

Summer 2018



Welcome to the Maple Cross Fellowship Newsletter

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First, congratulations to Ray Plassard who won the prize quiz for spotting the photo was of the Great Sphinx of Giza. He wins £5 off a Fellowship event. 😊

It's difficult whilst sitting here with a computer to know what people like or dislike about the Newsletter. I've had a few positive comments and no negative ones, so I thought I was doing OK. However to find out if anything in particular was or wasn't liked, I took a straw poll at the first meal this year.

The result for all sections were very good with a 75% approval rating & the Newsletter overall gaining over 90%. This is very pleasing but I would still like to improve things. So if anybody has any things they would like included please let me know.

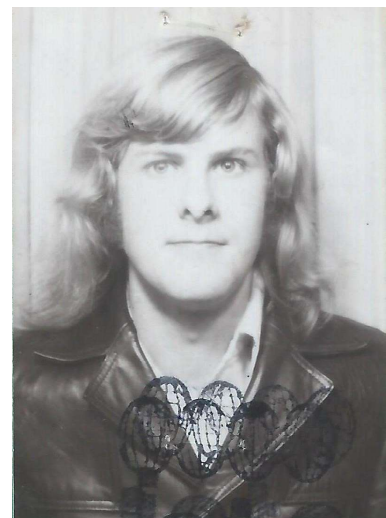
Also this newsletter is for you, so please send me your news. It could be about an exhibition or museum, see page 6, or a holiday you've had, such as mine in Iceland on page 10. I'm sure others will be interested, and you may even inspire them to do something similar. Also you can send me "funnies" I'll try and find a home for some or all of them (Thanks to Sheila Brown for her contribution on page 2). I was also wondering if people had photos of their younger selves (see opposite).

It doesn't take much, just some words & photos make a page. Don't worry about the layout - I can handle that.

Thanks.

Duncan's contribution on page 12 brought back my memories of working at Heathrow in the late 1970's. Unlike Duncan my problem was finding my way from the office complex to the main road. Totally confused I turned yet another corner around another building and found myself driving under the wing of Concorde which was being towed to the maintenance hanger. Nobody seemed to mind so I carried on and eventually found my way out onto the perimeter road via the aircraft taxiway. Security wasn't as strong as it is today!

Jeff Taylor



Me as a Student in 1976

(Love that hair!)

Organiser's Report

"The Windsor Horse Racing Evening was the most popular so far"

Well we are now well into a fantastic summer. The weather for England seems to have come out in support of our National Football Team who are currently still in the 2018 World Cup (as I write this they are getting ready for a last 16 playoff against Columbia), Good Luck England. If you haven't got your paddling pools for your grandchildren, I would recommend getting one. They are excellent value to cool down on these hot summer evenings.

I am pleased to welcome another 3 new members to our Maple Cross Branch taking us to over 100 members.

David Lambert and his partner Margaret, David spent 44 years working for various Kier Companies including Kier Southern.

Clare Hill and her partner Paul, Clare spent 10 years working with Kier Southern.

Lastly Bhavesh Patel & his partner Minal, Bhavesh spent 11 years working for various Kier Companies including Kier Southern.

Regretfully I must also advise that James (Jim) Jolliffe passed away earlier in the year.

We have held some great events so far this year. The Valentine's Luncheon at Biggles (new venue) was well attended, as was the St George's Day Luncheon at Shendish Manor.

The Windsor Horse Racing Evening was the most popular so far and is now becoming a regular event in our annual diary. The 21st Kier Fellowship Garden Party was well attended by 34 members from Maple Cross. With more events to come later in the year, it should be a potentially record year for attendances. I'm now taking a rest over the summer, A few thanks need to be said, especially to Jeff Taylor for his ongoing efforts editing and producing this Newsletter. To all those contributors to the Newsletter, please keep your stories and hobbies coming in to Jeff or me, & to Brendan O'Boyle for all his hard work at Kier Trustee level who secured additional funding for our Area to help with the subsidies and keeping our costs down. Thanks also to all the Members who continue to support the Fellowship events organised by me in this area, and also for your personal thanks that I received from a number of you.

