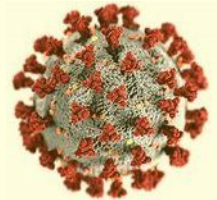


## Lockdown Issue

### Greetings to all our members

In these unusual times our usual newsletter will now appear in a somewhat different format. The opportunity to inform you of relevant news at branch meetings will have to change to receiving e-mail updates via this newsletter, although this is the 1<sup>st</sup>, it may not be the last!!!?

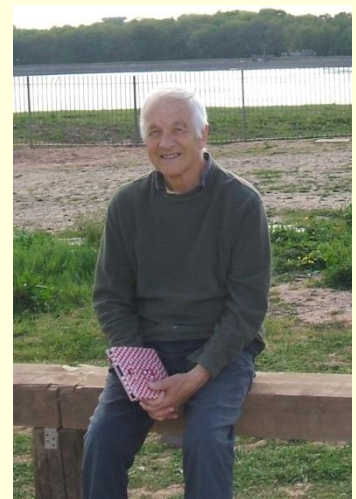


### Head Office News

1. The proposed P60 recruitment exercise which was due to start in April 2020 has been postponed and will now take place when P60's are distributed in April 2021.
2. Until Central Office re-opens, cheques for capitation fees should not be sent.
3. Similarly, end of year accounts are not to be sent until notified.
4. Capitation fees. A decision on the amount of capitation fee payable for 2020/2021 to be determined.

### Branch update

1. Our response to Covid-19 was to inform members on 17<sup>th</sup> March of the suspension of all meetings and events until further notice. A number of our members are in what is considered to be the "at risk" group with some having underlying health problems. Members were asked to be aware of others less fortunate than themselves who might benefit from telephone contact and support if required.
2. There are currently 14 members who do not have access to e-mails. It was decided to telephone them with news of the temporary closure of the branch and at the same time ascertain their situation.
3. Electronic copies of the Branch Spring Newsletter was sent out on 20<sup>th</sup> March and posted or hand delivered to those without e-mail.
4. "Daily Joke 4 the Day" commenced on 22<sup>nd</sup> March which was well received, to which many of our members have responded by sending additional material for distribution (Keep them coming!!)
5. The AGM & Quiz due on 1<sup>st</sup> April was of course deferred but there was no escape for a short quiz was distributed the following day.
6. Membership 2020/2021. 71 members had already re-joined. There has obviously, due to the suspension of branch activities, not been a further opportunity for past members to re-join. It has been decided that when we re-convene we will ask for FULL membership to be paid. Of course, the value of your membership is somewhat diminished this year, so there will no doubt be an adjustment for the fee to be paid in 2021/2022. There are a couple of considerations to take into account: a). What will the capitation fee be, if any, for 2020/2021? b). When will the branch meetings and events re-commence? c). Clearly at this stage, until such time that meetings of 70+ are considered permissible and of course SAFE, our response could alter.
7. For information purposes it was decided to produce an e-mail version of our Newsletter (No hard copies). This is the first e-mail version, there may have to be additional ones.
8. A request was made to members to provide us with an update of how the lockdown has changed their routines.



### **Additional News**

1. John Toman has stepped down from his role as Development Officer for branches in Wales. It has been agreed that TWO Development Officers will be appointed, one for North Wales and one for South Wales. Recruitment will begin once the Fellowship returns to some form of normality.
2. The 1<sup>st</sup> of fortnightly Fellowship – wide live branch meetings will be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 11am. Log on to Mirthy Talks at [www.mirthy.co.uk](http://www.mirthy.co.uk)
3. John Toman had requested details of any members who had offered their services as a volunteer and in which capacity, as he was writing a short article for submission to the next edition of the Fellowship newsletter.

**C**elebrating her 94<sup>th</sup> Birthday on St George's Day, April 23<sup>rd</sup> (the Queen is 2 days older), Betty Woodward joined other residents on King George V Drive at 8pm to clap for the NHS. Her "new" neighbour encouraged fellow residents to join him in a chorus of "Happy Birthday". Returning inside, there was a knock on the door from two policemen who also wished her Happy Birthday. (Apparently, the neighbour had flagged down the passing police car and told them of the special occasion).

Also a Taurus, not as exciting perhaps as Betty's with two men in uniform on her doorstep, but none the less different from most years in this unprecedented time.

An arranged *FaceTime* call with 2 year old grandson in Bristol almost required a visit from Fireman Sam, Pontypandy, to deal with the "roman fountain like" candle which proved difficult to extinguish.

