# 41 CLUB

The Association of
Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs
of Great Britain and Ireland

# THE MAGAZINE

December 2025 – Issue 205



## IN THIS ISSUE...

**President JT is "Fired up for 41" Presidents report on pages 4 & 5**

International update, Fellowship, Motorcycle Weekend, Walking Weekend, The Great Tommy Sleep Out, Membership, Club news and more...

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# WELCOME

## Welcome to the 41 Club Magazine

This is the first edition of my time as National Communications and Community Officer following the survey I did earlier in the year. As you will see I've made a few changes, I hope you like them. It has the new 41 Club branding, it has more pages and more content, and hopefully there's something for everyone here.

Putting the magazine together is very time consuming, along with monthly newsletters, board meetings (online and in-person), council meetings, plus organising and attending community events, and I'd just like to remind everyone that we (the National Board and National Councillors) are all volunteers. We give up our time willingly to do this, instead of spending time with our families, on the golf course or down the pub with friends. So, I would like everyone to remember that when sending in emails and requests to us. Most people are very supportive but occasionally (more often than we deserve) we do get people complaining at us as if we are employees, we are not we are volunteers and do not get paid. We do these roles because we want to make a difference, we want to provide a fun and safe environment for ALL members to enjoy themselves, and we do it because we care.

Since the survey that went out earlier in the year I realised that most people want the magazine online, but some want a printed copy through the door, so to be more efficient with members money I've tried to cater for both, those that have requested it will have it posted and those that only want a digital copy have got that too. This has cut our costs down considerably and means we can now go back to 3 issues per year and still save around 30% of what was spent before.

The next issue will be before the AGM in April, there's one for the summer, and another just before Christmas like this one.

I hope you all enjoy reading the national and various club news, please do send me more content for the next issue to comms@41club.org

**Yours in Continued Friendship,**

Andy




**Cover Story:**
"Fired up for 41" – Pages 4 & 5

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The Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs
of Great Britain and Ireland
A member of the Round Table Family of Clubs

www.41club.org

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# NATIONAL PRESIDENT - JASON THOMSON

## Celebrating the Sociable Spirit of 41 Club



The sociable spirit of 41 Club has been blazing brightly this year, with countless opportunities for members to come together and connect. But what truly sets us apart is that our sociability doesn't end with a good night out - it fuels something far greater. One of the hallmarks of our Association is how we turn friendship into impact. We've always been a sociable bunch, but it's the way our good times lead to great outcomes that makes 41 Club stand out.

This year, with my theme **"Fired Up for 41"**, I've seen clubs embrace new ideas, rekindle energy and take pride in what makes us unique. Across the country, we're raising funds, supporting charities, helping communities and showing what 41ers can achieve when we're united — Stronger Together.

### Charters: Celebrating Our Past, Energising Our Future

Attending charters has been one of the great privileges of this year. Whether it's a 10-year celebration finding its stride or a 75th bursting with heritage, each one reflects the commitment and spirit of its members.

As we celebrate 80 years of the Association, these charters remind us of our roots - and inspire us to keep building. Being **"Fired Up for 41"** isn't just about energy today; it's about using that drive to secure our future and show people what we stand for - encouraging future members and growth.

### Club Events: Showcasing What We Do Best

I've enjoyed some excellent club events this year, and I truly believe that a strong programme keeps clubs alive, active and attractive. Promoting these activities on social media is essential, as it amplifies everything we do to a much wider audience. So please follow your fellow clubs, as well as the national pages - the more connected we are online, the stronger our presence becomes locally, nationally and internationally.

Communication has also stepped up through our newsletters, emails and the Association's website. Please take a moment to engage with these channels so you don't miss out on all the fantastic things happening across 41 Club.

When we shine a spotlight on the experiences that make our Association special, we stop hiding in plain sight and show others exactly what they're missing. Being **"Fired Up for 41"** means proudly sharing who we are and what we do - and encouraging others to join us on the journey.

### Moments that Make an Impact: Fire, Fun & Fundraising

The Presidential Liaison Committee has been supporting me in delivering events that bring members together with purpose and energy. Our fire walks have been a hit, with more still to come. Meanwhile, my very own disco inferno at The Groove and the Give Ball was a standout highlight so far, raising both awareness and vital funds for ANDYSMANCLUB - my chosen charity for the year. Being **"Fired Up for 41"** has helped fuel the energy behind these events, inspiring my PLC (all Four Club Family members) to get involved and embrace the spirit of the year.

