



## Welcome to the Maple Cross Fellowship Newsletter

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Once again sorry for the delay in publishing this but I'm currently busy updating the bathroom, which as with all these things is taking longer than I'd hoped. Part of the problem is that we can't do without it so every evening I'm having to put it back together again, still it will get done eventually.

We've managed to get away twice so for this year, the first time in April to Paphos in Cyprus, the second to Vienna in Austria, both of which we'd been to before so we didn't have to "see the sights", we could just chill out. It was nice to be somewhere else which was warm, but I'm glad we went when we did as with the current heat & wildfires we see on the news I'm not sure I'd book anything else till things settle down, if indeed they do!

We've had a number of events this year which are recorded in this newsletter and I was amazed that it was the 25th Anniversary of the Fellowship this year. I've not heard of any other company having such an organisation for former employees, and I enjoy meeting up with people I used to work with and others who have a shared history with Kier.

Unfortunately as I've left it so late to publish this the majority of the events for this year are in this publication so the next will be much smaller unless

anybody has anything of interest to send me for inclusion in the next publication

It's good to see the Kier share price is slowly improving especially in the current economic climate. Hopefully it will improve further if they start paying dividends to the shareholders as that will indicate the turnaround plan has been successful.

Even though I no longer work for Kier I still have a soft spot for the company having worked for it since my industrial training during my degree till I retired. I thought about changing companies a few times during my career but the grass never seemed any greener, and a chat with the directors made me realize that my efforts were appreciated. Long may it continue.

*Jeff Taylor*



**Vienna - 2023**

## *Sayings from Duncan*

**Did I read that sign right?  
TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.**

**In a Laundromat:  
AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES  
WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.**

**In a London department store:  
BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS...**

**In an office:  
WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE  
BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.**

**In an office:  
AFTER TEA BREAK, STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND  
UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD.**

**Outside a second-hand shop:  
WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC..  
WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?**

**Notice in health food shop window:  
CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS...**

**Spotted in a safari park:  
ELEPHANTS, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR.**

**Seen during a conference:  
FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY  
CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR.**

**Notice in a farmer's field:  
THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT  
THE BULL CHARGES.**

**Message on a leaflet:  
IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS LEAFLET WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET  
LESSONS.**

**On a repair shop door:  
WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE  
BELL DOESN'T WORK.)**

**Proofreading is a dying art, wouldn't you say?  
RED TAPE HOLDS UP NEW BRIDGES!**

Hopefully some of  
these will raise a smile.



## St Valentine's day Luncheon



When Norman told us to take our seats the service started promptly and was pretty good. I for one loved my food, the starter was very tasty, as was the main course, though there was a bit too much pasta.

Back to St Albans to visit the St Villa Restaurant on Thursday 16th February. Having managed to squeeze into a space at the Maltings car park, We found the nearest stairway to our destination



I was also told the liver was excellent and it did look good. I enjoyed my sweet of Tiramisu though shared that with Shirley as I was really too full. Then we finished off with coffee.

but found we had to walk out where the cars drive through as there didn't appear to be a pedestrian exit on this side of the multi storey.



I was lucky this time as one of the waiters too a photo of our table for me so for once I'm in it, just to prove I do mostly attend these events.



When we reached the restaurant, it was bright inside with 26 of our local fellowship members enjoying a chat and a drink from the bar



“When we reached the restaurant, it was bright inside with 26 of our local fellowship members enjoying a chat and a drink from the bar.”

## Fellowship 25th Anniversary

On Sunday 2nd July more than 100 Fellowship members came together at the Pavenham Park Golf Club in Bedfordshire to celebrate the founding of the Fellowship 25 years ago.



There was a welcome drink on arrival, and the marquee set up for us, was accessed directly from the bar, which also had Ashes cricket on the TV, very handy for those interested.

The Maple Cross contingent had 3 of the 14 tables which was a good showing.



The food was lovely, the starter course of Smoked Mackerel, Smoked Salmon & King Prawns, was served on a single dish at the table from which you could help yourself. I liked that as you could select what you wanted.



The beef main course, was nice though I don't remember the roast potatoes or Yorkshire pudding, maybe I was too busy eating. The sweet was a meringue with winter berries (in July) and cream, was nice to finish with.

The coffee was served on a separate table which gave an opportunity to talk to others in the queue.



After dinner Neil Miexner gave a speech on the history of the Fellowship, explaining that it was set up using funds left over from the original management buy out. Inflation in the years since has reduced the buying power of the income received. However the Kier Management team are supportive of the Fellowship and hopefully when the turnaround is complete more funds may be forthcoming.



There then followed a prize draw, with an air fryer, hamper, and malt whiskey amongst the prizes. The proceeds from this would help with the costs of the event.

A nice event giving a chance to chat with others from different regions.

**"Kier Management team are supportive of the Fellowship and hopefully when the turnaround is complete more funds may be forthcoming"**

# Windsor Horse Racing



Our annual visit to Windsor came during a spell of very changeable weather and most of those attending had kept a close eye on the weather before deciding to come. As it happened the weather though a bit cloudy to start with turned sunny which was very nice.



