a quick climb up Station Hill to the '**Station Hotel**' which did a roaring trade on Cattle Market days, and stayed open all day. Opposite the Station Hotel was an unmade road, Clifton Terrace, and a short walk along here, past the cattle market and Smiths seed depot then down Bunnian Place and you were at the '**Old House at Home**', on the corner of Bunnian Place and Reading Road. Almost opposite, standing on the junction of Reading Road and Basing Road was the '**Engineers Arms**', another pub somewhat notorious for the 'meetings' between the squaddies from Bramley Camp and the locals. Back now towards the 'Barge' and past the bus terminal with a fledging River Loddon trickling along behind it. I say 'trickling along' because normally it was only 4 or 5 feet wide and 4 or 5 inches deep, but I remember times when the springs rose at it's source further back towards Buckskin and it poured in quite a torrent through Brookvale, flooding at least two of the Pubs, the Victory and the Barge.

I digress, back to the Pubs. A relief stop at the 'Isle of Man', the popular name for the Gents toilet which shared the middle of the road with a large stone horse trough and an equally large Hornbeam tree, and we make our unsteady way up Wote Street past the Savoy and Waldorf Cinemas then a left turn into Goat Lane found you at the '**Goat Inn**', but if that was full up, as it was only a tiny bar, you only had to cross Wote Street to the '**Travellers Rest**'. Back across Wote Street, 25yds further up, was the '**Grapes Hotel**', one to be avoided if you didn't want an argument as was the '**Angel**', another 25yds further up on the corner of Potter's Lane. Run by a rather large old lady called Maggie Fisher, I remember in the bar was a pianola, an upright piano in which you inserted scrolls of paper punched with holes allowing the piano to automatically play itself. How it never got damaged during the many fights that occurred I will never know, maybe because it was in the Lounge Bar and not the Public Bar. Now that's set me thinking, when did the custom of having the two distinct bars disappear? Never mind, lets move on up Wote Street a few more yards to the '**Royal Exchange**' in whose yard Bill Hoskins, the butcher for Loveridge's, had his slaughterhouse. More than once an animal made a break for freedom off down Wote Street! On then up to Market Square, past the still surviving 'Feathers Hotel', although now re-named Laarsen's Pub, and the 'Hole in the Wall', or more formally, the 'George Inn'. (Wrong, all change! That's disappeared now, it's 'Zizzys', another restaurant, at least it was last time I looked!). Now that particular Pub holds special memories for me as it was run in the 1940's by my Mum's sister, Eve, and Uncle Len Smith. I can still recall sitting outside on the step when I was 3 or 4 years old with a packet of crisps as no one my age, no matter whom, was allowed in the Bar when the Pub was open!

I digress again; we take a left turn to leave the Market Place and stroll along London Street to just past the Red Lion Hotel where an alleyway, Sydenham Place, led from London Street to New Road. Just inside this alleyway was another pokey little bar, the '**Red Lion Tap**' and almost next door to it in London Street was the '**Anchor**'. Leaving the Anchor, rather unsteadily, we turn right by the Almshouses and cross Hackwood Road to the '**Horse and Jockey**', a large old Pub with a big yard and a row of garages. Crossing back over Hackwood Road and turning into Southern Road, along to the corner of Cambridge Terrace and looking just like all the small terraced houses around it - and about the same size - was the '**Forester's Arms**', the sort of pub where you could be sitting in your own front room with a pint if you know what I mean. Anyway, along from the Forester's and down Victoria Street, keeping left into Little Victoria Street and at the corner of London Street was a Watney's pub, the '**Victoria Inn**', which survived for a long time after the demolition of most of the others but is now turned into offices. You've probably noticed that the only two breweries I've mentioned are Courage's and Watney's (remember Red Barrel, gassy old beer, among the first of the keg varieties as opposed to the proper stuff drawn up from the cellars by a good old fashioned beer engine), well, that's pretty much the choice we had. The sale of beer in those days was very regional, but with all the takeovers and mergers going on, keg beers, such as Worthington's, Whitbread and Bass, were being heavily promoted and becoming locally available, however Mild was still very much in demand with a pint of mild and bitter being a popular drink. Thank the Lord for the formation of CAMRA in 1971 which has slowly reversed the trend back to Real Ales!