Let me finish with a gentle reminder that when and if you decide to pay me by bank transfer for an event, please include your name in the payment reference, as it is great to receive monies in my bank account but embarrassing when I don't know who it's from!!!

All the best for the rest of the Summer and Autumn.

Norman Elliott

Confucius did not say....

Man who wants pretty nurse must be patient.

Lady who goes camping with man must beware of evil intent.

Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.

Man who eats many prunes get good run for money.

Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.

Wise man does not keep sledge hammer and slow computer in same room.

Man who lives in glass house should change clothes in basement.

A lion will not cheat on his wife, but a "Tiger Wood"

Sheila Brown

Valentines Day Luncheon

On a sunny Thursday we headed off to Denham aerodrome for a meal at a new venue, Biggles Restaurant, as "Freddies" the usual venue has now closed for the owners well earned retirement



A few people (myself included Ed.) took the scenic route to Biggles. I was amazed to find that the Denham Golf Club had it's own railway station!



There was a warm welcome for the 30 plus attendees in a cosy but light room, which also had a bar.



In case people had nothing to do, I provided 'homework' in the shape of a questionnaire about the newsletter and a second chance to enter the prize quiz. Thank you for all the replies. Ed



The three course meal had plenty of choice including from the sweet trolley. The wine was topped up as required by the welcoming and attentive staff, which no doubt contributed to the relaxed and friendly occasion.



As we collected our coats and said goodbye to the manager we stepped outside to find the sun was still shining which led to a pleasant drive home.

"I provided 'homework' in the shape of a questionnaire about the newsletter "

St Georges Day Lunch

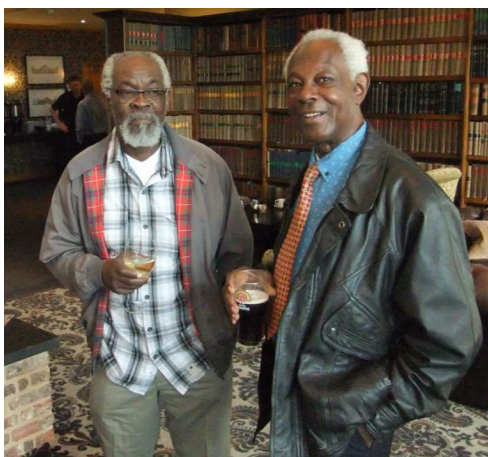
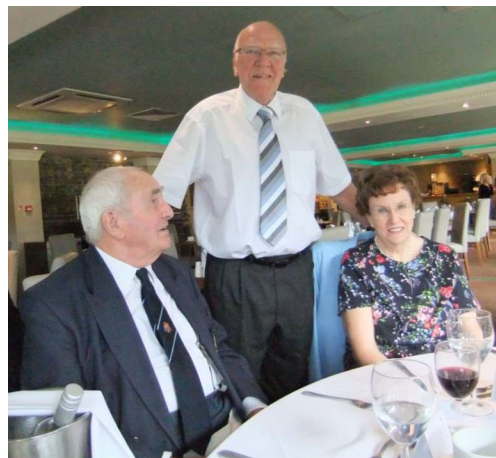
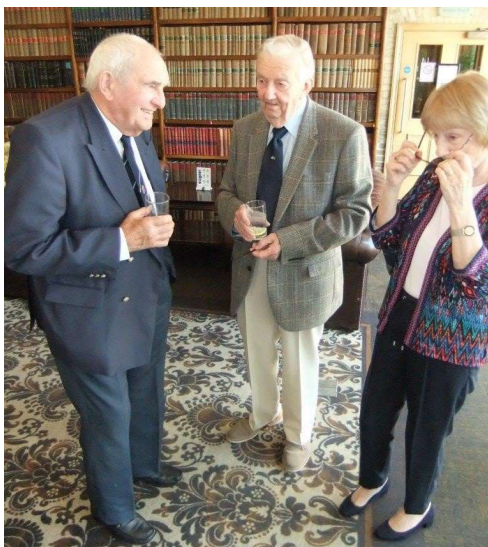


On Thursday 26th April 22 members met at Shendish Manor for a lunchtime meal. It was reported that many members considered it to be the best meal they'd had at a Fellowship event.

We give our thanks to the Chef and staff at Shendish Manor.