Together, these occasions show exactly what happens when we combine enthusiasm with intention – unforgettable moments that make a real difference.

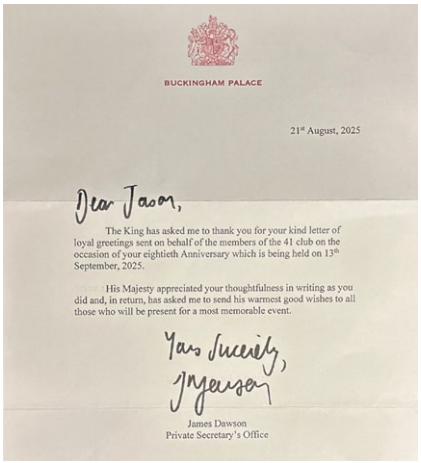
### National Events: Made By Members for Members

Our national events continue to thrive because they're created by members, for members. Whether its classic cars rally, motorbike weekend, camping and caravan weekend or annual dinners, these events demonstrate that we are keen to cater for all and embrace the varied interests of our members. That spirit of involvement and creativity is exactly what **"Fired Up for 41"** is









BUCKINGHAM PALACE

21st August, 2025

Dear Jason,

The King has asked me to thank you for your kind letter of loyal greetings sent on behalf of the members of the 41 club on the occasion of your eightieth Anniversary which is being held on 13th September, 2025.

His Majesty appreciated your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, has asked me to send his warmest good wishes to all those who will be present for a most memorable event.

Yours sincerely,

James Dawson
Private Secretary's Office

all about - encouraging members to take part, try something new and celebrate what makes our Association unique.

A new and welcome development this year has been the increased focus on regional cluster meetings supported by the National Councillors. These gatherings are designed to bring clubs together locally, creating opportunities for collaboration, shared ideas and renewed engagement that simply haven't existed for many years. Although still relatively new, the impact is already clear from those I've attended - clubs are connecting more, supporting each other and discovering fresh ways to stay active and involved as well as members meeting up with those they haven't seen for many years...It's another great example of how we can grow stronger when we come together.

Many of these adventures are shared through my President's blogs on our website, capturing the travels, mishaps and standout experiences along the way. They prove that we're far from slowing down, there's the opportunity for all members to be busier than ever.

## Podcast Launch: Giving 41ers a New Voice

Another exciting development this year is the launch of the 41 Club Podcast channel. Our first episode honours our 80 years, featuring past National Presidents sharing



memories, insights and a few laugh

More episodes are coming - shaped by your views, ideas and voices. If you'd like to be part of it, want to have a lively debate or have a great story to tell, please get in touch. This is a platform made for members, and being **"Fired Up for 41"** means helping it grow. Check out Spotify and search, The 41 Club Podcast and have a listen.

## Looking Ahead: Fired Up for the Future

We are a strong, generous and a sociable Association - but we must share that story widely.

Let's raise awareness, raise our profile and raise our voices.
Let's show our communities who we are and what we can do.
Let's keep the energy high and the momentum moving.

Because when we are **"Fired Up for 41"**, we don't just celebrate the past - we build the future. As much as we've achieved so far this year, there is still more to do and a great deal happening through the National Council and committees, with you, the members, playing an active part.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, support and friendship. It has been an incredible journey, and the best is yet to come. More events, more experiences, more stories to write.

The spark is lit - now let's keep it burning. Fired Up for 41, Stronger Together and ready for whatever comes next.




















JASON THOMSON

# ANDYSMANCLUB x 41 CLUB




ANDYSMANCLUB is a male suicide prevention charity, offering over 330 free support groups nationwide, running every Monday from 7PM excluding bank holidays.

In these groups, men can open up about the storms affecting their lives in a safe, judgement-free and non-clinical environment. Our clubs are designed to be free of pressure, there is no obligation for men to speak, they can simply listen if they wish.