In our area May's Brewery had closed down in 1946, long before my drinking time, having been taken over by H & G Simonds of Reading who in turn in the early '60's, were taken over by Courage & Barclay and they and Watney's, as I remember, owned most of the licensed premises in the town. Headaches guaranteed with a hangover from a few pints of Courage Directors bitter and still does since it made its comeback a few years ago although Fred Norris loves it! One thing I'll say about Courages though, their tours around the Brewery in Reading were always assured to be very hospitable and popular!

However, once again I'm deviating from the main subject, where were we? Oh yes, staggering out of the 'Vic'. As it's now easier to travel downhill we'll head on down New Road where right opposite us at the junction of Flaxfield Road, Cross Street and New Road stood the '**Pear Tree**', which despite its proximity to Dellafera's

doss-house just down Flaxfield Road didn't have such a bad reputation as the Grapes or the Angel.

Coming to the end of the tour now, but before we move onto the final pub, we'll go right at the bottom of Cross Street and a few yards up Church Street to a pub which has been known once as the 'Hop Leaf' and twice as the 'Black Boy', (or was it twice as the 'Hop Leaf' and once as the 'Black Boy'?) Things are a bit hazy by now! Anyway, although it is still standing it's no longer a pub and following a short period as a fancy eatery and cocktail bar called Censo it's now derelict. Back down the hill and on the corner of Church Street and Potter's Lane we reach the last pub on the list but one of the first to go under the redevelopment. The 'Rose and Crown' is another pub that has special memories for me as I spent many an hour (and a lot of 'out of hours'!) in there with my first father-in-law, Albert Munford, who owned the paint and decorators shop further along Potter's Lane, and Coral's grandfather, Charlie Everett, who owned the Southern Counties Cycle shop right opposite the pub and was also well known as being the alternative source to the chemist or barber for family planning requisites. All very well providing you came away with the right sort of valve rubbers! The Rose and Crown was not one of the many pubs that had a claim to being haunted but I remember well the evening when I sat in the lounge having a quiet drink with Alb, Charlie and George Damerell, the landlord, when there was a loud rat-tat-tat on the bar of the adjacent public bar. There was only a lone Irishman in that bar and when George went round to assumedly serve him all he found was a very whitefaced Paddy saying "Oi never done nothing Guvnor, it weren't me". Mysterious indeed, but I remember another time when I was asked to go down to the cellar for some stock, and as I descended the ladder the normally cool cellar got colder and colder and the hairs on the back of my neck stood up further and further – and the bar was stocked in record time! The story went that many of the timbers used in the building of the pub many, many years before came from old ships broken up in Portsmouth, so, was it all imagination or was it the ghost of some poor old mariner looking to be exorcised!

Well, that little phantom walk took in 22 pubs that have ceased to exist in about a mile and a half walk along town streets many of which have also disappeared. I hope you enjoyed it and that it gave those of you new to the town, post-demolishment, an idea of what it used to be like and I'm sure for some of you it brought back a few memories. If it did and you've got recollections of your own maybe you'd like to share them with us in the next edition of the 'Chronicle'?



Coral & Trevor would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year!! Have a Great time!!

We hope you will accept this greeting in lieu of a card

and we too will donate to a charity.



Short Mat Bowling

from Keith Turnbull

I have just realised that we are coming up to the 5th anniversary of Short Mat Bowling in the clubhouse at Malshanger. It really doesn't seem anything like that long since we took our first tentative steps into this new activity, with a single mat kindly donated by Stan Mond, wooden fenders and centre block made by our new President Jim Fitz and initial tuition and guidance from Ed Jesney. We now have two mats and a constantly improving band of regular bowlers who turn up for an afternoon of bowling, banter and biscuits on Mondays and Thursdays.

For those who don't know what this is all about, the mat is 42 feet long and 6 feet wide, the jack is considerably heavier than a normal outdoor jack and we play with our usual outdoor bowls. There is a 15-inch-long wooden block placed across the middle of the mat (to discourage heavily weighted bowls demolishing the end wall of the clubhouse). The rules and tactics are very similar to normal bowls, with just a few additions relating to foot positioning, ditches etc. Because it is so much easier to get a bowl to reach the other end, many of our members who now find outdoor bowling too strenuous have excelled at Short Mat.

