

Future of the NHS Retirement Fellowship

As you may be aware the future of the NHSRF is in doubt due to a lack of funding from *Health Education* in England and the *Welsh Government* here in Wales. If the Fellowship is to continue in its current format alternative funding will be required and inevitably this will fall to the branches and, therefore, the membership to provide.

So what is proposed?

All members on the database will receive a newsletter from Central Office of NHSRF at some time in January 2017 containing information to help them make an informed choice regarding the future of the NHSRF. Furthermore it will detail the impact on branches if the Fellowship ceases to exist. The newsletter will also contain a ballot paper to be returned by individual members to vote on their preference of the two options, which broadly speaking will be:

Option 1. To agree to an increase in capitation fees from £5 to £20 per member from 1st April 2017.

Or

Option 2. To agree that a capitation fee increase of this magnitude is not desirable. *(The actual wording of the voting options has not yet been decided).*

What are the possible implications?

If the outcome of the ballot shows that the membership agree the Fellowship should continue **with** an increase in the capitation fee Central Office will take £20 for every member on our register from 1st April 2017. This means that our branch fees will need to increase from the current £15 per year. The branch committee will then determine the level of the membership fee for 2017/18. It has been suggested that initially we might consider raising the individual fee to £25 per year with a joint membership of £40 and that one member is 'silent' meaning that only one capitation fee is paid. The fee increase could initially be supported from existing branch funds.

Alternatively

If the outcome of the ballot shows that the membership reject the increase in the capitation fee Central Office will begin the process of closure of the NHSRF. We as a branch will need to consider what the impact will be for us. Initially all the funds in the branch current account will be returned to the Central Office of NHSRF.

- * Without capitation fee can we still exist in a similar format? [Yes!]
- * Will we continue to attract new members if our link to the NHSRF no longer exists? [Yes!]

There will probably be no initial increase in our annual membership fee in the NHS Retirement Fellowship.

Remember this is *your* organisation so please do not forget to vote.

Forthcoming Events



Skittles Afternoon

Church Inn, Llanishen Village,
Ty Glas Road, CF14 5EH

Tuesday 24th January - 2pm
(or earlier for Lunch)



If lunch is required, please inform Norman beforehand so that the Chef is aware of numbers dining.

Car Parking is available at the rear of the Pub (£1 refunded against any food and drink purchases or the

Village Car Park (Free). Buses that stop at Llanishen Village are numbers 28, 28B and 86. The afternoon is FREE other than optional food and drink.

Severn Valley Railway

Monday 20th February

Cost £30 (excluding lunch)

If time allows – coffee stop at Bewdley prior to boarding the train at Bridgnorth at 12:20. Arrive at Highley 12:51. Time for lunch at the Flag & Whistle and a short walk to the Engine House Visitor Centre. Depart Highley at 15:06. Arrive Kidderminster at 15:53.



Oxford

Monday 27th March

Cost £ to follow

Our visit coincides with the Literary Festival which is centered around

Blackwell's Marquee and Worcester College. Other University Colleges are also used as venues.

The programme for the festival has not yet been released. Oxford has many historical and cultural landmarks to visit. There's shopping at the Westgate Centre or the Covered Market, and much more to discover.



Bird Group Outing - 19th October 2016

Steart Marshes (Bridgewater, Som.)

After a later than planned start, Don arrived at the site car park about 10.30, with Anne and David and met David's son, Greg, who spent a couple of hours with us. The day was dry with a cool breeze and after visiting the first hide we met Elaine and Peter and soon after, Sue and Mike, making our total eight.

We saw about 100 Lapwing, many Shelduck, some Heron, Egret, Cormorant, Wigeon and Teal. About 40-50 Golden Plovers were looking splendid in their winter plumage. There was some Grey Plovers and some saw a Kingfisher. The landscape was enhanced by Highland cattle and occasional watery sunshine.



The raptors spotted were Kestrel, Buzzard and a Male Marsh Harrier. The hides were state-of-the-art, Double-glazed windows and lined inside with plywood, making them warm on a cold day. Three main hides are fairly close together but paths lead off to more remote areas where, the sightings board revealed, someone saw a Giant Egret.

There were a surprising number of Stonechats around the paths, a Reed Bunting was seen and a group of seven Skylarks. Small flocks of Goldfinch and a linnet were also noted plus the usual Titmice and Sparrows.



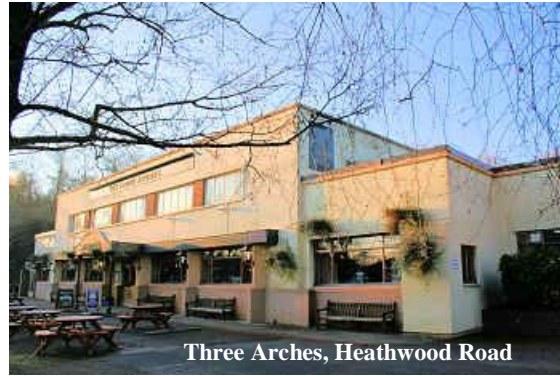
After our lunch on the hoof we went our separate ways starting for home around 2.30pm.



The next Ornithology Group Outing is to
Cosmeston Country Park
Lavernock
Thursday 19th January 2017 - 10am

Pre-meeting Lunches

If you feel like a social gathering, before the next monthly meeting at St Brigid's Hall, join us for lunch at the Three Arches pub on Heathwood Road. Arrive about 12 noon to allow time for a leisurely meal or a light snack lunch, and a chat with other fellowship members, before making your way to the meeting for 2pm.



we want you to

PIN-UP

on our members'/welfare notice boards

INFORMATION of any forthcoming events i.e. Craft Fairs, Library Talks, Choirs, etc. that might be of interest to others.



WANTED!

Person

For organising
Theatre/Concert outings

Until recently a **Theatre Group** was established but unfortunately the organiser had to step down. We would very much like to re-establish this group but require someone to lead. Help and support will be available if required.

The Committee and others

Chair Norman Bishop
029 2075 2237

Event Day 07538 671531
chairman@nhsrffield.org

Secretary Bob Holbrook
secretary@nhsrffield.org

Treasurer Pat Bishop
treasurer@nhsrffield.org

Website Bob Holbrook
info@nhsrffield.org

Welfare Marion Mardell
David Manning
welfare@nhsrffield.org

Events Norman Bishop
chairman@nhsrffield.org

Speaker sec. Hilary Fairney
speakers@nhsrffield.org

Refreshments Sharon Roth
refreshments@nhsrffield.org

Newsletter David Manning
newsletter@nhsrffield.org

Meeting Registration
Christine Lewis
Marion Mardell
registration@nhsrffield.org

Raffle Organisers
Norman Bishop
Marion Mardell

Vice Chair Vacant
vicechair@nhsrffield.org

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Walking Bob Holbrook

Ornithology Don Ribeiro

Theatre Vacant

Would you like to
start a Special
Interest Group?
Please let us know!