

Summer 2017



Welcome to the new look Fellowship Newsletter

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At the St Valentines day luncheon Norman asked if I'd take over the editing of the Kier Fellowship Newsletter as Duncan wanted to step down. I agreed remembering my first editing job more than 50 years before. I was at primary school & my best friend and I decided to start a newsletter. It contained information about events happening in the school, competitions and notable mentions regarding house points, sports days etc. At that time we used a spirit duplicator where text and images were put on one side of a page with a special paper behind, like carbon paper in reverse. The reverse image of the text etc. was produced on the back of the original sheet which was then run through a hand cranked machine making duplicate copies which were mauve in colour and smelt!

How times have changed, I now use a computer with multiple templates, spell check, and the ability to move text

around till in the words of Goldilocks it's just right. However all of this doesn't truly matter, it's about the content. So if you have any anecdotes, stories, pictures, past & present etc. please send them to me, so I can consider their inclusion. The e-mail address is at the back.

Lastly I'd like to thank Duncan for his efforts over the past years. He has tirelessly produced volumes of content, often on his own, to keep us informed and bring a smile to our faces. Without his work this publication would have ceased to exist.

Jeff Taylor



Organiser's message

Members,

Welcome to the first edition of the Maple Cross Fellowship Matters edited by Jeff Taylor. As you are aware I've always said that Duncan Mort would be a hard act to follow and I think that Jeff has realised what a monumental task editing a newsletter is.

Thank you Jeff, for all your positive and hard work that is appreciated by me and all your fellow members. Thanks to all the contributors to this newsletter and again to Jeff, and to Duncan for all the previous issues.

Norman Elliott

Organiser's Report

Fellow Members,

We are now well into the summer period and the signs are that it is going to be a good one this year, the weather has started well with May and June being the sunniest months for several years. Holidays have started and I'm pleased to say that I've been on two already, I hear you all say lucky you! Well yes I am, I have just returned with Sue from a weeks' All Inclusive in a lovely hotel in Halkidiki Greece.

The Fellowship has been busy again this Year, following another successful meal at our old favourite Freddie's in February we had a St George's Day Luncheon at a new venue of The Mercure Oaks Hotel in Hatfield. Disappointingly I had to cancel the planned Tring Brewery visit in June due to a lack of numbers, I'm sure this is down to our members not wanting to

drink and drive. However a number of members went to the Irish Night at Windsor Races on 12th June and had a great evening of racing and entertainment. Although I could not make it this year, a record number of members from Maple Cross attended the 20th Annual Summer Garden Party at Tempsford Hall and I'm advised that a good day was had by all.

I am now busy organizing the further events for this year along with further holidays for Sue and !!! We will have a break over the summer but I'll organise a Luncheon for September, date TBA.

The organization of the Long Service Awards Luncheon with our working colleagues at Maple Cross is progressing and will be at the newly refurbished Latimer House on 13th October 2017.

Norman Elliott

"Holidays have started and I'm pleased to say that I've been on two already"

Tempsford Hall Garden Party

As Norman says in his piece above a record number of people from the Maple Cross area attended the garden party at Tempsford Hall, forty in total.

What he didn't mention was that Maple Cross was also awarded the most improved area. Terry Delany collected this award, a bottle of champagne, on behalf of Norman Elliott.

This is a tribute to Norman and all members for making the region a success.



Picture © H Thompson

"Maple cross was awarded the most improved area"

St George's Day Lunch



A new venue at Hatfield for the Fellowship, turned out to be another wonderful location. Easy to reach for most members and with good parking, the Mercure Hatfield Oak Hotel had been suggested by a member who'd been there before. The room contained a private bar where drinks & conversations were enjoyed before the meal started.

The desserts were, apple & rhubarb crumble, strawberry cheesecake or lemon and lime posset.



"The room contained a private bar where drinks were enjoyed and conversations took place before the meal commenced."



