

NEWSLETTER



**Normal Service will be resumed on
8th JUNE 2022
in our new venue
LISVANE MEMORIAL HALL**

When we started the Cardiff Branch in June 2006, our initial meeting place was the Boardroom at Whitchurch Hospital, the following months we were offered, by the trust, meetings at Whitchurch (different venue) and then Llandough Hospital.

I considered our priority level to be low and, to say the least, an afterthought.

We then moved to the Scout Hut in Lake Road North on a Tuesday afternoon. Our branch expanded by such that we had to look for larger premises and settled on next door at Christchurch Hall, on a Wednesday, finally moving again to larger premises at St. Brigid's in Llanishen.

As you are hopefully well aware, St Brigid's, which we have continued to use for a number of years, has still failed to re-open.

We have, for previously stated reasons - particularly of hall size, large car park and preferred day and start time - tried without any success, despite regular "nagging" of the hall booking secretary, for a return to St Brigid's.

I am aware that a number of our members that have been unable to change their social diary from a Wednesday to Thursday!!

We have now succeeded in achieving our goal by securing new accommodation, from Wednesday 8th June from 2-4pm, at Lisvane Memorial Hall.

Subsequent meetings will follow the normal pattern of 1st Wednesday of each calendar month (unless notified otherwise) from 2-4pm.

Bank Charges

HSBC has announced that it is changing its Charity accounts to Community accounts and classifying them as Business accounts which in turn mean that they will be introducing a monthly fee of £5 together with 40p charges for each cheque deposit and 0.4% to pay in or take out cash.

The facility offered by our bank, NatWest, to date has not changed. We are still able to deposit both cash and cheques at our local branch, we also have an on line facility that enables money to be both paid in or out.

P60 Recruitment Campaign

There are over 1 million people who have retired from the NHS who will receive their P60 details in April or May 2022.

Included in the envelope will be a letter inviting recipients to join the NHS Retirement Fellowship.

A similar campaign was held a number of years ago but was poorly administered.

This time an external organisation – Connect Assist – will manage the project.

We were asked to answer 21 questions relating to our branch which we returned to HQ and our regional representative.

If we have an increase in members following this initiative it is vital that moving to larger premises at Lisvane Memorial Hall will be justified.

Finances

This last year has of course proved somewhat challenging to offer something in return for your continued membership.

The annual capitation fee made payable by each branch to headquarters was reduced from £20 to £10 for the financial year 2021 – 2022.

Our committee felt that although we were committed to pay the fee we could not justify the membership fee being more for the limited amount of activities we were able to offer.

The reduced income stream was to be supported by branch funds.

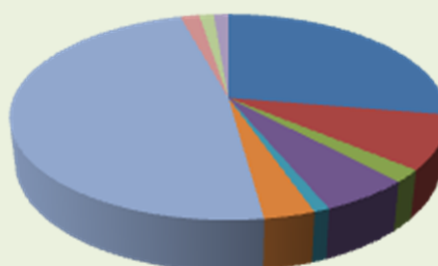
However the capitation fee this year (2022 / 2023) will be adjusted back to £20.

Income



Membership Fees:	£660.00
Gift Aid Return:	£146.25
Donations:	£170.00
Events:	£1,293.75

Expenditure



Capitation Fee:	£660.00
Hall Hire:	£202.00
Admin Exp:	£46.50
Speakers:	£135.00
Refreshments:	£23.61
Raffle Prizes:	£75.94
Events:	£1,145.09
Refunds:	£40.00
Audit:	£30.75
Welfare:	£30.99

So, unfortunately we have to be aware that it would perhaps not be sensible to support this increase from branch funds.

