

APRIL 2023

The Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs of  
Great Britain and Ireland



# 41 Club NEWSLETTER

A proud member of the  
Round Table Family



## Jersey AGM update

Steve James takes charge as President  
and leads walk for Prostate Cancer

Wynn Won  
National Capitation increased





# 40th Charter Dinner

## Llantwit Major 41 Club

Invites you to Book in to their 40th Charter Night Dinner  
on

**Friday 16th June 2023**

at

### Llantwit Major Rugby Club

7 Boverton Rd, Llantwit Major CF61 1AF

**19.00 for 19:30**

Dress:- DJs

Our National President, Steve James, will be in attendance

**3 Course Dinner**

plus Tea/coffee

and **Guest Speaker**

£40 per Head

To Book In Contact: Bryn Morgan [bryn.morgan63@gmail.com](mailto:bryn.morgan63@gmail.com)





# Welcome to the April Newsletter



Gentlemen,

Another Conference is over and thank you to The Jersey Committee for an excellent event.

Steve James was installed as National President and Wynn Parry elected as Vice-President.

As Don Mullane confirmed in the last newsletter his term of office finished at the AGM. Don has done a great job over the past 3 years where we have seen many positive changes to both the Magazine and Newsletter. The role also includes IT, where Don and his committee have started a review, which is currently ongoing, to consider how to improve communication with all members.



Therefore, to continue to move these projects forward, I will be assisted by 2 separate committees, Comms and IT, both with the same goal to keep members fully informed. I am pleased to confirm that we will continue with both the monthly newsletters and 3 editions of the magazine each year.

To do this we continue to need your assistance in providing articles and features, so please send these to either myself or your National Councillor. There will probably be some changes in formats but the principles will remain to keep all members up to date of what is happening at both National and Club level.

*Dave*

**Dave Chard,**  
National Communications and IT Officer



## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Various articles  
PLUS the usual details of events by clubs and Internationally, plus members welfare, plus members benefits - too much to itemise individually, just read and enjoy!



## SUPPORTING PROSTATE CANCER UK

The Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs  
of Great Britain and Ireland  
A member of the Round Table Family of Clubs  
[www.41club.org](http://www.41club.org)  
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Please send all correspondence and items for publication to [comms@41club.org](mailto:comms@41club.org)

# Steve James, National President



I am truly honoured to be elected as your 77th National President. It was great to see so many people travel across to Jersey for our annual AGM and conference and what a party we had sandwiched between the business side of things. My thanks to Paul Harding and the team for organising a great conference.

I was extremely pleased to present the 41 Club Strategy and action plan in the AGM which sets out what we are going to deliver on to make sure 41 Club is the club of choice for former members of Round Table and like-minded individuals.

The strategy and accompanying action plan are based on 7 pillars, namely:

- Membership: Recruitment and Retention.
- Communication.
- Engagement.
- Fellowship: Activities and members benefits.
- International.
- Good Governance.
- Financial Health.

Recruitment and retention has to be our main focus and the strategy sets out how we will lay the foundations to maintain our membership base, how we will make 41 Club the club of choice, how we will establish new clubs, how we will aim to retain our current members and reduce the number of clubs disaffiliating. The strategy also sets out our intention to increase both our member benefit offerings and our National Fellowship events. All of which will be underpinned by good governance and financial health.

I am keen to ensure that we have greater engagement with our members and prospective members and if anyone has any views on our strategy or any concerns, please feel free to contact me or ask me to pop along to one of your meetings.

Peter McBride and the membership committee have already made inroads into the plan and at the RTBI AGM in May we will be launching a new 41 club for retiring Tablers called Genesis XRT (Xtra Round Table) as well as establishing XRT clubs in the areas/regions where there are none.

Bernard Elwen, our National Secretary has already emailed club contacts regarding the decisions made in the AGM and no doubt one of talking points will be the decision regarding the increase in capitation next year. I therefore thought it would be helpful to clarify matters. Following detailed financial discussions in both our Board and National Council meetings, National Treasurer Kevin Lovett proposed that capitation should be increased to £16 from £14.50. Detailed discussions ensued in the AGM regarding this increase and there was a strong feeling by voting members that the increase was too low. Accordingly, a proposal was made from the floor, which was duly seconded proposing that capitation be increased to £20. In true democratic fashion this amendment to the Treasurer's proposal was voted upon and subsequently carried. I am sure there will be some who disagree with this vote and it would be great to see those who do voice their opinions at our next AGM either in person or online now that we have made our AGM accessible for everyone.

Jersey was a particularly momentous occasion because I kick-started my Presidential year by walking around the coast path of Jersey with fellow 41 Club and Tangent walking group members to raise a wareness of my charities, Prostate Cancer UK and Prostate Cymru. I'm pleased to say that 4 of us completed the task, although my knees did take a hammering walking down so many coves. Accompanying me for the whole distance were Jerry and Julia Wilson and Paul Hampton who planned the route, as well as my wife Karen, although she missed 3.5miles on day 1. Paul's wife Jackie coordinated the social walkers who joined us along the way and it was particularly heartening to see them in Gorey with 6 miles to go (out of a gruelling 22.4 miles on the last day) because their presence was a much-needed boost. Special thanks to Paul for planning our route and to David Liddiard of Jersey 41 Club for the transport arrangements.

The reason I have chosen Prostate Cancer/Cymru for my charities is because I wish to raise awareness of prostate cancer and hopefully encourage members to speak to their GP's about getting tested because early diagnosis and intervention saves lives.

Prostate cancer mainly affects men over 50, and in the UK 1 in 8 men will get prostate cancer in their lifetime, although if you are black or have a family history of prostate cancer the risk is higher. Given the demographics of our members this means that we are most likely to be affected and sadly I know so many 41ers who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer recently.





# Steve James' President's Report cont/.

As part of my fundraising activities, I am holding a Presidential charity ball on 1st July in Cardiff and a rugby dinner in January 2024. I do hope that some of you will be able to make both or either event. I also have an online auction with some amazing and one-off items up for grabs:

- A 5 night Fred Olsen cruise for 2 in an Ocean view cabin cruising the Dutch waterways.
- Midweek break at the Cedars, Crake Valley Park, Ulverston, Cumbria.
- A week's holiday at Selsey Country Club, West Sussex.
- Pyrotechnician for the day.
- Half day Adult rally experience at Cotswold driving experiences.
- Six Nations Tickets 2024 and 2025 (Wales home games).
- Classic Barbarians shirt signed by Sir Gareth Edwards.
- Rugby ball signed by Sir Gareth Edwards.
- One of a kind signed canvas of Alun Wynn Jones by SKIN.
- One off signed print of Joe Fraser.
- One off bespoke clock

I am extremely indebted to all those individuals and companies who have donated the above prizes. The exact details of each prize as well as how to book in to my ball can be found on the website <https://stevejames.wales>

For those who wish for me to attend a club meeting or an event my booking form is also on the above site.

Congratulations to Jim on a successful Presidential year and to Wynn for being appointed as Vice President. I wish Shirley and Emma all the very best as President and Vice President respectively of Tangent and I look forward to working side by side with both of them.

**Yours in Continued Friendship,**

*Steve*

Steve James,  
**41 Club National President**



# Overview of Prostate Cancer UK

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men and Prostate Cancer UK (the largest men's health charity in the UK) has one simple ambition - to save and improve the lives of those men affected by prostate cancer through funding lifesaving research and supporting men and their families.