Up to now the sessions have been totally informal and aimed really at having a bit of fun during the dark days of winter, and this approach will continue to be the main focus. However, a few of the regulars have started expressing an interest in becoming a bit more competitive and are wondering whether to explore the possibility of joining one of the local leagues and playing more seriously. Who knows, one day somebody might want to take this idea further.

Our sessions are held every Monday and Thursday starting just before 2pm. The cost (mainly to cover heating, lighting and refreshments) is £1.00 per player per session. There is no need to register or book for these sessions, just turn up as often as you like with your woods and bowling shoes and join in the fun. It is a bit disappointing that none of our newer members have yet taken part – it is a really good way to get to know other members in a relaxed, friendly environment. Maybe you have not been aware of it, or how to get involved, so now is your chance.

Sue Dixon runs the Thursday sessions and Keith Turnbull has this year taken over from Ted Trantum running the Monday sessions. Sue and Jim also kindly organise the tea and biscuits for both sessions, supported by Marion and Keith Bringes. If you need any further details of the sessions, please contact Sue or Keith – or just turn up and have a go. I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

There will not be any sessions on 26th or 29th December, but otherwise the sessions will continue to run until the outdoor season begins in April.

Finally, **may I wish all our members a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.**

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

From Ric Newson



- 1/. Peter Dinklage sang Walking In The Air in what film?
- 2/. 'And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas day in the morning...' is from which Christmas carol?
- 3/. Which Christmas slogan was introduced by Clarissa Baldwin of Dogs Trust in 1978?
- 4/. Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean, is a territory of which country?
- 5/. Charles Dickens is said to have considered the names Little Larry and Puny Pete for which character?
- 6/. In the song 'The Twelve Days Of Christmas', how many swans were a-swimming?
- 7/. Driving Home For Christmas was a 1988 hit single for which singer?
- 8/. 'Three Kings Day' is known by what numerical name (that's 'name', not 'date') in Britain?
- 9/. The surname Chandler derives from the making or selling of what?
- 10/. The fortified wine drink Sherry is named after what town?
- 11/. What former Egyptian president was born on Christmas day in 1918?
- 12/. Who composed the music known as The Nutcracker Suite, for the Christmas themed ballet The Nutcracker, premiered in St Petersburg, 1892?
- 13/. In which country does Santa have his own personal postcode HOH OHO?
- 14/. Which British monarch (born 1865, died 1936) introduced the custom of giving thousands of Christmas puddings to staff?
- 15/. Which Christmas condiment is made from fruit sometimes referred to as marshworts?
- 16/. Which traditional Christmas plant was once so revered by early Britons that it had to be cut with a golden sickle?
- 17/. In what country, the world's seventh largest by geographical area, is Christmas known as Bada Din (the big day)?
- 18/. Marzipan is made (conventionally in the western world) mainly from sugar and the flour or meal of which nut?
- 19/. Which American-born English poet, having first names Thomas Stearns, wrote the poem The Cultivation Of Christmas Trees?
- 20/. 'Nadolig Llawen' means Merry Christmas in which western European language?

News from the North!

From Jan Foster and Dave Huyton



Greetings to you all from a sunny Knott End on Sea! We've been following the weather forecasts recently, and it would seem that you have been having some pretty cold weather! We have had some overnight frosts in the last week, but during the day we are blessed with clear blue skies and brilliant sunshine – what a topsy-turvy weather pattern we seem to have nowadays! At least we are not suffering the devastating rain and storms of Storm Desmond, which flooded so many places up here at this time last year – long may our good weather continue.

Our Indoor season has been interesting to date. We are now on the Christmas break, and will re-start in the first week of January. The final match of this half of the season was a Knockout Competition involving the 10 teams in the Indoor League. I was unable to play (more of that later), but Dave gave an excellent performance, and helped our team – “The Wyresiders”, to beat the team who are top of the league at present – he came home cock-a-hoop, as the opposition are rather full of their own importance!