(Sorry I missed it Ed.)

"Many members considered it to be the best meal they'd had at a Fellowship event"



Windsor Horse Racing

On a lovely warm afternoon in June, the fellowship members met at the Windsor racecourse, there were 16 attendees.



After meeting Norman outside the Club entrance to be given our entry tickets, drink & meal vouchers & a small sum of spending money, we all made our way to the Club Paddock. Despite the lack of tables (all had been taken) we took charge of five benches and formed a defensive circle.



Eagle eyed Duncan spotted a table becoming empty and managed to claim a part share with another group. We settled down with drinks and placed our bets, some betting on individual races & others using the tote.

After watching the first couple of races people started to get some food. There was a good selection with Fish & Chips, Curry, Burgers, Sausages and more.



Wandering round we had access to the parade ring, winners enclosure, and the finish line, all giving great views of the horses and riders.



“Eagle eyed Duncan spotted a table becoming empty and managed to claim a part share with another group”

At the end of a satisfying evening, winners were thin on the ground, but that wasn't the point. We had lots of time to chat, with moments of excitement watching the horses charging to the finish line, and we all went home happy.



Royal Academy Summer Exhibition

In June the Royal Academy hold their summer exhibition of art in London. This is world's largest open-submission exhibition in that although some of the art is by established people, anybody can apply to have their art exhibited. However as there are always a large number of applicants, the chance of getting a piece shown are quite small.

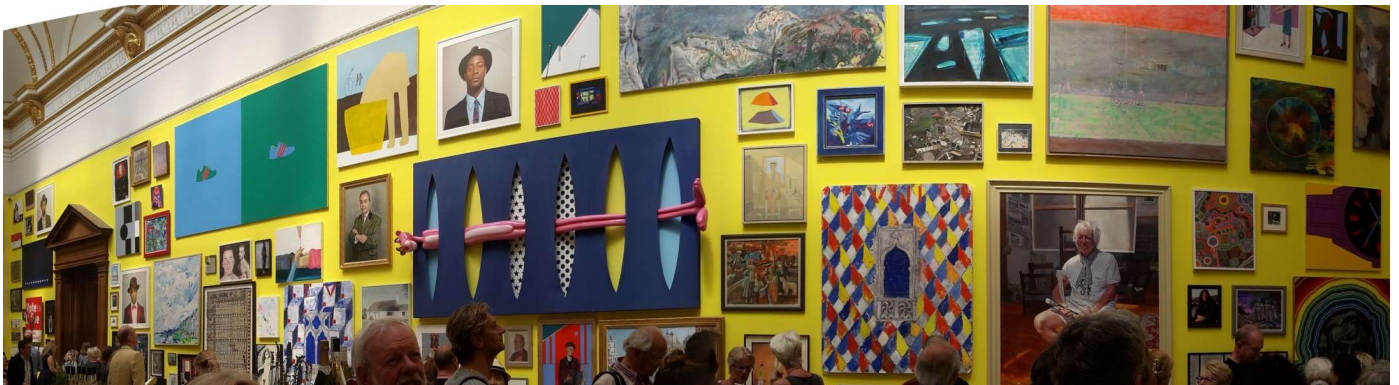
The styles are really varied and with 1300+ pieces on show, there are usually some which wow and others which are, to be polite, bemusing. I find the exhibition very inspiring and hope that you "enjoy" the following selection of photos of exhibits which, for one reason or another, caught my eye this year.