Currently, there's no routine screening programme for men and this needs to change. Screening programmes for breast cancer have had a positive impact on women's health, and Prostate Cancer UK believe men deserve the same.

They're the driving force in prostate cancer research in the UK, investing millions into research to find better ways to diagnose prostate cancer and improve treatments to help men live long and live well. They work with the NHS to make sure men get access to these breakthrough tests and treatments, and influence government decision makers to improve men's outcomes and experiences.

Prostate Cancer UK helps men make informed choices about prostate cancer. They spread the word about who is at risk of prostate cancer, especially to those at higher risk, through their award-winning online Risk Checker tool. Their Specialist Nurse service and health information provide vital support for people living with prostate cancer.

*"I'd like to thank Steve for choosing to support Prostate Cancer UK and Prostate Cymru during his presidency. We're looking forward to what Steve has planned for the coming year and we hope that it'll forge a strong and lasting partnership between the two charities."*

*Supporters like Steve, and the 41 Club play a vital part in raising awareness of prostate cancer, especially amongst men who may be at a higher risk. Reaching these men and helping them make an informed choice about their prostate cancer risk is an important part of our strategy.*

*The impact of the support from Steve and the 41 Club will go beyond fundraising and will help us create a future where more men get diagnosed early and are cured of their cancer and those diagnosed late live longer with kinder, better treatments."*

Chiara De Biase, Director of Supporting and Influencing, Prostate Cancer UK



## Prostate cancer – facts and figures

### Across the UK

- Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men.
- More than 52,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year on average – that's 143 men every day.
- Every 45 minutes one man dies from prostate cancer – that's more than 12,000 men every year.
- 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime.
- Around 475,000 men are living with and after prostate cancer.

### What is the prostate?

The prostate is a gland. It is usually the size and shape of a walnut and grows bigger as you get older. It sits underneath the bladder and surrounds the urethra, which is the tube that carries urine (wee) out of the body. The prostate's main job is to help make semen – the fluid that carries sperm.

### What is prostate cancer?

Prostate cancer can develop when cells in the prostate start to grow in an uncontrolled way.

Some prostate cancer grows too slowly to cause any problems or affect how long you live. Because of this, many men with prostate cancer will never need any treatment.

But some prostate cancer grows quickly and is more likely to spread. This is more likely to cause problems and needs treatment to stop it spreading.

### Signs and symptoms

Prostate cancer that's contained inside the prostate (called localised prostate cancer or early prostate cancer) doesn't usually cause any symptoms. That's why it's important to know about your risk.

But some men might have some urinary problems. These can be mild and happen over many years and may be a sign of a benign prostate problem, rather than prostate cancer.

Find out more information about the possible symptoms of prostate cancer.

**If you think you might be at risk of prostate cancer or are experiencing any symptoms, visit your GP or speak to our Specialist Nurses.**

### Are you at risk?

In the UK, about 1 in 8 men will get prostate cancer in their lifetime.

Prostate cancer mainly affects men over 50, and your risk increases with age. The risk is even higher for black men and men with a family history of prostate cancer.

You can find more information about your risk and about prostate cancer on [our website](#).

**Prostate Cancer UK is Steve James's National Charity for 2023-24**





THE PRESIDENT'S

Summer  
BLACK TIE CHARITY Ball

1ST JULY 2023



HILTON HOTEL, CARDIFF



STEVEJAMES.WALES



SUPPORTING  
PROSTATE  
CANCER UK



# Introducing Your New National Vice President Wynn Parry

## Shipley 41 Club, Region 6 Yorkshire



Gentlemen, I am humbled, honoured and privileged to have been elected as your National Vice President at the recent AGM in Jersey. I am very much looking forward having a great year supporting our National President Steve whilst working to help shape the future of our great Association.

I am taking this opportunity to share with you what I believe are the pertinent parts of my election speech, so you can better understand my ambitions for our Association.

From 2019 to 2023, I had the honour of representing Region 6, Yorkshire, as their National Councillor. At the Cardiff AGM in 2022, my fellow National Councillors elected me as the NCLC, their representative on the Board. Last year gave me a deep insight into how the Board and the Association functions, now I can continue being involved in shaping its future. I have also been involved in the recently produced Forward Planning Strategy document, so I am perfectly placed to adopt, adapt and improve this strategy going forwards.

We are all equally responsible for defining the future of our Association. It doesn't matter whether you're a past, current or a wannabe National President or if you are the newest member of the newest club, YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

I believe that moving forward 41 Club must adopt a 3 way strategy, membership retention, member attraction and growth. Number One, Membership retention, we need to understand and assess who we are as an association and where we fit into today's society.

During the pandemic, health, particularly loneliness and mental health was at the forefront of our thinking, with the setting up of the Buddies and Wellbeing groups, of which I am still an active member. We must continue to reach out and contact our friends and 41ers, particularly those who haven't returned to attend meetings. We must encourage them to join us, by offering them lifts to meetings and keep them informed as to what 41 Club is doing.

I encourage and support joint meetings between clubs. Invite your neighbouring clubs to join you for an evening of fellowship. Organise regional dinners or a regional rally around a regional dinner. We are all ambassadors of our Association any suggestions you have to improve fellowship are welcome, remember Your Opinion Counts.

The Round Table family has a unique place within our society allowing us to support our local communities. "The Purge" on Christmas eve is a great example of all of the Associations working together to deliver thousands of items of food to where they were most needed. In September, I was fortunate enough to be able to represent 41 Club by joining our National President Jim on his Round Table Family Club challenge. En-route we were met by many members of the Round Table Family who provided us with support, sustenance, and encouragement.

Number Two, member attraction, being a 41er is about you and me being loud and proud about being a member of this great Association. According to data provided by Round Table, 779 Round Tablers are over 42, we must all reach out and contact all of them. To attract new members to our Club we must have a defined, interesting and diverse programme of events. I will continually support the membership and ask for feedback, to ensure that what we are doing as your National Council is the best way forward for ALL members of our Association.

Number Three, growth, only by reviewing and understanding who we are as an Association and retaining our current membership can we then attract new members from both Round Table and from the wider community resulting in growth. We have all been adopted into the Round Table family. By listening and using Your Opinion Counts will make sure that our great association adapts to meet all our expectations, ensuring it is in step with our communities and improves the lives of all of those around us, our fellow members, our communities and our Association.

The future of the Association is always in your hands, we must work together to ensure the future of our great association is going in the right direction for the times in which we now live.

I look forward to meeting with you all during the next few years and let's have some fun and share some great fellowship. If there is anything you wish to discuss about our Association, please contact me on [wynnparry@41club.org](mailto:wynnparry@41club.org), remember, Your Opinion Counts!

YiCF,

*Wynn*



# Jersey AGM Update

## from Bernard Elwen

### National Secretary



The Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday 1st April in Jersey. The minutes will be circulated in due course, but here are the main highlights

:

#### **Board Positions**

**Vice President.** This post was contested between Wynn Parry and Don Mullane. Wynn Parry was elected.

**National Communications and IT Officer.** This was uncontested, and David Chard took up post.

**International Relationships Officer.** This was uncontested, and Kevin Stewart took up post.

#### **Resolutions**

Resolution 1 – Clearer definition of time permitted to speak at AGM. This was proposed by National Council and CARRIED.

Resolution 2 – Reordering and restructuring of Rules and Standing Orders. This was proposed by National Council and CARRIED.