Norman gave his usual speech thanking all for coming, then after more discussions between friends, we slowly dispersed and headed home.

An enjoyable afternoon for all.

The meal offered the choice of Soup, Chicken liver Pate or Crayfish salad (called prawn cocktail in my day ☺) for the starter. The mains were roast Chicken, Fillet of Trout or Potato Gnocchi.





Windsor Races Irish Night



"The Guinness was flowing along with craft beers and wine"

On Monday 12th June 2017 eleven dedicated members of the Maple Cross Fellowship arrived at Windsor Racecourse at 4.30pm in fabulous sunshine to partake in an Irish themed night of fun and frolics. The Guinness was flowing along with craft beers and wine, the Irish Jigs were being played from tented areas and the public were dancing their way to the betting booths. We had access to all areas, except the members lounge, and even had the well known jockey Frankie Dettori walk by us before the racing started. Frankie was only racing in the first race for novice horses and rode the favourite to win.

We all had a good meal of Fish and Chips, Curry or other offerings from the fast food outlets all around the Paddock along with a couple!! of drinks. The weather was good sunshine all evening but the air temperature dropped when the sun went down (the coats and jumpers went on). During the 7 races the banter was good between the members and a lot of exercise was had walking between the lawn areas, the finishing line and betting touts / tote.

Betting was undertaken by most of the members and whilst very private about their successes or losses on the night, we all enjoyed ourselves (some had bigger smiles than others).



After the last race, most members headed for their cars for the journey home, however a couple stayed to witness a live performance of The Commitments along with hundreds of other racegoers before heading home.

Pictures © D Morte



Don Robinson 1930 - 2017

Born in 1930, Don Robinson left school in 1946 and started work as an office boy with William Moss & Sons in the Wages Department at Staples Corner, London. His salary was £78 per Annum.

After a year he moved into the Small Contracts Department but then had to complete his National Service in the RAF at Upper Heyford, commencing in 1948.

Whilst still serving, he was drafted to help during the 1949 dock strike which he said was the hardest he'd worked in two years National Service.

In May 1950 he returned to William Moss & Sons working as a Timekeeper & Bonus Clerk on the Edith Villas contract in Fulham. Here he cycled to work each day.

After 2 years on site Don returned to the offices as a Junior Surveyor and Tendering Clerk. He stayed here for 2 years before going back to site at the [Sun Printers](#) in Watford.

In 1956 he returned to the office, to work in the Estimating department, and two years later moved to the Buying Department. Here he looked after procurement for the Welwyn Hatfield Hospital worth £1.5M (c.£36M today)

Don married Pam (who also worked in the buying department) in 1966. They had two children Graeme and Catherine.

In 1972 he was promoted to Chief Buyer, a post he retained until his retirement in 1990.

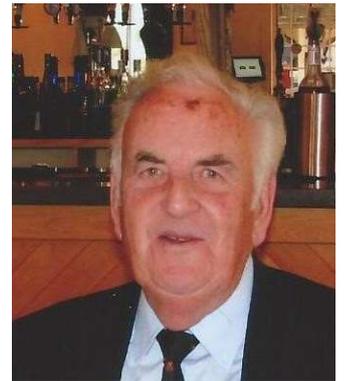
Following his retirement Don took the role of volunteer driver for Bovington Care, a role he continued until he reached the age of 75, the upper limit.

In 1997 the Kier Fellowship was formed and Don became the first organizer for the Maple Cross area.

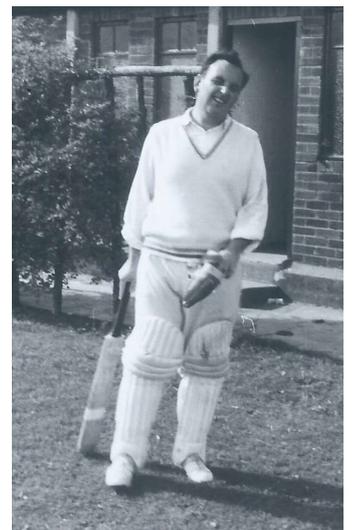
In the 44 years with William Moss and then Kier, Don saw many changes, the expansion of William Moss in Cricklewood and a company move to Watford in 1984. In 1986 William Moss was taken over by Kier and the offices moved again to Maple Cross.