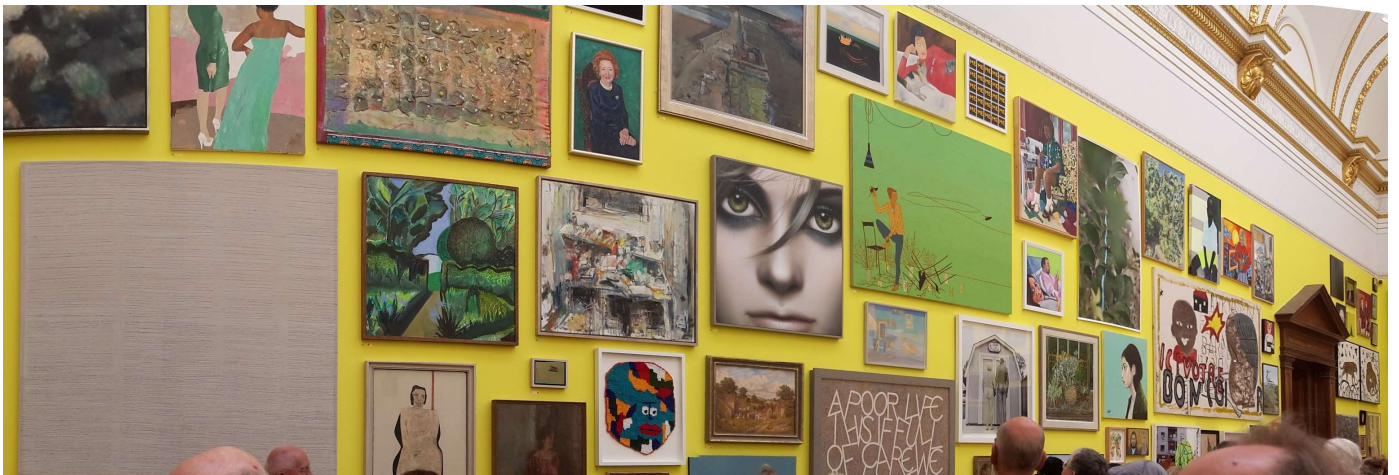
#49 **Royal Valkyrie** by Joana Vasconcelos

Hand made woollen crochet, felt, fabrics & ornaments
Not for sale (I think this must've been commissioned © ed.)

Jeff Taylor



The first main gallery showing some of the amazing range of art on display





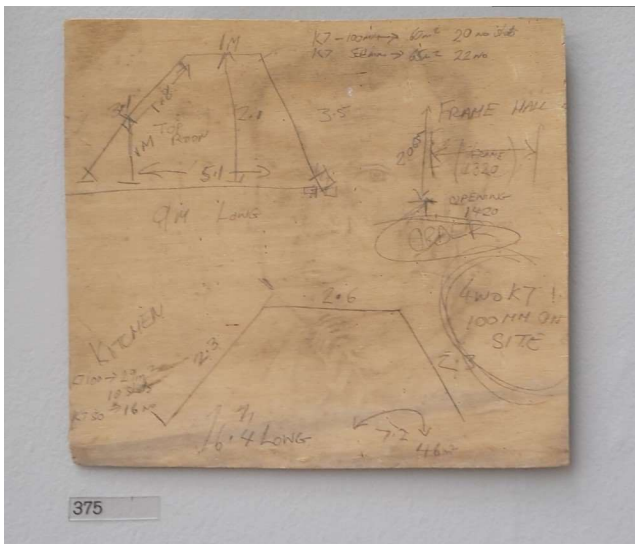
#348 **Owl be watching you**
by Mo Noolan
Acrylic £250



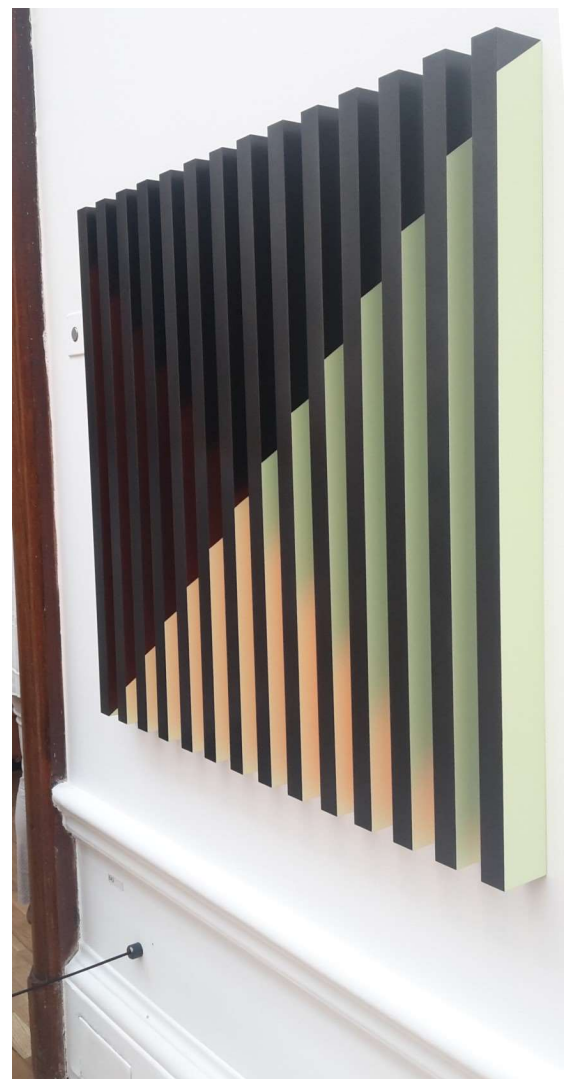
#351 **The Bored Horse**
by Henry Bateman
Acrylic £150