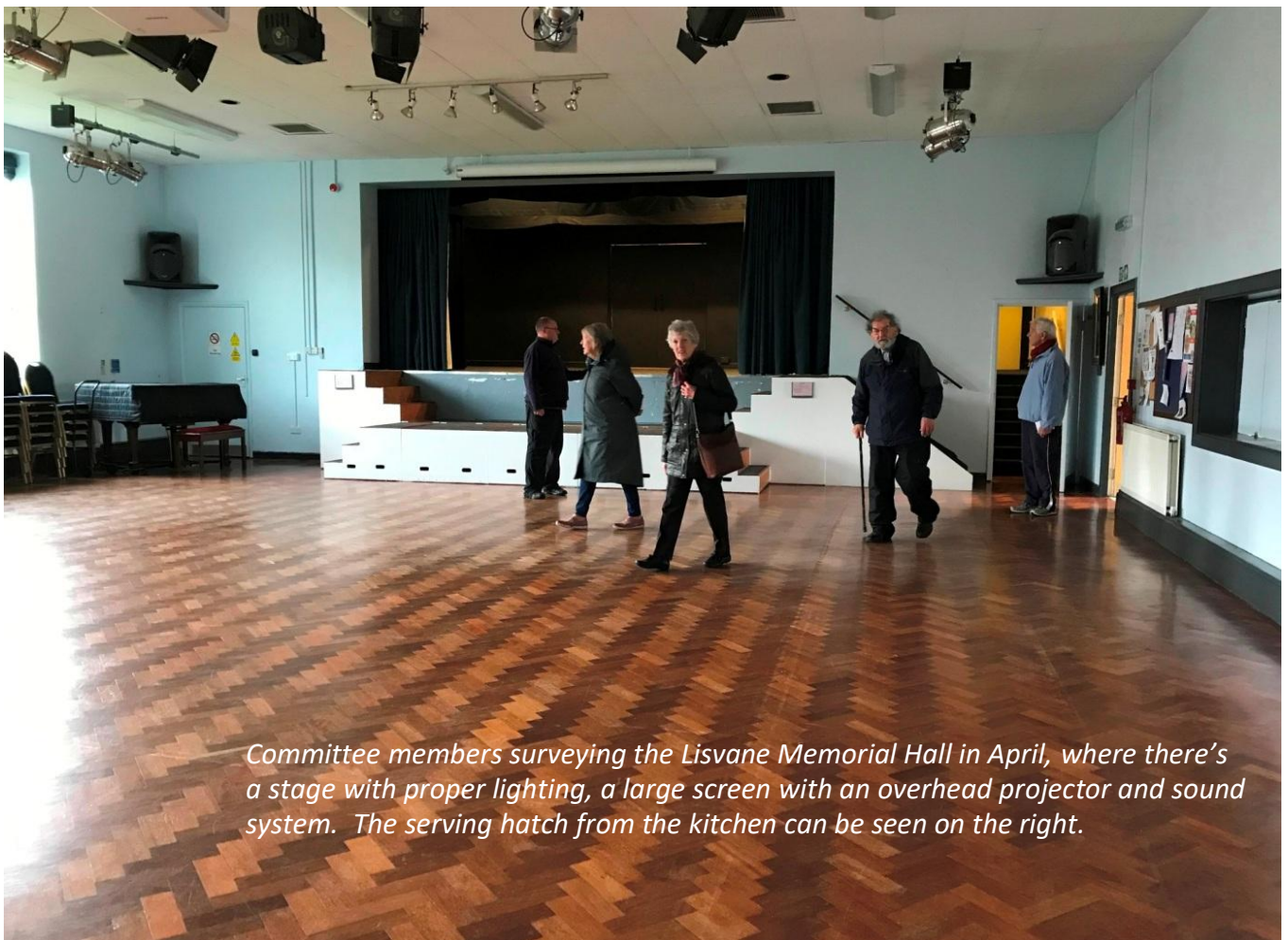
Therefore, this year from April 2022, the annual membership fee will have to return to £25 single / £40 joint.

In return, providing ALL restrictions were lifted at the end of last month (?), we should once again be able to meet on a monthly basis when, on most occasions, we will have a speaker present. At each meeting there will be the usual tea, coffee & biscuits (equivalent to £2 / meeting) and of course the opportunity to win one of 3 prizes in the free raffle.

Membership renewal for April 2022 – March 2023 can be made by cash, Cheques (payable to Cardiff NHS Retirement Fellowship), or by online bank transfer to our NatWest Community

Current Account number: 19641230

Sort Code: 52-21-06



Committee members surveying the Lisvane Memorial Hall in April, where there's a stage with proper lighting, a large screen with an overhead projector and sound system. The serving hatch from the kitchen can be seen on the right.

Outings

In previous years, whenever possible we have organised a monthly coach trip to somewhere within usually a maximum 2.5 hr radius of Cardiff.

Although the coach operators that we have used in the past – Creigiau & Mainline are back up and running adhering to strict COVID protocols, I suspect that there is perhaps still a reluctance at the moment on our members to travel for reasonable time in a confined space.

As there appears once again to be a spike in cases it would be irresponsible to offer coach travel for the time being. There has always been difficulty in organising trips in late October into winter so this year, initially, we will only attempt to run trips from April through to October. (Although, as I've just suggested, there will be a delay in starting).

Of course if a special event should occur in winter e.g. Classical Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, which previously, if you remember, was cancelled due to an outbreak of Coronavirus!!!!

Towards the end of last year we suggested 3 possible excursions: 1- Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market, 2- Bristol Aero space, 3- Gin factory tour & tastings at Hensol Castle.

Birmingham was the only one that ran, even though it was run at a loss in an attempt to get the show on the road.

Although the Marriott Hotel was not offering their usual festive lunch we found an alternative at the Brook Bistro, Whitchurch.

Providing sufficient interest we would like to offer the following **events: July – Powis Castle; August – Treberfydd House & Garden; September – Hampton Court Castle, Hereford; October – Batsford Arboretum.** Further details will follow but all of these will require a minimum of 20 members to give the outings a degree of viability.

Although in the past we have organised these trips to be as cheap as possible, no doubt with an increase recently in fuel prices there is an expectation that this will be passed on to those hiring coaches.

Committee Members

Bob, Pat and myself have been committee members since the formation of the branch in 2006. Christine, David, Hilary and Marion have also been loyal supportive members for a considerable time.

(There is a requirement for a committee member to do the appropriate head counting both in Cardiff and on return from our trips. There have been occasions in the past when this has proved problematic.)

The branch would benefit from an increase in our committee members; to help with the above, a requirement for helping both setting up and tidying up at the end of meetings and any fresh ideas would also be most welcome to improve membership experience. There are usually only 3 committee meetings / year. There is no salary or pension scheme attached to the appointment and no contract to sign!