Throughout his career Don was involved in Sport. He was a member of the MCC for over 35 years, he was Secretary of the Grasshoppers Rugby Club and a lifetime Chelsea supporter. He lived with his partner Daphne for 25 years in Bovington.

Don passed away on Wednesday 15th February 2017 and will be missed by all who knew him.



"In 1997 the Kier Fellowship was formed and Don became the first organizer for the Maple Cross area."



Boy Racer? (Not Quite)



“Reality struck when a car crashed backwards at speed into the barriers at the first corner”

Not a lot of people realize that the Fellowship has a champion motor racing driver amongst its members. Tony Mingoia competes in the Caterham cars championship and this is his story :-

In **2011** at a Porsche day at Silverstone I heard about the Caterham Academy & decided that this was the challenge I needed. I'd never driven a Caterham but late in 2011 I put down the deposit for a new car and this was delivered as an early Christmas present in kit form. I built the car with help from a friend and my dad within a few weeks and had it tested to ensure it was roadworthy. Once it received its certification I drove it as much as I could to get used to the rear wheel drive.

In March **2012** I completed the 'handling day' and then gained my novice race licence which included a medical to ensure fitness and vision levels were OK. I then needed to complete six races to get a national 'A' competition licence. Having never seen a Caterham race I watched the first race of the season in April 2012 which was great, but reality struck when a car crashed backwards at speed into the barriers at the first corner. It was a wakeup call and made me realise I was about to embark into exciting but uncharted territory.

With some trepidation I prepared for my first pre-season outing. This was a track day at Rockingham International speed way in Corby, Northampton. The track

was originally conceived for American Nascar but is now regularly used by touring cars, British GT, Caterhams etc.

I'd never driven a race car or been on a proper race track other than the odd go kart track for fun. However I managed to keep it on the track and realised it was probably because I wasn't going fast enough. A few more outings were required for me to acquaint myself to circuit driving (basically learning to drive in circles at speed)

The season started with a sprint at Aintree, Liverpool, the site of five F1 Grand Prix in the 1950's & 60's. Sprints are individually timed runs over a distance of a mile. I came 12th out of 28! Sprints at Curborough and Snetterton followed.

I entered my first true race at Snetterton and qualified second which was brilliant. However during the race another car knocked off my exhaust and I was immediately 'black flagged' so had to leave the track as my car was too noisy and exceeded the dB noise limits. My first disappointment.

A typical race weekend started on a Thursday traveling to the circuit towing my race car, and doing all the prep work. Some drivers were brave enough to drive their race car to the circuit but that was always risky, especially if was damaged during a race. That meant you'd be stuck at the track until it was fixed. Friday is an



Boy Racer? (Cont)



official 'test day' where each driver can free practice and tinker with car to prepare for qualification which takes place on the Saturday morning. Each car has to undertake a scrutineers check to ensure it is compliant and prepared in accordance with the regulations. The entry fee allows two races which take place on the Saturday and Sunday. Each race is 20 minutes for your first year before being extended to 30 thereafter.

The 2012 season was soon over. It had been a great year and my experience was growing, as was all the other novices. In my first year I finished 10th which wasn't bad considering I had no experience whatsoever of motorsport whereas some of my competitors had raced Go Karts for several years giving them good racing experience.

The **2013** season was just as exciting with the competition increasing at every round. My first ever podium was at Oulton Park in September where I won! This was closely followed by a 3rd at Silverstone the next month. It was a great place to be on the podium as this is the home of the British Grand Prix, and we used the same podium as the F1 drivers! Finishing in the top 5 that year was a great feeling.