#353 **Black Swan**
by Paramita Palchaudhuri
Oil on Paper £500



#375 **The Measure of a Man (My Father)**
by Matthew Wilson (notice the face behind the measurements)
Charcoal & Graphite on wood £350



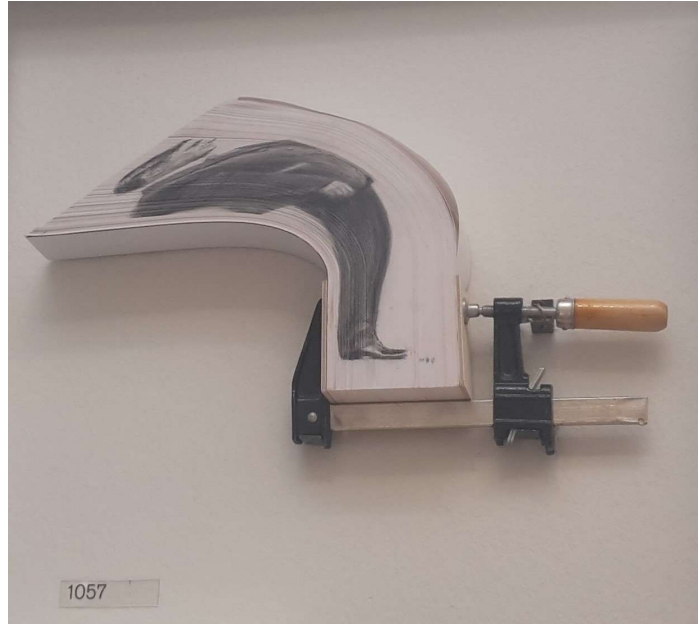
#824 **No 755 2017** by Rana Begum
Paint on powder coated aluminium

(I liked this one as the other side of the columns are painted red on the opposite diagonal. You can see the red colour reflected in the green & grey. From the other side the green is reflected in the red & grey)

R. A Summer Exhibition (cont.)



#801 **Vinculo De Dos** by Ana Prada
Books & Candles £20,000



#1057 **Between the lines** by Diego Mallo Ferrer
Charcoal & pencil on paper held together with a clamp
£2,500
(If you buy it, don't undo the clamp!)



#1094 **Beast (in a box)**
by Lucas Croall
Screenprint £250 (print £100 (20no))

#1095 **Pills** by Tom Loffill
Gouache on paper £1,200

#1096
Hunters in the snow by Tim Southall
Etching & aquatint £245 (print £185 (75no))



#794 **Marlboro Man** by Calum Stevens
Wood, waste pipe, knitting & Plaster



#735 **The other grove** by Mike Ballard
Found building site hoarding £10,000
(That's the old Kier colour. Who'd have thought it'd be worth that much!)

Construction related items which, if we'd thought of, we'd be rich!



#797 **Amaranthine** by Julie Holt
Concrete, Plaster, Metal & Plastic £1,500

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition is at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London and is on until 19th August 2018.

It costs £16 (£18 with Gift Aid) and is well worth a visit if you are interested in art. It has architectural models as well.

The RA has also just opened areas previously closed to the public, which is also worth seeing. To see it all takes about 1 ½ - 2 hrs. Ed.