With over 6,700 men using our sessions every week, and an army of volunteers on board, the movement is continuing to grow week-by-week. We firmly believe in the power of talking and that #ItsOkayToTalk.

The aim of the club is to provide men with a safe space where they feel comfortable to talk and open up about their experiences in a room free of judgement.

Since April, we have been working with 41 Club as this year's President's charity - a whirlwind few months which has seen us joining forces at fire walk events, fundraising efforts from 41 Club members nationwide, the amazing Groove and Give ball and several guest speaker slots at club meetings across the country. We have a team of people available who will happily travel to individual club meetings to share our story.

The first club meeting we attended was in Market Harborough, and following on from this meeting, the club members have worked alongside us to launch a new ANDYSMANCLUB group together which opened for the first time on 24th November - this has been a fantastic experience for all involved and hopefully it will be replicated nationwide.

If you would like to organise a speaker event, or find out more - either email info@andysmanclub.co.uk or get in touch with Jason - president@41club.org

**www.andysmanclub.co.uk I info@andysmanclub.co.uk**




## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Whether you call yourselves XRT, 41 Active, Ex-Tablers Club, 41 Plus, Veterans or something completely different, one thing never changes:

**Our spirit. Our values. Our connection.**

Names may differ. Programs may vary. Traditions may evolve.

But if we stand by our guiding principles and core values – **fellowship, respect, service and membership** – then we are and always will be... **41 Club.**

Because what matters most isn't the name on the banner – it's the people behind it.

**Different names. One shared purpose.**
**One united association - Stronger Together.**

# 41 CLUB – AFFINITY & BENEFITS

Are you aware that as a member of 41 Club you have access to a wide range of affinity deals and benefits that can save you your annual subscription to Association several times over?

For example, when booking an airport hotel and parking recently one of our members saved over £30 by using our affinity partner Holiday Extras.

Our current partners and the deals they offer are found in the Members Area of the 41 Club website at 41club.org/members-benefits/. There is a wide of businesses including motoring, travel, hotels, holidays, health and shopping all of which offer our members discounts or other benefits. These include Fred Olsen (cruises), Q Hotels, HMCA (medical insurance), Kwik Fit (motoring), Wider Wallet (retail and leisure , Wendy Wu Tours (travel) and of course Holiday Extras (travel).

**Why not visit our web site a see what you could save?**



# KC's Sunshine Charity Ball

TICKETS £65

CLUB 41

**Bringing the sunshine!**
**Enjoy an evening of fellowship, fun and great vibes.**

Dust off your dancing shoes and join National President 2026/27 Kelly Clarke & his wife Shirley for a party.

Drinks reception, followed by a three-course meal and dancing to live band ...




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www.kellyclarke41club.co.uk

# VICE PRESIDENT – KELLY CLARKE

It's hard to believe that it is now seven months since I took office as your Vice President in Aviemore, where has that time gone? The first couple of months were quiet for me which following the role of Fellowship Officer were much needed but since then it has been busy with plenty of on line meetings phone calls and of course visits.





At the time of writing this I am preparing to go to the National Arboretum with all four Immediate Past Presidents and any members who wish to be there to lead the small service that we do and for them to lay wreaths at the memorial we have within the grounds, this will be a very moving day I am sure.

I have been to several clubs including the islands of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

The visit to Guernsey was for the walking weekend which was another great fellowship event even if we did nearly get blown off the island with strong winds blowing in from the Atlantic.

The motorcycle weekend saw its biggest gathering of bikers coming along as we just escaped the worst of the weather., much the same for the classic car weekend big numbers again and another bad weather forecast but just escaped it. There seemed to have been a theme this year or was it just the fact that I was there? It is great to see that all of these events are now seeing more people go to them and enjoy the Fellowship that just flows out from them.

It has been great visiting clubs not just for charter nights but cluster meetings where several clubs get together meeting old friends there always seem to be that little bit more to these evenings. Just a normal club night is also a top night for a visit having been to some for an activity or a speaker meeting.

I am now looking forward to my year as President making plans which you will hear more about at the AGM in Southampton, but in the meantime if you would like to book me to come and visit your club next year for any of the afore mentioned events please get in touch via my web page https://www.kellyclarke41club.co.uk/contact-kelly-or-the-team/

By the time this is printed my Presidents ball will be open for bookings which is taking place on the 10th October 26 at Sprowston Manor Country House Hotel near Norwich again bookings can be made from the website. This promises to be a great evening of fun and dancing through till 1am.