Resolution 3 – Minor rule changes. This was proposed by National Council and CARRIED.

Resolution 4 – Protection for the National President. This was proposed by Isis 41 Club and seconded by Showtime 41 Club. After much mirth and merriment, this was WITHDRAWN.

Resolution 5 – Young Ambassador Programme (YAP) Convenor. This was proposed by National Council and CARRIED.

Resolution 6 – National Council Meetings in Welsh. This was proposed by Andy Pandy's 41 Club and seconded by Shipley 41 Club. An amendment was put forward by Isis 41 Club, seconded by Brackley 41 Club and carried. This became the substantive resolution and to the relief of all concerned, was DEFEATED.

#### **Budget 2024**

The capitation for 2024 as proposed by the National Treasurer was £16 per member. However, an amendment was proposed and seconded from the floor that the amount per member be increased to £20. This amendment was carried, and therefore the capitation amount per member will be £20 as from 1st January 2024.

#### **Awards**

Malcolm Lockey Award for Community Service – awarded to the group of 41 Clubbers who trekked up Mount Everest to raise funds for Dementia UK. The award was accepted by Rory Tompsett.

Vaughan Harris Award – awarded by RTBI for the 41 Club or Club member who has done the most to promote relationships with Round Table. The award was presented by Matt Fallon, RTBI National President, to Rory Tompsett, Alyn & Deeside XRT and Deeside & District 41 Clubs.

Golf Trophy Overall Winner -Paul Osborne of Hinckley 41 Club

Kiwi Klub Trophy for the Club whose members had travelled the greatest overall distance – Market Harborough 41 Club.

Jim Parkes Trophy – awarded to Jason Thomson, of Saffron Walden and Halifax 41 Clubs.

Tom Hodges & Victor Michitsch Trophy – to be awarded at Stratford International AGM to Achim Simon, from Germany.

David Smith Trophy for Press and Newsletters – presented to Northampton Nene 41 Club

David Hewitt Website Award – presented to Shirley Late Knights 41 Club

National Photography Competition – awarded to Colin Wright of Farnborough 41 Club. Runners-up were Ian Campbell of Southend-on-Sea 41 Club and Michael Sadler of Ponteland 41 Club.

Terry Cooper Shield – Presented to Steve Tasker – National Councillor Region 11.

Association Award – presented to Mark House, Honorary Webmaster.

Ian Kelso Award for most entertaining speaker – Jim Smith, of Bishops Stortford and Eastern Promise 41 Clubs.

Yours in Continued Friendship,

Bernard Elwen  
**National Secretary**

Further to my report above outlining the key points of the 2023 AGM, several clubs have replied to my email version with queries and concerns about the increase in the capitation to £20 in 2024. As I stated in my previous message, this was a consequence of an amendment to the amount proposed by the National Treasurer, Kevin Lovett, which was a more modest increase to £16. There was a feeling from the floor that this increase was too low, and so a proposer and seconder exercised their democratic right to propose an amendment to increase to £20. After much debate, this amendment was carried.

The budget proposed a number of reductions in expenditure lines, to take into account the continued reduction in the number of affiliated clubs and an ageing and declining membership. Many clubs have no feeder Table, with no new members joining their clubs. This has become more noticeable since the end of the pandemic. The budget also took into consideration the rise in some of our normal outgoings, such as insurance and the cost of postage for the magazine. The rationale for the amendment was that an increase to £20 would allow our Association to continue with the important functions with a focus on membership and member engagement. This increase, although appearing to be quite severe as a percentage of the current level, was considered to be reasonable by those voting in favour of it as an absolute figure of £5.50 per head – the equivalent of a pint of beer. I would also point out that this has been the first increase since 2016.

The amended capitation figure will be incorporated into a revised budget, which will be prepared by the National Treasurer and submitted for approval by National Council at our next meeting in July. This will then be circulated to the membership, along with what our proposals are for the expenditure within each of the budget headings.

I have been asked when the increase applies from. The answer is that capitation payable by affiliated clubs is determined at the AGM in a given year and applied at the start of the following year – 1st January 2024 in this case. The proposed budget as prepared and presented by the National Treasurer was circulated to all clubs via the bulk e-mail system on 24th February as part of the AGM notification. The opportunity is there for any voting delegate to propose and second an amendment on the day – as this is not a rule change, it does not require seven days' notice.

I hope this answers your questions, but feel free to get in touch if you require further clarification.

Yours in Continued Friendship,



Bernard Elwen  
**National Secretary**

# Fellowship Update from your National Fellowship Officer Kelly Clarke



My first year of three in office as your National Fellowship Officer ended with a great success and I would again like to thank the whole team on the island who put a lot of hard work into the event for the Jersey conference and AGM.

With over 400 people in attendance throughout the weekend old friendships rekindled and new ones made, and a good AGM.

There was plenty of laughter filling the bars during the day and dancing the night away followed more frolics in the bar till the early hours it goes to show 41 club is a fun organisation to be part of. I hope you have seen the reports and pictures on Facebook and I am sure written reports will be about in the newsletters and magazine to come and if you want to see more of the pictures take a look at the 41 club Facebook forum or Jill Harris's page on Facebook where you will find plenty.

Please take a look at the [www.41clubevents.co.uk](http://www.41clubevents.co.uk) page where you will find all the booking forms for this year's National events and don't forget the 41 club cruise to see the Wonders and Wildlife of the Azores sailing from Southampton on the 13th August. Liverpool conference is selling fast so please take a look at their page and get yourselves booked in, you only need to pay a deposit.

What I would like from you is a list of events such as charter nights or cluster meetings that you may be holding so that I can get these added to the diary for all to see and help you get more members along to join in the fun and fellowship that these events bring, the more events such as these that take place can only help us increase and retain our membership as I am sure you will talk about them to other club members and friends.

Remember if you are organising an event you are able to apply for some financial assistance from the affinity monies we receive that is ringfenced specifically for this purpose, to apply simply drop me an email at [fellowship@41club.org](mailto:fellowship@41club.org)

YiCF



**41 Club National Fellowship Officer**





**41 Club**  
CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP

# 41 Club Photography Competition Winners

## Winner



**A Candle of Hope - Norwich Cathedral  
by Colin Wright, Farnborough 41 Club**

## Runners Up



**Candy, Sri Lanka by Iain Campbell,  
Southsend-on-Sea 41 Club**



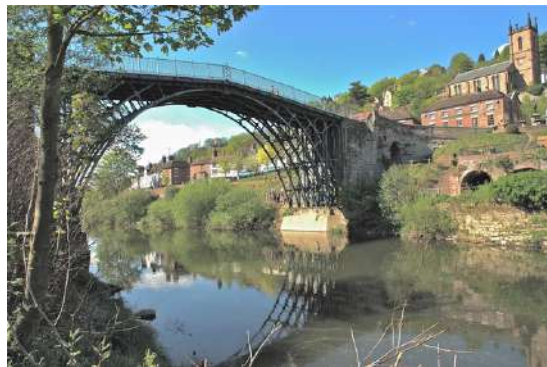
**Lost Species - Sydney by Michael Sadler,  
Ponteland 41 Club**