We were due to attend the Presentation Evening on 19th November but unfortunately, I had been rushed into hospital that morning, and ended up staying for 5 days. I had what was thought to be a successful Cardioversion on 12th November, but the effects of this wore off quite dramatically overnight on 18th November, and I woke with a pulse rate well over 200b.p.m! Scary I can tell you. Anyway, I'm now learning to behave myself whilst taking an assortment of tablets! I'm on the waiting list for an ablation. This should happen in the next couple of months, as long as I have maintained a satisfactory heart rate in the meantime. All of my problems were triggered by a chest infection which I caught whilst in hospital in May!! Fortunately, Dave is, on the whole, keeping well at present, although he has had a persistent cough which is taking some time to shift.

Our plans for Christmas are quiet, given that I can't stray too far from the hospital for the moment. Whatever your plans are, we wish you all a **VERY** Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! We are looking forward to seeing you all on tour next summer.

Dave, Jan and Bundle the dog XOX

THE OUTCOME OF THE SAGA OF THE ROOF - From Bob and Barbara

I just thought I'd give an update for anyone who's interested in the progress on our build following the Saga of the Roof.

Well we eventually moved back in at the beginning of November!! We are very grateful to Mary and Terry for their hospitality and it says a lot that we are all still friends.

When we first moved back it was very much camping indoors. Things have improved but with so much to do progress was slow to start with. However the kitchen will be up and running when you read this and the temporary kitchen in the utility room can be dismantled. Some downstairs carpets and flooring will (fingers crossed) be fitted by Christmas and it's amazing how nice it is to have doors on all the rooms.

So we are going to be comfortable by Christmas but our absolute deadline of being finished indoors by 22nd March when our family come over from New Zealand now looks achievable.

The whole project has been huge but we've been incredibly lucky with everyone who has worked on the project and the amazingly good weather we have enjoyed. The heating was fired up just as the weather turned cold!!

Anyway I said the last time we did an extension I'd never do another project and look what happened, this one was twice as big. But this time I mean it, as much as we love the outcome I have promised never to do it again.

Tuffs Teasers

from Frank Tuffs

Find the animal hiding in each sentence.

1. Wear a tie at the meeting
2. This club is one of the best
3. I will do guard duty tonight
4. He made errors on purpose
5. It was a deep and a dirty graze
6. They were all anti germ warfare supporters
7. He had another go at the puzzle
8. The noise caused them to scatter
9. She draped the robe artistically over her shoulders
10. The channel and inlet soon filled up
11. He had to ring numerous times
12. The painter's new easel was too large





Editor's Corner (Sandra Lee):

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has provided articles for the Chronicle for 2016 its very much appreciated and I do hope you will all keep sending me articles in 2017.

Chris and I wish everyone a very  and **Happy New Year**

QUOTES BY FAMOUS PEOPLE

"Carry out a random act of kindness with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you"

(Diana, Princess of Wales, (1961-1997))

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us"

(Helen Keller, Activist and Writer (1880-1968))

DID YOU KNOW:

Have you ever looked closely at a pack of cards, in particular the face cards?

Have you noticed how many "eyes" are on these Kings, Queens and Jacks?

There are 42.

They are:

3 Kings with 2 eyes

1 King with 1 eye

4 Queens with 2 eyes

2 Jacks with 2 eyes

2 Jacks with 1 eye and as each image appears twice on each card this makes 42.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1/. The Snowman
- 2/. I Saw Three Ships
- 3/. A Dog is for Life, not just for Christmas.
- 4/. Australia.
- 5/. Tiny Tim
- 6/. Seven
- 7/. Chris Rea.
- 8/. Twelfth Night
- 9/. Candles
- 10/. Jerez
- 11/. Anwar Sadat
- 12/. Tchaikovsky
- 13/. Canada.
- 14/. King George V
- 15/. Cranberry Sauce
- 16/. Mistletoe
- 17/. India.
- 18/. Almond.
- 19/. T S Eliot.
- 20/. Welsh



Tuffs Teasers - Possible Answers

1. Rat
2. Bison
3. Dog
4. Deer
5. Panda
6. Tiger
7. Goat
8. Cat
9. Bear
10. Eland
11. Gnu
12. Weasel