**YiCF**

*Kelly*











**BOOKING CLOSES END OF DECEMBER**

# FELLOWSHIP IN ACTION: 41 Club's Quiet Revolution in Men's Welfare and Well-Being



In an era where loneliness is labelled a public health crisis and male suicide remains one of the leading causes of death for older British men, our organisation is continually proving that the antidote to isolation is in the enduring power of friendship.

### Well-being begins with belonging.

Our monthly meetings - whether over steak and ale, a guest speaker, pub games, or a charity quiz - are more than social rituals. They are deliberate acts of connection, designed to combat the silent drift that can follow middle-age, retirement from Table, retirement from work, bereavement, ill-health, or life's quieter chapters.

"Many men struggle in silence," says National President Jason Thomson. "We don't wait for crisis. We build the bonds that prevent it."

Think about it. This philosophy underpins so many club initiatives, from simply looking out for our fellow members to providing voluntary working parties for community projects or arranging local fundraising for mental health charities. Our clubs don't just talk about mental health: we normalise it, destigmatise it, and - crucially - we act on it.

### Buddies & Buddyline: A Lifeline in Plain Sight.

The 41 Club Buddies initiative and our flagship Buddyline service represent 41 Club's most direct response to an epidemic of loneliness. Conceived by former National Council Liaison Officer Peter McBride in 2020, the programme trains volunteer members (known simply as Buddies) to be empathetic listeners. Not therapists, but distant friends ready to hear, hold space, and help.

If you're feeling fed up, lonely, or isolated - or if you or just fancy a chat - you can call Buddyline any day, 10am–10pm on 03301 07 07 40. You can speak in confidence to a fellow 41er - a real person, a real conversation, and no judgement. Over the past 5 years Buddyline has been described as transformative - not just for callers, but for the volunteers who rediscover purpose in service as Buddies. If you are interested in undertaking the relevant training to perform this role, please contact wellbeing@41club.org to start the discussion.

### Presidential Passion: ANDYSMANCLUB

This year, President Jason Thomson has thrown the full weight of our national network behind ANDYSMANCLUB, a peer-to-peer suicide prevention charity that runs free, talking-based groups for men every Monday evening across the UK.

"We're not just raising money," JT explains; "We're opening doors - literally. Funding new clubs, connecting speakers, and using our 11,200 members to start conversations that save lives."

The partnership embodies another part of 41 Club's unwritten welfare philosophy: prevention through presence. It's not enough to react to crisis. We must help cultivate the conditions where crisis is less likely to take root. Psychologically safe spaces where men recognise that #itsoktotalk - whether it's at their 41 Club meeting, on our Buddyline, or at one of Andy's Man Clubs.

### A Broader Vision: Welfare Beyond the 41 Club Meeting

41 Club extends far beyond its membership. Local clubs fundraise for children's hospices, support food banks, and champion health awareness on everything from prostate cancer to diabetes. But the ripple effect begins at home: a member who feels supported is more likely to give back.

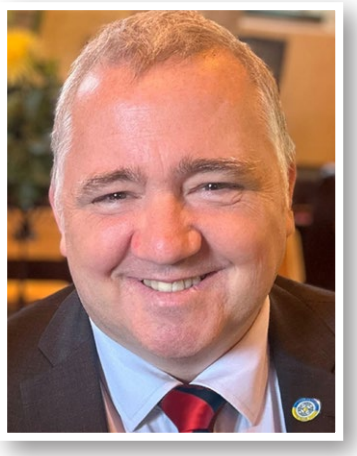
This virtuous circle is just like the often-repeated Round Table mantra: the more you put in the more you get out. From a wellbeing perspective it's an ethos that is practical, sustainable, and deeply human.

### The Heart of the Matter: Fellowship as Medicine

Through our network of 41 Clubs we are a community that refuses to let our members fall through the cracks. All the 41ers who look after and look out for each other; the ones who pick up the phone or open their home to their fellow members; the volunteer Buddies who answer the Buddyline calls: you guys prove every day that welfare isn't a service, it's a relationship.