Iceland by Jeff Taylor

When Shirley said she'd like to see the Northern Lights in Iceland, my first thought was 'COLD'. To see the "Lights" would be fantastic, but the thought of standing around in the freezing cold, in middle of the night and not seeing anything (which was more than likely) made me dream of somewhere hot. Still Shirley really wanted to go and with a four night itinerary, seeing other things as well, I thought 'OK, I can put up with 4+ days of discomfort'.

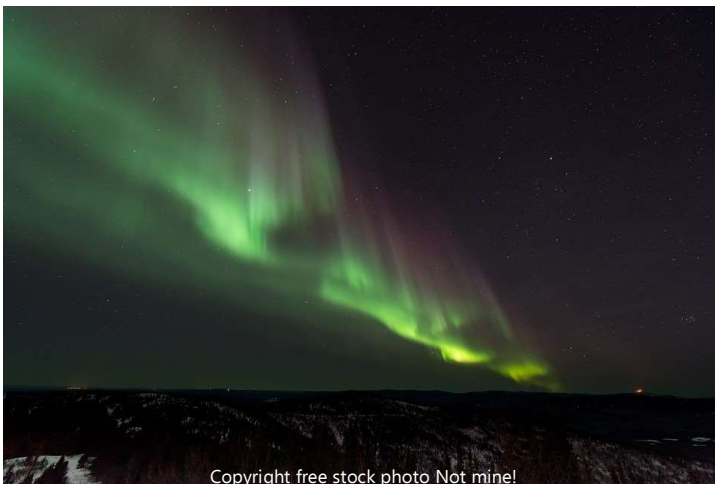
We arrived at lunchtime on 5th March and caught the shuttle bus to Reykjavik. This transferred us to separate shuttle buses at a bus station outside the city as they had a "no large bus policy" in some parts of the city, very sensible. Our final bus stop was only 100 yards from the Hotel Shirley had chosen and we were soon shown to our lovely triple aspect room which was bright and airy.

We decided to go for a walk around the area to orient ourselves and went down to the harbour. Here the wind was blowing hard and it was bitterly cold, so after a couple of photos we hurried back to the hotel and settled down in the bar to enjoy the 2 hour long happy hour. I sat there with a beer not looking forward to the Northern lights tour later that evening, still I'd go to keep Shirley happy.



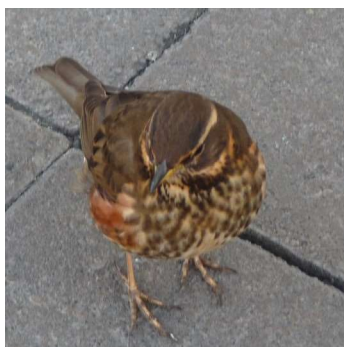
Hotel Reykjavik Centrum

After dinner I put on my long johns, jeans, vest, t-shirt, sweatshirt, jumper and thick jacket, 3 pairs of socks & boots, plus a hat with ear warmers, a scarf & 2 pairs of gloves. I was like the Michelin Man, but ready for the elements. We went back to the bus stop where we'd been dropped off and waited for the bus to pick us up. Luckily it was on time & we'd only been waiting about 5 minutes. By 10 pm we'd transferred to the main bus and drove out of Reykjavik for about 90 minutes to get away from all the light pollution. We ended up on a disused army camp, though it was so dark you couldn't tell. (More poetically described by Shirley as a "blasted heath" as in Macbeth!).



Copyright free stock photo Not mine!

After about 15—20 minutes sitting in the warm on the bus, the guide said "It's started!" so we all climbed off the bus trying not to trip over things. Looking up we could see what looked like thin cloud, but after a while realised that it was moving in a strange way though the movement wasn't obvious, you could just tell it was different from one minute to the next. It was so cold and the 'lights' were fading so we got back on the bus to warm up. This continued off and on for the next 2 hours but in the end the displays were greener, brighter, and the shapes formed much more energetic, it was a wonder to behold. However, despite all the clothing, I couldn't stop shivering so occasionally we got back on the bus to warm up during some of the displays. It was a highlight of the trip though.



Redwing

The next day, Tuesday, Shirley had arranged a day to ourselves as we'd not arrived back at the hotel till 2am in the morning. After a late breakfast we spent the day wandering around the local area, visiting the local harbour, seeing many works of public art and interesting buildings whilst walking. We also visited a whale museum where models of many different types of whales were displayed showing their beauty, and also an art gallery where thought provoking modern art was on display. On the way back we saw birds rarely seen in the UK, just hopping about on the street.



