

Future of the NHS Retirement Fellowship

The story so far

Capitation fees have remained at a nominal amount until 2012 when they were increased to £5 and more recently in 2015 to £10.

The Fellowship previously received annual grants but these have been withheld.

The only way that the Fellowship can continue is to be self sufficient and therefore to achieve this aim there would need to be an increase in the current capitation fee from £10 to £20 per member.

The result of the ballot which closed on March 10th was as follows:

Number of votes cast	8,345
Number of votes in favour of raising the capitation subscription	6,746
Number of votes against the proposal was	1,217
Spoilt papers	382
Votes cast approximately 75% of the membership (12,000+)	

What happens next?

At branch level we have to, regrettably, increase our membership fee to reflect the increase in capitation fee thus:

Subscription fee April 2017 – March 2018:	Single £25
	Joint £40

At national level a strategic plan will be developed to allow efficient running of the Fellowship from the capitation fee alone i.e. become self sufficient.

Before the end of this month (March) there will be National Council and Board of Trustee Meetings. A follow up statement will be issued.

There is an All Wales Liaison Committee meeting on Tuesday 28th March when John Rostill (Chief Executive of the Fellowship) will be present.

Forthcoming Events

Cotswold Villages Thursday 20th April

Interestingly, the word 'Cotswold' is in fact two words: 'cots', meaning a sheep's shelter, and 'wold', meaning gently rolling hills.

Stow-on-the-Wold

Originally known as Stow St Edward or Edwardstow, after the town's Patron Saint Edward, Stow-on-the-Wold is an ancient town perched around 800 feet above sea level and the highest town in the Cotswolds. It is situated at the convergence of several major roads including the Roman Fosse Way.



Bourton on the Water

This picturesque village has the enchanting river Windrush at its centre and features **Birdland**, Admission: £8.95 for Seniors (Book online for 10% off); The **Model Village** (Bourton c.1937 at 1/9th scale); The **Dragonfly Maze**; A **Perfumery** and **Model Railway** Exhibition.

Tetbury & Highgrove Gardens Wednesday 17th May



Tetbury is proud of its recorded history since 681 when Tetta's Monastery was mentioned in a charter by King Ethelred of Mercia and was an important Wool Trade town in the Middle Ages.

Tetbury has a wonderful variety of shops including 25 antique shops, many specialist shops, a wide choice of tea rooms, bistros, cafes, pubs and restaurants which offer a good choice of food and drink.

Highgrove Gardens

Immediately prior to His Royal Highness's arrival, Highgrove was the home of Maurice Macmillan whose father, Harold Macmillan, was the British Prime Minister in the late Nineteen-Fifties and early Sixties.

Since 1980, both the house and the gardens have been the subject of many thoughtful and innovative changes. When the Prince first arrived, Highgrove possessed little more than a neglected kitchen garden, an overgrown copse, some pastureland and a few hollow oaks.

Today, after the hard work of scores of people, the garden unfolds in a series of highly personable and inspiring tableaux, each one reflecting the Prince's interests and enthusiasm.



Bishop's Palace, Wells Friday 9th June

The **English Country Garden Festival** is a celebration of our horticultural heritage is held within the plantsman's paradise of the **Bishop's Palace and Gardens**. Stalls will include Nurseries, Garden Sculpture, Food, Drinks and Crafts, plus live music, workshops, talks, tours and demonstrations.

The **Bishops Table** cafe offers refreshments, sandwiches, lite-bites and lunches, as well as delicious cakes.



Birding Group

The next Group outing is to **Forest Farm** and the **Taff Trail** on **Wednesday 26th April** meet at the Rangers' Building at 10am.

Pre-meeting Lunches

If you feel like a social gathering, before the next monthly meeting at All Saints Hall, join us for lunch at the Butcher's Arms pub on Heol-y-Felin, Rhiwbina. Arrive about 12 noon to allow time for a leisurely meal or a light snack lunch, and a chat with fellowship members, before the meeting at 1.45pm.

Heol-Y-Felin means 'Road to the Mill', the Mill being the Deri Corn Mill, which used to be 100 yards north of the pub. Originally sited in green fields at that time, the current building replaced the original Butchers Arms around 1955 and since 1974, Rhiwbina has become a suburb of Cardiff.



WANTED! WANTED! WANTED!



Person For organizing Theatre/Concert outings

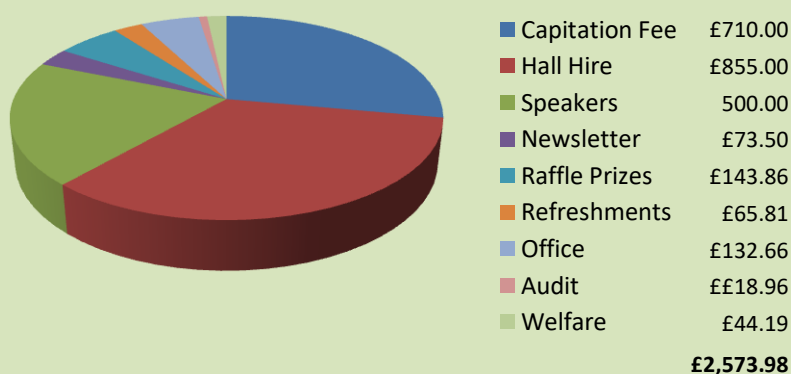
Until recently a **Theatre Group** was established but unfortunately the organiser had to step down. We would very much like to re-establish this group but require someone to lead. Help and support will be available if required.

ACCOUNTING FOR YOUR MONEY

Income



Expenditure



Income v Expenditure 2016 - 2017

As can be seen from the above diagrams the branch has very limited income streams. There are many expenses to be met in order to allow the branch to function satisfactorily.

If expenditure exceeds income the only solution to address the shortfall is an increase in membership fee.

Not illustrated above is Income received for Events against Expenditure for Events.

Wherever possible this should be cost neutral, we would prefer to not make any profit from events organised, to keep the charge as low as possible as we believe this a desirable benefit to our members.

Norman

The Committee and others

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Walking Bob Holbrook

Ornithology Don Ribeiro

Theatre Vacant

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