41 Club  
CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP

# 41 Club Photography Competition Finalists

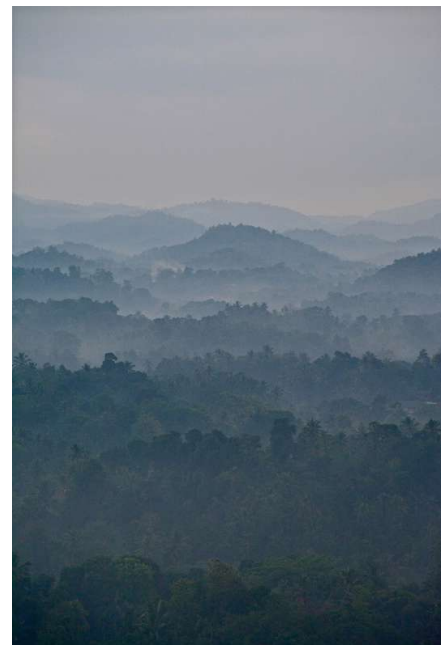






41 Club  
CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP

# 41 Club Photography Competition Finalists







## High Tiddle 2023 - Caerleon *or Friends, Romans, Lend Me Your Beers!*

For those of you who don't know, Tiddlywinks was invented in the 1880s and became one of the most popular games played by adults and children alike. A part of the Tiddlywinks story involves Prince Philip (of course he was Patron of Round Table Britain & Ireland for many years) who, in the 1950s, appointed the Goons as his "Royal champions" and presented the Prince Philip "Silver Wink" trophy, first played for in 1961, at the British Universities Championship.

### So what are we on about?

Our story starts on 30th March 1968 when John Williams from Bedworth invited sundry Tablers along to the first Hi Tiddle in Wales where they scaled dizzy heights to play the great game at the summit of Mount Snowdon. This first Tiddle turned into an annual Round Table (Area 45 Midland Shires) event and over the years, each organising committee have adopted some traditions from previous years and adapted others. We have stayed reasonably true to the initial "Rules For Match", although these days, the "standard "Spears" pot and target" has been replaced with a rather natty "Tiddle Board" featuring the Round Table Rondel (winks landing on the King naturally meriting the highest score). Each Table's total is then added up and the Table with the highest average is the winner. Oh, by the way, before you can "Tiddle", you still have to climb a mountain- hence Hi Tiddle.

### Hi Tiddle 2023

This year's Hi Tiddle weekend was organised by Market Harborough Round Table and 41 Club in the beautiful town of Caerleon located just outside Newport on the scenic River Usk. Caerleon was originally founded as a Roman fortress and still has a Roman amphitheatre and a fine range of pubs and restaurants which Tiddlers enjoyed on the night before our Tiddle walk. Oh... and we were joined by some Roman soldiers all the way from Rugby Round Table.

Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny and over 100 hardy (or was it foolhardy) Tablers and 41ers made their way from the hotel to Abergavenny to join in a leisurely stroll starting from Abergavenny Cricket Club to the top of The Sugar Loaf. Leisurely is, of course, a relative concept. Thankfully the weather stayed bright although as you can see it was a bit windy at the top.



The Tiddle hats from a previous year's Tiddle were put to good use to prevent "fly away" hair (at least for 2 Tiddlers).



Once everybody had Tiddled at the Tiddle Point - a tent set up close to the top of The Sugar Loaf, they then wound their way down the mountain and back to Abergavenny Cricket Club. What could be better than a few beers and fellowship in the spring sunshine amongst "like minded" friends?



And so, to the Saturday night formal dinner where we were entertained by the fabulous Mynyddiswyn (try getting that through predictive text) Male Voice Choir and our Guest Speaker, Rugby League and Union international and British & Irish Lion, John Bentley.





**And of course, the awards.....**

The Tiddle Tendence for the Highest Attendance at Tiddle was won by Nuneaton.



The Too Tiddled To Tiddle Award goes to whoever was too drunk on the Friday to make it on the Saturday Tiddle



The Tiddle K\*\*b Award with our photographs showing the winner of the award both at the dinner and undertaking a Health & Safety assessment during the Tiddle walk. Let's just say that it isn't strictly true that nothing is worn under a kilt. Ouch!



And finally, the winners of the Hi Tiddle competition and organisers of next year's event..... Kenilworth



**And then we came to the Sunday departure.**

Like every Tiddle Committee that has gone before, the team from Harborough worked extremely hard this year to deliver a great event for a very wide age range.

Whatever approach the incoming team from Kenilworth take in 2024 we know that, like Nuneaton last year and Harborough this year, they will do their best in service of an event that we all love. We wish them all the best.

May the fun and fellowship of this very special event continue long into the future! And if you haven't Tiddled yet, why not?

**Market Harborough 41 Club and Market Harborough Round Table**



# Wantage 41er Alan Trinder's Letter of Thanks to His Friends On Turning 90

*As submitted by Wantage 41 Club*

*The following is a message I am sending to the more than 30 ex-tablers who sent me a card for my birthday on Sunday yesterday. Very much unexpected and very, very much appreciated. I suspect I am the only 90 year old to receive birthday cards ranging from the inclusion of a box of Anusol suppositories to a personal recommendation as to the effectiveness of Viagra. The other intimate suggestions of ways to improve my life are probably best left un-repeated.*

*I certainly had a memorable day on Sunday.*

*We started with drinks at Wantage Cricket Club and then moved on to the Bear for lunch. Steve and our daughter, Jane, were in charge and we had Steve's wife Julia and their two children Ellie, 15 and Daniel 12, with us. Lunch went on rather a long time and I confess to having an extended afternoon/evening snooze afterwards. But certainly a memorable day. Several presents including one to come later from Steve and Jane - a flight in a Spitfire. Should be exciting! (Maybe I should take the Anusol suppositories with me....)*

*The number of cards received made me think of the good times we all had together in Round Table. Margaret and I were so fortunate to be introduced to Tabling soon after we arrived in Wantage in 1967. At the time Tony Goddard (some of you may not remember him) had his accountancy offices opposite Cleggs chemist shop which was then in Newbury Street; we lived above the shop at the time. Tony and I were at secondary school together in Oxford although I didn't know him well then as he was a year or two below me age-wise. But Sheila, his wife, and I had worked together for a while at Boots in Oxford. I was apprenticed at the time and Sheila managed the photographic department. It was they who introduced me to Round Table. At that time the meeting place was the Berkshire Restaurant in Wallingford Street just round the corner, a two-minute walk although perhaps longer getting back. The owner gave us free run of the premises after we had eaten even to the extent of serving ourselves from the bar. And I'm sure it wasn't due to us that he closed a year or two later!*

*There are so many memories of those years. Unfortunately, some of you are not old enough to remember the early days but for those who are here are a few of my thoughts.*

*One of the earliest memories is of Ladies Circle charter at the Randolph Hotel in Oxford with Pat Marshall as founder chairman. Then came the "Major Event" Tattoos in Manor Road Recreation Ground. Can you imagine asking people to pay an entrance fee to enter the recreation ground nowadays? But, of course, we "pre-sold" the event by house-to-house programme selling, not only in Wantage but also in Didcot and Faringdon. Specific memories; one of our members (Denis Roberts?) getting permission to tap the overhead power lines to run the lights, cooking equipment etc; the brown, ex-girl guide marquee, that had to be "guarded" all night to prevent it blowing down; Alan Timney coming into our chemist's shop to be fitted with a truss before joining me in a wheelbarrow race the next day, it included dragging the barrow over rows of straw bales! Philip Lang persuading a former student friend, the then current Miss World, to open the event for us; the ex-army vet (Major Thompson?) arranging for the Coldstream Guards to turn up and play; the original Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car getting stuck in the mud; the chance low fly-past by one of the prototype Concordes that the commentator at the time had the presence of mind to claim had been specially organised etc. etc.*