Onward to **2014**. At the end of each year the car received 'upgrades' to give the car better performance and handling. We all had to 'relearn' the cars capabilities and this was a great leveller. More

success followed with some of the more memorable races taking place in Europe. Every year one round was held in either Belgium (Zolder) or Holland (Zandvoort). In their day these were F1 tracks so very fast and exciting for Caterhams. The races were regularly televised and I recall the camera captured my 100mph departure from the track at Zolder after having lead the race for many of the laps. The television commentator called it a 'brown trouser' moment! I found it funnier after the event.

I also recall the scrutineers checking drivers were properly attired for the European rounds (drivers had to wear full fireproof underwear resembling 'long johns'.) When it came to my turn, I was embarrassed as I'd neglected to wear mine. In 2014 I finished in the top 5. 😊



"My first ever podium was at Oulton Park in September where I won!"



Boy Racer? (Cont)



"I finished 12th overall in 2016 and took 3 trophies over the season plus the Silver Sevens championship overall"

In **2015** my original Academy car purchased in late 2011 received its last upgrade to Supersport class. This particular year there were over 34 race entries so competition was tough! Hard fought battles for track position took place at every meeting. The car was very different and now possessed 140 brake horse power. Considering the car weighed just over 615kg with driver it was lightning quick on track. However I was lucky enough to secure a third place at Donnington that year.

2015 was so exciting I re-entered the Supersport class in **2016**. This was the year over 45's were eligible for the Silver Sevens trophy awarded to the highest finishing veteran racer. I picked up my first trophy at Snetterton in Norfolk which was especially memorable since I lost my footing after collecting my trophy and hurt my ankle. I was unable to race the following day. Highs and lows! I finished 12th overall in 2016 and took 3 trophies over the season plus the Silver Sevens championship overall. A good year.

The racing experience continues in **2017** with the most aggressive variant Caterham have produced for pure circuit racing. Whilst the external body looks similar to a normal Caterham the 420r Superlight is a very different car dynamically with a power to weight ratio of 400 break horse power per tonne, a sequential six speed gearbox and sticky

tyres making it a very potent track focused weapon. 0 to 60mph in 4.5 seconds with a top speed of 132mph. Competition is even fiercer this year and includes past championship drivers. My first outing in July was the Caterham 60 year anniversary meeting at Donnington. For those of you who may know Colin Chapman of Lotus fame, he was the father of the Caterham. This very British brand has a huge following.

The circuit was packed with spectators from all over the UK and Europe. At least 500 road cars attended the event! My first race was very eventful for two reasons. I overtook 5 cars by the first corner and was then hit in the rear on the third corner. By the time I had recovered from my wild spin I was last. Still I finally took the chequered flag in 18th place. It was a tough race with several cars not finishing due to contact and mechanical issues. Such are the Highs and lows of Motorsport!

The excitement now builds for some wheel to wheel racing at Oulton Park in August. I can't wait!

Races take place at various locations and with Tony racing in the top level 420R series he can be seen at the following locations this year in car 65

Oulton Park 12th August

Rockingham 16th & 17th September

Silverstone 14th & 15th



Boy Racer? (Cont)



The best experience of Caterham racing is not only the hard fought battles for bits of tarmac across various locations the UK & Europe, but the friendships and camaraderie that have built up over the past five years. I am very lucky to be able to race with some very good friends. It's always been immensely enjoyable, adrenaline fuelled and fiercely competitive.

Since 2015 we started a Grand Prix group to watch races on the F1 calendar, and have travelled to Monaco and Singapore with Abu Dhabi booked for this November.



"By the time I had recovered from my wild spin I was last."