Only eight people attended with a couple of cancellations due to illness. We managed to get a good table near to the racecourse, and though it was initially in the shade as the world revolved we soon found ourselves in a nice sunny spot.

There were plenty of food choices, from Caribbean to Indian and Burgers / Hot dogs to Fish & Chips. There was also a good selection of drinks, beer, wine, champagne, gin, soft drinks & coffee, so all tastes were catered for.



The racing began at 5:40pm with races every half hour until 8:40 pm making 7 races in total. Some people bet using the placepot, where you bet on the first 6 races for your horse to be in the top 3 (though less for a small number of runners). Others bet individually on different races so that if one race doesn't have a winner or place, the remainder of the bets still count. It's horses for courses as the saying goes.

Most people in our group had some horses come in, though I don't believe there were huge winnings.



After the racing was finished there was Reggae dancing by the parade ring. An enjoyable evening in good company and the weather helped.



**“There were plenty of food choices, from Caribbean to Indian and Burgers / Hot dogs to Fish & Chips.”**



## *A trip to Vienna to see the Saliera* by Jeff Taylor

We'd last visited Vienna in 2008 spending a week sightseeing, after running the Marathon (me) and Shirley the Half Marathon. We'd seen all the main sights, including the Hofburg, Belvedere and the Schönbrunn Palaces, plus we saw the Vienna boys Choir and went to the Opera.



Jeff 2008 Vienna Marathon



Shirley 2008 Vienna Half Marathon

This time we decided to focus on the museums and art galleries of which there are many. Since doing a History of Art course Shirley had always wanted to see the golden Salt Cellar (Saliera) made by Cellini and completed in 1543 for Francis I of France. This is not any old salt shaker but an amazing symbolic representation of the earth and sea and of French political power to impress any visiting dignitaries. It is made of hand hammered gold and it is just over 10" tall and 13" wide and has bearings to enable it to be rolled around the table !



The male figure Neptune represents the sea and the salt was contained in the gold bowl representing a ship, the female figure Tellus represents the earth and Pepper was placed in the temple alongside her. Around the base are figures representing Night, Day, Dawn & Dusk, and others showing youths with puffed out cheeks representing the cardinal winds. Fire is represented by a salamander under the heel of Tellus, which was also the symbol of Francis I.

It is an incredible piece of artwork, and the only surviving gold piece by Cellini. It was stolen in 2003 with a reward of €1 million offered by the Kunsthistorisches Museum. It was recovered and the thief handed himself in after surveillance footage was released by the police where he was identified. It is insured for around \$70 million.

# Games & puzzles

## Sudoku

	5	8	3		4	2	9	
1			8		5			4
4				2				8
6	4						7	2
		7				4		
2	8						1	9
9				8				6
3			6		2			7
	2	6	9		1	3	4	

**Easy**

		9				3		
3	7	5				2	6	4
4	8						5	9
			8		4			
				7				
	2	3	9		5	8	4	
			7		8			
	5						8	
	9	7				5	1	

**Hard**

## Wordsearch

Q I A C A C I T I T  
 H O I W A L A M E U  
 G H U R O N T T X L  
 C W O I R A T N O A  
 M E I R E T E P G K  
 M I C H I G A N Q I  
 T A N G A N Y I K A  
 A I R O T C I V L B  
 F B G W W V P J C F  
 C U S U P E R I O R  
 G E P I N N I W D N  
 F K O T S O V E O D

Which of these lakes is not in the grid?

- MICHIGAN
- HURON
- VICTORIA
- SUPERIOR
- TANGANYIKA
- BAIKAL
- TITICACA
- MALAWI
- GREAT BEAR
- ERIE
- WINNIPEG
- ONTARIO
- VOSTOK

Also which is the largest by area?

Answers on the back page.

### 1973 - 50 Years ago:-

January - The UK enters the European Economic Community.  
February - Rail workers and civil servants go on strike.  
March - Queen Elizabeth II opens the replacement London Bridge.  
April - British Leyland launched the Austin Allegro to replace the 1100 & 1300 models which were retired in 1974.  
May - The Sears Tower in Chicago was topped-out, as the world's tallest building at 1,451 feet high.  
June - Elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly were held. This led to power-sharing between Unionists and Nationalists in Northern Ireland for the 1st time.

**Wordsearch** - The words can be found upwards, downwards, on both diagonals and written in either direction.

# Kier Fellowship

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Note the two e's



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If you wish to be added to the closed group, send your Facebook e-mail address or details, to:-

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*This magazine serves the Kier Fellowship members from the Maple Cross area. It is provided by members for members. Please send any contributions you may have, e.g. items about your history, photos, recent events, holidays etc. which may interest others to Jeff Taylor.*

*Also if you have any suggestions for other events please contact Norman Elliott.*

*Also Kier now have a dedicated Fellowship website go to :-*

[www.fellowship.kier.co.uk](http://www.fellowship.kier.co.uk)

## Forthcoming Events 2023

5th October      Autumn Luncheon

14th December      Christmas Luncheon

### Wordsearch

Great Bear is not in the grid.  
Lake superior is the largest by area = 31,700 Square miles.  
Interesting Fact—The SS Yavari on lake Titicaca Peru, was built in West Ham, then taken in kit form to the lake at 12500 ft and reassembled.