*So many opportunities I would never have enjoyed without Round Table. The National Round Table conferences. My first one was a Brighton where another vet (name forgotten) climbed into the hotel through an unknown guest's first floor bedroom window to let us in at some ridiculous early hour, we all had been locked out of the hotel; and where George Green was reprimanded by the police for playing a trombone in the early hours beneath Brighton pier. Other conferences followed at Birmingham, then Torquay where the then national chairman was paraded into the dance hall on an elephant sized pink hippopotamus; Blackpool where we carried into the ballroom suitcases full of magnum bottles of champagne obtained at cost from the NAAFI by Professor Peter Hill then working at Shrivenham; Bournemouth, where we were smuggled into the conference hotel by Denis Roberts, then a national councillor, to get ree drinks. Later the conferences were 41 Club rather*

**One of Wantage 41 Clubs founder members was 90 recently. He was inundated with well wishes from his fellow members and wrote the following message by way of thanks, whilst at the same time reminiscing his years in Round Table.**

I thought it made such a fascinating read, most 41 Club members would have no knowledge of the names mentioned, but none the less it gives a good insight into Alan's memories of the good times in RT. I asked Alan for a little background on him and received the following:

## **Background**

I was born at home in Oxford on 5th February 1933 on one of the Cowley housing estates built to house Morris Motors employees. I enrolled in the local Church of England primary school in Easter 1938. I went on to the local Oxford Boys High school in 1944. Ronnie Barker was at school there at the same time, but he would have been unaware of my presence - he was in the 5th form when I arrived! I became an apprentice with Boots at the age of 18 and went on to become a pharmacist in 1955. I served my time in National Service as a radar instructor from 1955 to 1957. I married Margaret in 1959 and became a medical rep. I moved to Wantage in 1967 having bought into a local retail pharmacy with proceeds from the sale of our first house. I eventually purchased the business and moved from living above the shop to our present bungalow. I sold the business in the 1990's and have lived happily in Wantage ever after.



than Round Table but still as memorable. Edinburgh, where, following a visit to the Bell's whisky factory, my wife claims she found me lying upside down on the hotel room bed watching a Japanese television programme; Dublin, twice, when several of us stayed on for a week to explore Ireland (kiss the Blarney Stone, "climb" Macgillycuddy's Reeks, discovering the sun never sets on Galway Bay as it faces too far north); Jersey, twice where Denis Roberts managed to drop a half empty bottle of champagne out of a third floor window (with no known repercussions).

Then there were the "fishing weekends" at Combe Martin. These were largely organised by Roger Humphries, but I believe Sheila Goddard sorted out the "victualling". Memories there are of the accommodation where we had the sole use of a pair of semi-detached houses owned by one of the fishermen; the "House of Cards" pub which really looked to be built of playing cards and where a certain M.P. was having unmentionable relationships at the time; the other pub by the beach where we were upstairs drinking and dancing "after hours" when we were "raided" by the police. I believe the police knew he regularly opened "after hours" and were trying to catch him out. But that night happened to be the landlord's birthday and so he got away with it! Roger Humphries always went out in the younger fisherman Mickey's boat, and I went in the other which I thought looked stronger. One time a rope caught round the other boat's prop and Roger repeatedly dived under water to cut it off with what looked like a bread knife. I have always admired him for that because the water was freezing cold at the time; then we were out in the fog one day and Ernie Rumsey was on the prow ringing a hand bell to signify our presence while cargo ships could be heard passing between us and the shore on their way to Bristol docks; that night we went to a night-club in the next town. We had a look in at the dance and overheard one of the girls saying about another of our group "I don't understand how they can let someone as old as that in"; the usual catch was dogfish but Roger, I remember, catching an enormous eel and some of us climbing up on the superstructure to keep out of its way as in thrashed about on the bottom of the boat; Terry Cox borrowing one of the latest models from Morris Cowley Works and letting us take turns in driving it down to Combe Martin; Tony Bishop being sea-sick and losing his false teeth over the side (twice).

And our efforts to provide entertainment at the "Old Time Music Halls". Playing in an alleged jazz band organised by Ernie and, even more ridiculous, dressing as chorus girls to perform a dance routine. And the Rowlock Rally on the Thames from Henley; being trained by Rosemary Lang to "sing" carols at the Mayor's carol conference....

But the most vivid memories are of the numerous sailing trips with Giles Biddle. The first one I took part in was the visit to the coast of Brittany when we had a second boat skippered by Stafford Taylor and our German twin Round Table with us. After that came sailing most of the Greek islands and the two long trips, Portugal to the Canaries. My son was with us for Majorca to Croatia when a best friend from my school days, Bill McMillan, and Giles's brother came along. Not forgetting, of course, the two occasions when we were joined by my wonderful wife Margaret; I admit to being somewhat taken aback to find she was better than me at steering a course.

I will not bore you anymore but I'm sure you will all have as many or more similar memories.

Many thanks again to you all.

MTHOFNR

**Alan Trinder**





# National Car Rally Update

by Terry Cooper, Past National President

I'm delighted to tell you that the 2023 Classic Car Rally is almost full with 61 entries, already a record for this event!

We still have space for a few more cars to enter as the Robinswood Hotel function suite can seat a maximum of 138.

However very late entries may have to be accommodated in other hotels nearby, the closest of which is only 1.5 miles away.

The Routes are already planned for runs into the Cotswolds on Saturday and the Forest of Dean on Sunday.

We have some great venues for your refreshment stops each day with evening entertainment on the Saturday night already booked.

You don't need a Classic Car to join us on the Rally, although we do have some amazing cars for you to look at, as the event is open to all 41 Club members.

If you love your car, or just love driving, why not join us for the weekend as we have some fabulous scenery for you to look at and some great fellowship to enjoy.

You'll find details of the event in this very Newsletter so don't delay book your place today!

*Terry Cooper*





**THE 2023 41 CLUB CLASSIC CAR RALLY**  
**Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th June 2023**

**ROBINSWOOD HOTEL & SPA**  
**GLOUCESTER**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Hotel: £307 per Double Room**  
**£253.50 per Single Room**

**Book your hotel by calling**

**01452 874829 or 01452 525653 quoting**  
**'41Club Rally Accommodation Package'**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Entry: £35 per car.**

**Book your car by clicking this link:**

**<https://classicrally.41clubevents.co.uk/>**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**For further information contact**  
**Terry Cooper on 07891 761599**



**41 Club National Walking Weekend 2023**

**7th - 9th July 2023**

## **The Kings Court Alcester, Warwickshire**

**All walks are based on Millennium Way Circular Walks**

**2 & 3 Night Packages Available**

**Book on [www.41ClubEvents.co.uk](http://www.41ClubEvents.co.uk)**







41 *Club*

# NATIONAL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

**Sunday 24th & Monday 25th  
September 2023**

Staverton Park Hotel & Golf Club  
Northamptonshire

Bacon rolls & coffee on Sunday arrival  
Two rounds of golf  
Dinner, bed & breakfast

FOUR-BALL TEAMS REPRESENTING  
CLUBS INVITED

ENTRY OPEN TO FULL AND  
HONORARY MEMBERS OF AFFILIATED  
41 CLUBS.