Iceland (Cont.)



Pingvellir National Park

On Wednesday we had a full day tour booked with Grey Line the company we used for all the tours and transfers. This took in a variety of the main sights available in Iceland. We started with a visit to the site of the first Parliament of Iceland, in the Pingvellir National Park, which was held in 930AD. It was situated in a location equidistant from all the main population centres at the time. Unfortunately it was also located on the boundary between the North American & Eurasian tectonic plates so the area was subject to earthquakes and volcanic activity. There is a canyon formed by the pulling apart of the two plates and a vast plain with slow moving rivers. A stunning place.

We next headed for the waterfall at Gullfoss. Early in the 20th Century the waterfall was leased to foreign investors for a hydro electric scheme. Luckily nothing came of it so it is still unspoilt for all to enjoy. This was very exposed to the wind, so together with the roar of the water it was quite difficult to talk. However the view was fantastic and with the brilliant sunshine, there was little need for conversation only to discuss going back to the café for cake & biscuits!



Gullfoss



Strokkur

After the break we travelled to the spouting geyser of Strokkur which erupts every 5 - 10 minutes. As you walk up to the geyser past the steaming water coming from the pool, there are signs warning that the water is 80—100 °C, the meaning obvious - do not touch! People surrounded the area where the geyser pool, chatting away & taking selfies with the bubbling water, when suddenly, with a loud whoosh, water & steam rose about 100 feet in the air. It was quite dramatic but took a couple of attempts to get a good photo. We also visited Skálholt which at one time was the most important place in Iceland, being one of two episcopal sees. It was where the Lutheran church was formed in Scandinavia and now serves as an education and information centre.

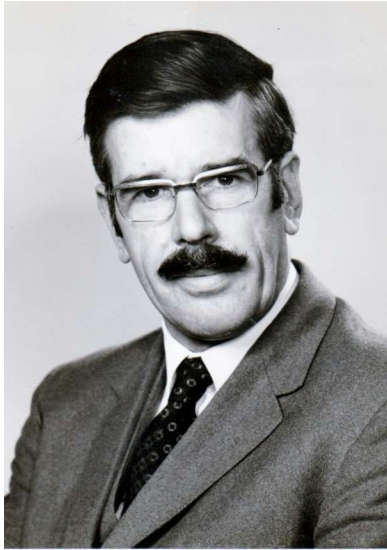
On Thursday we had another day to ourselves and walked to the Hallgrímskirkja church which can be seen from all over the city. Using the Red Bus service we then travelled to the Perlan museum. The structure is formed from hot water storage tanks which supplied Reykjavik, One of the tanks has been filled with ice to form a simulated crevasse which you can tour. From the roof are excellent views over Reykjavik. We also visited the National museum of Iceland to understand its history and then walked the sculpture trail by the sea.



Perlan

We had a great time in Iceland, with friendly people and glorious weather. In the end I think the Holiday was summed up by Shirley who said "They don't do naff in Iceland, they just do expensive!"

Members stories *by Duncan Mort*



It happened by chance that the other afternoon I was catching up on a pile of unread daily newspapers when I came across a head-line that jumped out at me which read **Boeing, Boeing, gone!** By a chap called Oliver Smith.

Mr Smith had written a piece looking into the slow demise of the jumbo jet as we knew it. In essence the main thrust of the copy related to the actions of Delta, the world's second-largest airline sending its final 747 to the Arizona 'aircraft boneyard' marking the final chapter in the aircraft's slow decline and eventual withdrawal by Delta from service. United, Delta's closes rival, had only a month earlier also waved goodbye to the last of their 747's in their fleet with a farewell flight from San Francisco to Honolulu, a symbolic recreation of the route of their first 747 service way back in 1970.

Now, in 2018, not one major US carrier flies the iconic Boeing aircraft, which, after almost 50 years of service, is gradually disappearing from our skies. Even Boeing's biggest customer by far, British Airways has said that the old 747 will be gone from its hangars by 2024. This is where my involvement in the aircraft starts to come into its own.