Cookery Corner - Low calorie Beefburgers & Roast Veg

Ingredients - For 2

Roast Vegetables

- 1 large potato +
- 1 green pepper
- 1 red pepper
- ½ medium red onion
- ½ small courgette
- Salt & Pepper
- Sunflower or olive oil

Beefburgers

- ½ small courgette
- ½ medium red onion
- 200g lean beef mince
- 1 garlic clove
- 1 beef Oxo cube
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried basil
- ½ tbsp concentrated tomato puree
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Sunflower or olive oil



Preparation



Oven 195°C / 175°C fan / Gas 5 ½

Cut the potato lengthwise into 5 or 6 slices in both directions. Boil for 5 minutes then tip into a colander to drain. Let them cool slightly and pour oil into the colander, & add salt & pepper. Toss the chips carefully (they may still be hot) to coat them in the oil & seasoning. Place on an oiled baking tray and spread to a single layer. Bake for 40 minutes.

Whilst the potatoes are boiling cut each pepper into 8 discarding the center. Cut the onion in ½, remove the outer portion & cut one ½ in half. Spread oil over the surface of the peppers & onion using your fingers and place them in a single layer on an oiled baking tray. Season with salt & pepper & bake for 30 minutes.



Grate half the courgette using a coarse grater, squeeze the water out of the shreds & place them in a large bowl. Cut the other half of the courgette in ½, coat in oil, season & bake with the veg in the oven for the last 15 minutes.

Dice the remaining half of the onion plus the garlic & add to the bowl. Add the beef, herbs, tomato puree, season & sprinkle in the Oxo cube.

Mix all the ingredients in the bowl by hand & form into 2 equal balls. Pat these down to form two patties about 30mm thick. The sides will need squeezing together during this process.

Put a few teaspoons of oil in a frying pan and heat at about ¾ max. Carefully slide the patties into the pan & cook for 6 minutes each side turning carefully only once. Add a little more oil if required. Move carefully if required as they will tend to split. Serve with the vegetables on warm plates.



Prize Quiz Where is this?

We need not only the name of the town / city, but also the name of this area within it.

Please e-mail your answer & your **full** name to:-

kfmaplecross@virginmedia.com

or post to Jeff Taylor 24 White Paddock
Maidenhead SL6 3NF by the end of November
2017. One reply per fellowship member only.

The first correct entry (or if no correct entry, the nearest to it) selected at random will win £5 off a fellowship event of their choice in 2018.

Games & puzzles

Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Hard

Wordsearch

C	S	T	A	R	L	I	N	G	U
M	B	K	E	E	L	E	T	E	C
L	A	S	W	O	R	R	A	P	S
T	E	U	A	N	E	E	S	L	N
W	N	M	S	I	E	W	O	T	E
C	A	O	P	A	I	R	N	S	N
E	O	G	E	F	L	T	W	T	I
A	A	H	T	G	B	R	H	H	B
M	U	C	I	A	I	E	N	R	O
S	O	N	A	T	I	P	E	U	R
C	L	I	R	G	M	L	I	S	N
E	A	F	P	K	O	O	R	H	S

All these birds except one are in the grid. Find which one.

- FINCH
- LARK
- MAGPIE
- PIGEON
- ROBIN
- ROOK
- SPARROW
- STARLING
- SWIFT
- THRUSH
- WAGTAIL
- WREN

1967 50 Years ago:-

- January - Alf Ramsey was knighted.
- March - The first north sea gas came ashore.
- May - The UK applied for EEC membership
- July - The first colour TV broadcasts began with Wimbledon
- September - The QE2 was launched.
- November - Charles de Gaulle vetoed UK membership of the EEC

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

Kier Fellowship

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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

Obituaries

Don Robinson who died in February

Bernie McGowan who died in May

Remember the loved ones of those who have passed away

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.

Announcements

Congratulations to Daphne Shepherd who celebrated her 90th birthday in April.



Forthcoming Events

14th September Kier Fellowship Golf Day

September Late Summer Luncheon

13th October Long Service Luncheon

November London Show

14th December Christmas Luncheon