£150PP FOR TWIN ROOMS  
(£190 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT)

BOOKINGS WITH PETER MCBRIDE  
MEMBERSHIP@41CLUB.ORG  
OR 07710 063394

**SOLD OUT**

WAIT LIST ONLY for CANCELLATIONS





41 Club

# Stranraer

## NSSW Stranraer 2023 Friday 6th to Sunday 8th October

Your NSSW 23 team have been working hard to bring the next NSSW to you from Stranraer Southwest Scotland.

Stranraer situated in south west Scotland approximately 95miles west from the M6/M74 at Gretna or 90 miles south/west from Glasgow. For those traveling from Belfast a short sea crossing (2¼ hour journey) to Cairnryan and then 7 miles south to Stranraer. There is not a train service from Dumfries to Stranraer, like many branch lines Dr Beeching took care of that in the 1960s! From Dumfries train station the 500 bus service will bring you to Stranraer and will take about 2½ hours. Travelling by train you will have to go via Glasgow or Kilmarnock to Stranraer.

### Where will we be staying?

We have secured the bespoke group hotel - Northwest Castle Hotel which is situated on the coast road in Stranraer a few minutes' walk from the town centre, if you get lost ask for the Police Station, it is next door! The hotel will be adequately able to cater for our NSSW it has enough bedrooms and plenty of rooms for the different activities we have planned. Additionally, the leisure facilities including swimming pool, spa bath, gym and indoor curling. On the ground floor is a large function room which will be the venue for the Saturday night event.

### What activities do we currently have planned for NSSW?

#### In the hotel:-

- Carpet Bowls
- Pool
- Darts
- Table tennis
- Table Football
- Swimming Pool – Games (Saturday Afternoon)
- Curling – Taster session (Saturday Morning)
- Novelty Event
- Remote control truck/car obstacle race
- Scalextric car racing

#### Away from the hotel (extra cost)

- Golf - at local golf club just outside Stranraer overlooking the sea.
- Auto Test – (Limited Availability – morning and afternoon sessions – not the speed but getting around the course – practice and auto test per person)

#### Costs

##### 2 Night Package:

- 2 nights sharing ( per person ) £200
- 2 nights single £240

##### 3 Night Package:

- 3 night sharing ( per person ) £265
- 3 nights single: £325



Book in @ [www.41clubevents.co.uk](http://www.41clubevents.co.uk)





**41 Club  
National Sports &  
Social Weekend**



**NSSW**

# STRANRAER

An Epic long-lasting memory of a  
once-in-a-lifetime experience

**FRIDAY 6TH TO SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2023**

3 night Package £265 pp sharing  
£325 pp single

2 night Package £200 pp sharing  
£240 pp single

At the Northwest Castle Hotel



## **A WEEKEND OF FIRST RATE FUN & FELLOWSHIP IN SCOTLAND**

Stranraer, situated in South west  
Scotland, approx. 95 miles west from  
the M6/M74 at Gretna, or 90 miles  
south/west from Glasgow.

From Belfast a 2 1/4 hour ferry  
crossing to Cairnryan, then 7 miles  
south to Stranraer.



**BOOK IN AT**

**[WWW.41CLUBEVENTS.CO.UK](http://WWW.41CLUBEVENTS.CO.UK)**





**41 Club**  
CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP



EASTERN REGION

# GOLF DAY

JOIN US FOR THE BIGGEST GOLF DAY IN THE  
41 CLUB CALENDAR

CONTACT JIM SMITH FOR MORE DETAILS  
EASTREGIONGOLF@GMAIL.COM

12TH JULY 2023

BRAINTREE GOLF CLUB

# So what is Wider Wallet?



Register free at:

**41CLUB.WIDERWALLET.COM**

Using access code:

email Kelly at fellowship@41club.org for the code



**41 Club**  
CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP



Save on big brands.  
Save on travel.  
Save on days out.

## Any questions?

Please email [info@widerwallet.com](mailto:info@widerwallet.com) or call the Wider Wallet team on **0800 612 9015** between 8am to 6pm weekdays.





# National Motorcycle Rally

## The Peak District

### Motorcycle Weekend 2023



## Friday 14th July - Sunday 16th July

A gathering of like minded Motorcyclists of the Round Table Family, open to all abilities, bike sizes, wives and partners.

**FRIDAY 14th July:** Arrive at Hotel

**Accommodation: Holiday Inn Hotel, South Normanton (near Matlock and Chesterfield)**

**Accommodation Details:**

- **£149 per night, Twin/Double Room, Dinner Bed & Breakfast**
- **£129 per night Single occupancy, Dinner Bed & Breakfast**
- **Leisure facilities with swimming pool available for use.**

**SATURDAY 15th July:** Enjoy a 160 mile ride, that will take in the many delights of Derbyshire's iconic motorcycling roads, including the Snake Pass and Cat and Fiddle, passing through Matlock Bath, Chatsworth Estate, Derwent Valley, Macclesfield, Leek and Bakewell.

**SUNDAY 16th July:** Enjoy a 20 mile, half day ride. Including Chesterfield town centre to view the well known Twisted Spire of the town's parish church.

## Event Registration

### only £25

**Book in at <https://motorcycle.41clubevents.co.uk/>**



# THE 2023 OXFORD COLLEGE DINNER

Join Region 20 again in the Dreaming Spires of Oxford at the splendour of Exeter College.



**FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER 2023**

7:30 for 8:00pm Black Tie & Jewels

**TICKETS £75.00**

After the success of 2022, Isis Area 41 Club invite you to return to Exeter College for an evening of good food, drink and fellowship in the presence of the National President - Steve James.

**Guest Speaker: Sir Winston Churchill KG**



Tickets and information from Martin Green

07768 192387 [oxdinner@martingreen.biz](mailto:oxdinner@martingreen.biz)

Book in at : [www.bit.ly/3YNEfVN](http://www.bit.ly/3YNEfVN)



**41 Club**  
CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP

Organised by the Isis Area 41 Club

Supported by:  **BARCLAYS**





41 INTERNATIONAL and Tangent Club International  
**WORLD MEETING**  
and Agora Club International's International Forum



**Stratford-upon-Avon**  
**11-14 May 2023**  
**(Pre-Tour 9-11 May 2023)**

For details see [www.world-meeting.net](http://www.world-meeting.net)



MAIN EVENTS

**3-DAY PACKAGE**

**£315.00**

The 3 day package entitles the delegate to attend the Thursday evening Welcome Party, Friday Nations Night including transport and Saturday Gala Dinner plus lunch on the Saturday AGM or Forum.

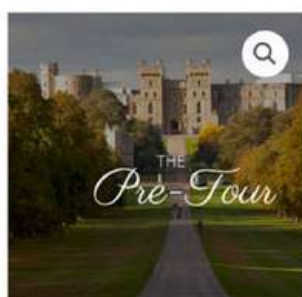


MAIN EVENTS

**2-DAY PACKAGE**

**£280.00**

The 2 day package entitles the delegate to attend the Friday Nations Night including transport, Saturday Gala Dinner plus lunch on the Saturday AGM or Forum.