During lockdown the decision making process for what is available in fridge or freezer to make a special meal was made easier and seamless by ordering a meal from Brook Bistro, Whitchurch Village. They offer a takeaway or home delivery service (providing you are in a 3-mile radius of the restaurant). We opted for home delivery (2.9miles!!!!) as with the case of red wine delivered earlier had already been started and made this the sensible option.

A bonus of very little washing up, an additional birthday treat, gave us plenty of time to settle into a 3-way quiz between daughters located in Rhiwbina and Henleaze (Bristol).



Betty Woodward

**Norman**

I have been keeping in touch with my family by telephone and *FaceTime*. I shop for my elderly mother and talk to her through the window on a weekly basis. We both enjoy our meetings, as in face to face contact you can have a better idea as to how the other is getting along.

My friends and I have a *Zoom* meeting once a week which has proved to be fun, with our respective pets "photo bombing" the screen. It's a lovely way of keeping in touch.

Last October, I enrolled in a French Improvers course, the weekly classes have had to stop but, since Easter, the teacher has been delivering the class through *Zoom* which is proving to be very successful. Again, it is nice to catch up with my class mates.

I have been baking cakes and trying out new recipes to varying success. My shed and cupboards have never looked so tidy. The garden is looking good too.

**Gaynor Chase**

I have learnt to use *Zoom* and *Skype*. I have also found <https://www.zooniverse.org/> which is a platform for various citizen science projects. Last time I visited this several years ago there weren't that many but it has blossomed and now I think most people could find one or more that would interest them. Currently trying to identify wild animals from movement camera snapshots – deer/antelopes are very challenging. Giraffe are easy but only see their legs.

I also play *World of Warcraft* – either solo or with friends as a party.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WorldofWarcraft> It is run by *Blizzard* and although you can play for free for a time, eventually you will need to subscribe. <https://worldofwarcraft.com/en-gb/wowclassic> I don't do player vs player but one can. I have therefore chosen a PvE server.

I Have begun cataloguing my books again – I use <https://collectorz.com/book> which also has platforms for cataloguing comics, DVDs', CDs' etc. I've used this for many years for keeping track of what I have read at the library and what has been recommended to read. It is free to trial, and then there is a cheap subscription to get regular updates and if you have a problem the staff are extremely helpful and responsive.

**Jane Evans**

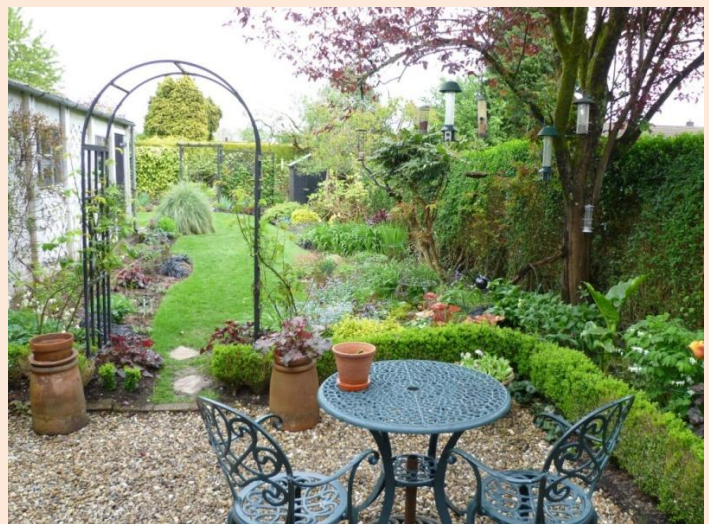
A roll of temporary plastic windscreen, stored for several years in my garage, was potentially the ideal material for a visor (PPE). So I measured what I thought would be the correct size and cut it with a good pair of scissors. I also had some foam, so I cut that about 2" wide and stapled the plastic visor to go around the head then covered over the elastic on the front of the visor with 2" tape.

The next door neighbour's daughter works in the Children's ward, UHW, which to date haven't provided visors so she took EIGHT - for herself and any of her colleagues who would find them beneficial.

**Bob Bradley**



Since the lockdown we've been able to finish things in the garden that we might not have got round to. We are lucky to have the Wenalt just up the hill and walk up through the woods every day. The bluebells have been spectacular this year.



We contact our children on *Whats App* and Miles has had group chats with his family in Australia, Norfolk and Gloucestershire.

**Melanie & Miles Steed**

*(Melanie & Miles usually open their garden as part of the Annual Rhiwbina Festival.)*