For in less than twelve months time, it is frightening nay terrifying to think that it will be fifty years, half a century no less, since when, after three times around the Heathrow perimeter road that I finally found my way into the West London Area offices of W&C French limited situated in the Number One Maintenance Area. I had earlier been recruited by Director, David Sheppard to take over from the late John Slee who by the time I arrived had already departed for the Caribbean so there was no formal handover of how the office operated or who was who. Not an ideal text book start for any new job!

My only saving grace that until today has been kept a closely guarded secret, what nobody knew was that a few months before my appointment a couple of the brightest young civil engineers with my previous employer had been sent on an intensive management course run by a training company operating out of Slough. Part of the course included in-depth work studies of large construction and manufacturing projects in and around the West London area. As lady luck would have it the management of W&C French had been good enough to grant these two chaps the opportunity to spend a week undertaking comprehensive and detailed studies of how their prestigious contract was being managed. At the time Technical Block C was starting to rise from the ground when the engineers arrived to do their studies. As it was a huge site they decided to split the work with one concentrating on the physical construction aspect of the building whilst the other focussed on the staffing and management including the client and the inter relationship between both, combining the results of their labours into one.

As you would expect I arrived on site armed with a copy of the engineer's efforts which was invaluable as it set out how the job was progressing and who was pulling the strings in the office. This helped me to settle in without too much trouble. Way back then in the late sixties it should be remembered that the main operators of Heathrow Airport were B.O.A.C. British Overseas Airways Corporation and BEA or British European Airways. W&C French had been awarded the contract by BOAC to build this huge structure along with all the supporting infrastructure that goes with jobs of this kind to cater for the coming of the new era of jumbo jets and the expansion of the airport.

It must also be explained to the uninitiated that W&C French had a long history of working at Heathrow stretching as far back as 1950, first of all for the Air Ministry who in turn were acting for the Ministry of Civil Aviation so the senior management of both companies had worked harmoniously together for many years. As a new boy I had to very quickly learn all the rules but the sixties and the seventies were exciting times to be involved in and around airports both at Gatwick and Heathrow making ready for the arrival of the yet to be seen Jumbo. Beefing up landing runways and aprons, building hangars for maintenance, and even providing flight catering facilities. Before that there were new Terminals and Fire Stations, then extra car parking, all necessary additions. Most of these works came under the auspices of British Airports Authorities.

The involvement of our Company over the years was so great, that it was decided way back in 1985 to put together a dossier that was a composition of our achievements when we traded under the banner of French Kier before as we are now know as Kier. A selection of pages of that vintage manuscript are included for your delectation.

William D.Mort

Games & puzzles

Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Hard

Wordsearch

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

Which of these Prime Ministers is not in the grid?

ASQUITH
 ATTLEE
 BLAIR
 CANNING
 CHURCHILL
 DISRAELI
 HEATH
 PALMERSTON
 THATCHER
 WALPOLE
 WILSON

1968 - 50 Years ago:-

February - The first pulsar was discovered by Jocelyn Burnell of Northern Ireland.

April - London bridge was sold to an American entrepreneur.

June - The NHS reintroduced prescription charges

August - British rails last steam train runs on standard gauge on a return trip from Liverpool to Carlisle.

October - The M1 is finished when the last 35 miles between Rotherham & Leeds is opened

December - Apollo 8 enters orbit around the moon

Wordsearch - The words can be found forwards, backwards and on both diagonals and in either direction.

Kier Fellowship

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Find us on 

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[K.F. Maple Cross](#) - Group members only

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

kfmaplecross@virginmedia.com



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, such as anecdotes from your working life, photos, recent events, holidays etc. which may interest others, to Jeff Taylor, at :-

kfmaplecross@virginmedia.com

Please provide feedback on the newsletter, good and bad, so it can be improved. If there is anything you wish to see added, please send requests to the above e-mail address.

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

Forthcoming Events

29th August *The King & I London*

1st September *Kier Fellowship Golf Day*

20th September *Late Summer Luncheon*

12th October *Long Service Luncheon*

14th December *Christmas Luncheon*

2019 Provisional

February *Valentine's Day Luncheon*

April *St Georges Day*