PRE-TOUR

**PRE-TOUR**

**£230.00**

The Pre-Tour is a three day visit to attractions and includes transport, venue admission and dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

**Conference Hotel:  
Crowne Plaza, Stratford-upon-Avon**

**SOLD OUT**  
**WAIT LIST ONLY for CANCELLATIONS**





Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

# WONDERS & WILDLIFE OF THE AZORES & MADEIRA

As a family-run cruise line, Fred. Olsen really take your experience personally. While the rest of the cruise industry has gone for bigger ships, Fred. Olsen has always believed that smaller is better. They have less guests on board so the service is personal and the atmosphere is warm and civilised. Their elegant, smaller ships can reach places the bigger ships cannot and are able to dock at smaller ports in more interesting places. This passion for cruising has led to them having more returning guests than any other cruise line.

Cruising on smaller-sized *Bolette* is a great way to explore the hard-to-reach, remote archipelago of the Azores, which boasts dramatic, volcanic landscapes. This Azores itinerary also feature the 'Garden Island' of Madeira.

Sailing from Southampton | *Bolette* | 13th August 2023 |

12 nights | Prices from £1,809pp

£150<sup>pp</sup>  
FREE  
On Board  
Spend\*

FREE  
Group Drinks  
Party

41 CLUB AND TANGENT



ABTA  
Travel with confidence





Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

CRUISE FROM ONLY

**£1,259**  
per person

# IN SEARCH OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

— BALMORAL —

10th March 2024 | 9 Nights | Sails from Newcastle | Balmoral | Cruise Code L2406

WITH 41 CLUB & TANGENT



Whilst spending just nine nights away, you've a chance to take in some of the most memorable Arctic sights and highlights on this very special sailing. Specifically designed with going in search of the Northern Lights in mind, this cruise provides you with chances to see Mother Nature's awe-inspiring light show in all its glory. With luck on your side you may get to witness the colourful ribbons of light illuminating the night sky, and all from the comfort of your smaller ship – a simply unforgettable experience.



### 41 club & Tangent Group Fares per person, from

Interior	£1,259 <sup>pp</sup>
Ocean View	£1,529 <sup>pp</sup>
Superior Ocean View	£1,799 <sup>pp</sup>
Balcony Cabin	£2,519 <sup>pp</sup>
Single Interior	£2,159
Single Ocean View	£2,879

**£100<sup>pp</sup>**  
**FREE**  
ON BOARD  
SPEND<sup>^</sup>

**FREE**  
GROUP  
DRINKS  
PARTY<sup>\*</sup>

Date	Destination
10 March	Newcastle, England
13 March	Bodo, Norway
14 March	Narvik, Norway
14 March	Cruise Tjeldsundet Strait, Norway
15 March	Tromso, Norway
16 March	Cruise Tjeldsundet Strait, Norway
16 March	Cruising Seven Sisters Mountain Range, Norway
16 March	Cruising Torghatten, Norway
17 March	Alesund, Norway
19 March	Newcastle, England

For more information, or to book, please call Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines friendly Reservations Team on 01473 742 424, quoting GRP0210 and cruise code L2406

Fares are per person, based on twin occupancy of the lead-in twin cabin, subject to availability. Offers may be amended or withdrawn at any time without prior notice, are subject to availability & cannot be applied retrospectively. All bookings are subject to Fred. Olsen's standard terms & conditions, available on our/their website & on request. Some ports may be at anchor, intermediate days are at sea. FOCL reserve the right to amend itineraries for operational reasons. \*The free group drinks party on board includes house wines, sherry, soft drinks & cold canapés, subject to minimum numbers. To be hosted by the group leader. ^£100pp On-board spend is only applicable to guests 1 and 2 within a cabin and is non transferrable and no refunds will be given for non-use of part or all, of the credit amount shown. Not combinable with any other deal, including Affinity members discount. E&OE. ABTA Travel with confidence



# Vanessa Holdysz from LC 83 Husum is in Ukraine for the third time in 3 Months with a small fleet of fire engines

Dear friends, today I would like to tell you about the Ukraine. It is difficult to summarise our recent journey into the experiences and the emotions associated with it in just a few lines, but I hope that I will succeed in giving you a little idea of what we have seen and felt. We were about to leave for Ukraine, it would be the third trip within three months. However, it would be different from the previous trips, as four vehicles and an escort vehicle had to be transferred and the political situation has intensified. I was grateful that within just two days, six more intrepid drivers agreed to accompany the convoy. ...

## **FRIENDS FOUND UNHARMED**

Our friends from Lviv Ukraine had organised a handover point for us in Poland. It was good to see the boys unharmed and to be able to embrace them. With us was Wladimir, whom we already got to know at our last meeting. The Ukrainian, who has been living in Germany for 20 years, has taken a year off work to travel to Ukraine once a week to assist. When I asked him when he last slept, he said, "If it's been more than 48 hours, we don't talk about it."

Although he has not yet driven a fire truck, he has no problem: "If you give me Bobby Car, I'll drive you Bobby Car, if you give me tanks, I'll drive you tanks." You can work with such people! This was followed by a very emotional speech that touched everyone deeply and which Christopher recorded. We should tell our children and tell them about what we do.

If our efforts save just one human life, then our lives in this world have already paid off. Considering the clear starry sky and the knowledge that it would not be so clear a few kilometers away, we got goose pimples on our skin. Marco, Alexander, Matthias and Schippi received gifts and hugs from our friends and then they made their way back.

We thank our great drivers for accompanying us and steering the vehicles, for being by our side, keeping the spirits high and standing behind us like one man! We continued our journey to the border. This time to a different crossing point. The queue was very long. Nevertheless, we managed the processing in only 4.5 hours, another 2.5 hours was required to reach our destination.

When I fell into bed, the boys wrote us that they had arrived safely in Dresden, Germany. It was half past six in the morning. After only a few hours we started the day. We hadn't noticed the flight alarm at night.

## **First mission: Pick up our friend Dmytro.**

We drove through Lviv, Ukraine again a radiantly beautiful day. We already knew the road blockades and armed checkpoints from the previous visits. We were pleased to find out that you could finally refuel our vehicles! The joy of reunion with Dmytro was huge! We exchanged ideas extensively about the current situation. Firstly, we drove to the central warehouse, where the vehicles were handed over. In the camp, we looked at the donations that are still arriving, although not as frequently. today as at the beginning.

We ate sitting at a table with the camp staff, when suddenly a woman burst into tears and left the table. We fell silent in dismay. Then it was already time to leave.

We drove to the Lviv Regional State Administration, where the governor Maksym Kozytskyi awaited us, what an honor! We were led into the meeting room and seated at a table of about 20 people. An interpreter conveyed the gratitude of the governor and the population and paid tribute to our activities.

We went into the exchange and received an award for our commitment! Camera teams, radio stations and newspaper editorial offices were waiting for us in front of the building, of which we had not expected. There, too, interviews, thanks and complements to a high degree. In the background, the fire engines had been set up and many people saw how they were exhibited.

After the event, we went to the main headquarters of the fire brigade, where we were guided tour through the grounds and received a lecture on the history of the fire brigade in the museum.

## **Mobile Phones;PROGRAMMES PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT ROCKET DANGERS**

Since I had to go to the hotel again before the evening event, I interrupted the tour and Irene drove me back. Irene arrived in Lviv a month ago. She actually lives in Odessa, where her parents still reside and refuse to leave the city. She visits them regularly. When I asked her if she wasn't afraid, she explained to me that they had gotten used to the raid alarms.

Irene told us about various programs on the mobile phone which inform you where missile fire is currently taking place in the country, whether missiles are moving in their own direction, how many of them have been shot down and how far away they are. "I often lie in bed at night in Odessa or Kiev and feel the impacts when the walls shake, but I'm not afraid, after all, I have no influence on whether I live or die."

However, I have to think about these comments in peace... In the evening we were invited to a restaurant serving Georgian food. It tastes good and which we enjoyed!

Rosti gives such an emotional speech about our activities that nobody's eyes remain dry. The whole evening toasts are given to us, we receive another award, the gratitude cannot be reproduced at all comprehensibly ... Despite the circumstances, we are grateful and enjoy the evening with our friends quite consciously.

The next morning, Jurgis makes two appointments in clinics with heart surgeons. His company, Edwards Lifesciences, is considering equipping clinics with heart valves.



In order to determine the need, Jurgis will talk to the surgeons. Christopher and I are picked up by Juri, who wants to show us his hometown. It goes out of Lviv, into the countryside. We are always impressed by the driving style of our friends: After all, not everyone can overtake in the corner! We are allowed to visit a wonderful monastery, a spring and then arrive in Juri's hometown.

### **All of the Money Goes Towards the War**

First up is the visit of Europe's youngest mayor. He welcomes us in his town hall, there is coffee, an interesting exchange and of course an award at the end. We learn from him that all projects in the country have been shelved. All the money now goes to war, but people have absolute understanding about this, he says.

### **Next we visit a school.**

The director tells me that 700 children are taught here and leads us into a classroom where there was one classroom furniture donated previously from us. She shyly asks for another 50 chairs and tables and when I tell her that I will receive 60 chairs, tables and four desks next week that she would like to receive, her day is saved.

Ashamed, she asks if she can express another wish. She leads us through the students' canteen into the kitchen. Four old ladies stand there and wash the dishes by hand. A dishwasher is a big dream of theirs.

We have some private appointments with Juri before we go to another school. It is extremely strange for Christopher and me that posters with fighting soldiers hang everywhere in the school corridors. So much visual violence even in the youngest ... The director is waiting for us. Here, too, we receive thanks, appreciation and an award. But now we have to go back to Lviv quickly, Dmytro is waiting for us at our next appointment.

It is 12 o'clock noon and we were now still have to make a further ten visits today. On the way back, Yuri points out a convoy of five trucks driving in front of us. "Whenever you see these trucks, you know you're delivering missiles and drones to the front lines." A strange feeling. We reach our NGO. There we meet our friends who are constantly at the service of their people. I sit down with Irene and we talk about the coming winter, which will be a disaster for the people.

How can we help, what can we do? Irene tells of a Canadian architect who designed a box in which you can burn wood without burning the box. Care packages will also be created in the form of sleeping bags, thermal underwear, candles and matches. We brainstorm. Suddenly, Irene looks at me. "It's an "fire alarm" again. Do you want to go somewhere or is that okay with you?" It's okay for me, after all, everyone just keeps going here. Suddenly, Valerie and Rosti come in. Dmytro is here now. Valerie addresses the meeting and asks me to stand up. On behalf of all members of the NGO, he expresses his gratitude for our constant support. "You are always at our side; your actions are never ending and your convictions tireless. Even now in war, you are here, show courage and letting anything stop you. We are infinitely grateful for friends like you! And we hope that you will continue to stand by us in the future.

May God bless you and your families." We are speechless. When he also unpacks the gift bag, it's hard not to get tears in our eyes.

### **WE SAVED 80 LIVES**

With Dmytro and Yuri we continue to Vynnyki Hospital. Maxim, the chief physician is already waiting for us. With about 15 other people we take a seat in his office and he tells us about the current situation. Then he leads us into two operating rooms, which are equipped with donating devices from us.

He says with gratitude and pride that the devices were delivered during the night a few months ago, they were connected the next day and they could be used the same day. I got goose pimples when he said: "We thank you deeply, because since we started using these devices, 80 surgeries have already been performed with it and 80 lives have been saved". These are the moments when we consciously know once again why we are doing all this here!!

### **USED NEEDLES HAVE TO BE IMMEDIATELY REUSED**

Afterwards, Maxim invited us to lunch in a restaurant not far from the clinic. There Jurgis joined us again: He looked very pale and had to collect himself first. When I asked him how he had fared and whether he could achieve anything, he gushed out in horror: "You don't believe what I saw there! They simply wash out the used cannulas and use them again immediately! They use syringes that are now so blunt that they do more harm than good..." I believed him very well what he saw, because unfortunately this situation are all too well known to us.

While Jurgis struggled with his impressions, Maxim made a toast to us and we were allowed to enjoy an excellent meal. The next morning Dmytro picked us up at 8am. Together with Vladimir we made our way to the border. It felt strange to be allowed to leave the country while the men can't.

Said to Dmytro that it must be difficult to live around the clock under this constant pressure and the permanent presence of war. He replied that it had only been like this since February. It is a good time for us to leave the country, he commented.

On the one hand, it is to cool down to -2 degrees and on the other hand, the electricity for civil society in Lviv will be completely cut off today. We sank into our thoughts... It was the first time we had crossed the border on foot. The queue of cars and trucks was enormous. But also, the number of people who wanted to cross the border on foot was incredible. We expected many, many hours in the cold. Then two old women grabbed us by the sleeves and talked to us, In Ukrainian, they tried to convey something to us. Vladimir translated that we could take a different line because we are EU citizens. So we passed the crazy long queue and stood right in front of the check-in.

Suddenly, panic broke out among the people and pressure was created from behind, so that the people were pushed into the fences in front. There was screaming and we were afraid that people would be crushed. There was a lot of shouting from the Polish side and people stopped pressing. That was a very disturbing moment, but it also became clear that the wave of refugees is just beginning ...

**SPONTANEOUS DRIVERS RECRUITED**

The return trip was marked by political talks with Vladimir. When I asked him what he did for a living, he replied that he was a bus driver. I reported on our convoys and we already have a new driver in our ranks. After only six hours we reached Dresden, Germany where we put Vladimir on the train, with a ticket to Bamberg also in Germany.

Jurgis and I started the last part of the journey.

In Mölln, Germany I changed into my car and at 1 o'clock at night I reached Immenstedt , Germany. If we had only driven by car, we would have been in Ukraine from Immenstedt my home town in just 14 hours. That's not far. Not far! But the true distance is much less. It does not exist at all. Because hearts do not have any distance!

Thank you, dear friends, for reading my story. To have experienced all this myself on site was very moving and intense. The gratitude of the local people is as great and strong as their indomitability will not to give up. We admire their attitude, but all we have left is to continue to help united with all our strength and conviction! We want to stand up for each other and we want to show what kind of world we want to live in! Until next time.

yours Vanessa Holdysz  
LC 83 Husum Germany  
Translation by Bob Parton OT46 Karlsruhe





**AID CONVOY  
FOR UKRAINE**

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Seven days a week 10am – 10pm

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# 41 INTERNATIONAL Charter of Old Tablers Spain

5th - 8th OCTOBER 2023

OLD TABLERS 1



SPAIN

CHARTER EVENT

Feria de Fuengirola



## 41 INTERNATIONAL HYM 2023 Cyprus

Pafos - 12th-15th October 2023

see [www.hym2023.com](http://www.hym2023.com)



cyprus HYM Meeting-2023



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**Improve your wellbeing** with relaxing spa breaks, gym discounts and great value health insurance.

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**Any questions?**

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