We are a grassroots movement and we are redefining welfare and well-being through community, conversation, and compassionate action. But we need to talk about it so your best practice can be shared for the greater good. Let us know about the wellbeing, wellness or welfare initiatives in your club (or ask for some inspiration) by emailing wellbeing@41club.org.

**The wellbeing page is on our website at https://41club.org/members-information**



# From the  *(keyboard)* of the National Secretary

**For those who remember the adverts (and with my apologies), this is the Carlsberg section – the most boring part of the magazine….! However it is important, so please keep reading!**

## 2026 National Capitation

The National Capitation which is due from your Club will be calculated based upon the number of recorded members it has on 1st January 2026. This includes Club Honorary members, in respect of whom National Capitation is payable. No National Capitation is payable for any member until the financial year in which he attains the age of 46.

In order to ensure that your Club has the correct number of members recorded for 2026, it is important that one of your Club Officers checks your Club Administration System (CAS) entry in late December 2025 and makes any required amendments. Once your Club's National Capitation liability has been calculated by CAS it is difficult to amend, so please try and get your numbers right!

National Capitation for 2026 was set at £23 per member at the 2025 National A.G.M. This becomes payable from 1st January 2026. If payment is not made by 31st March 2026, the Club will fall into arrears. ***This applies to all clubs, regardless of when you hold your own club A.G.M.*** If your Club falls into arrears it will be prohibited from voting at the National A.G.M. and neither it, nor you will covered by the 41 Club insurance policy for any 41 Club events or activities. Any Club which remains in arrears after 30th September can be expelled by the National Council, so please pay!

As has been the practice for several years, your Club will not be sent an invoice for payment of its National Capitation. Instead it is the responsibility of your Club Treasurer to log onto CAS and click on the 'Payment' link. This will take him to the information on how much is due and how to pay. He can also download the Club's invoice.

If paying by bank transfer your Club's name should be clearly shown as the payment reference. Similarly, if paying by cheque, the Club name should be noted on the reverse. ***Please send cheques to the address shown in the payment section – NOT to Marchesi House.*** Receipts for payment will not be provided, no matter how many times you politely request one. Please remember that the National Treasurer is a volunteer – try to help him retain his hair and keep his blood pressure down by complying with these requests.

## National Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs Limited - Company Limited by Guarantee (C.L.G.) Member registration

Members of Clubs who have registered a C.L.G. member may now turn the page – all others please keep reading!

As you are (hopefully) aware, the National Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs (a.k.a. 41 Club) has become a Company Limited by Guarantee (C.L.G.), which is registered at Companies House. A great deal of information was circulated about the change, but if you require any further information, please visit the members area at 41club.org

Each 41 Club is required to nominate an individual (one of its members) who will be a 'Member' of the C.L.G. This individual is similar to a shareholder in a traditional 'Limited' company, rather than being a Director. An individual may be the C.L.G. Member for more than one 41 Club, provided that he is a member of each of those 41 Clubs.

The Members of the C.L.G. exercise control over it by voting at its General Meetings. The overall operation of the C.L.G. is in the hands of its Executive Board of Directors (appointed in accordance with the C.L.G.'s Articles

of Association) namely 41 Club's National President, IPP, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two National Councillors.

The day-to-day operation of the C.L.G. is the responsibility of the Management Board (the traditional 41 Club National Board), subject to the oversight and approval of the National Council. 41 Club's Rules (as approved at the A.G.M.) will continue to apply.

Each C.L.G. Member is jointly and severally responsible for the debts of the C.L.G., but their individual liability is limited to £1 for each membership they hold, payable in the event of the C.L.G. being wound up (e.g. if a claim was made against the C.L.G. which was not covered by the insurance and could not be met from its assets).

A Register of "Members' is required to be held and be available for inspection. This is held by me as National Secretary (rather than at Companies House).

Any Club which has not registered a C.L.G. Member - and there are still a couple (of hundred) out there - should use the following link to do so: https://forms.gle/gKhA35CMabJcKiU79

If your Club fails to nominate a C.L.G. Member, it will not be able to vote at the Association's A.G.M.

Please check with your Club Officers whether a C.L.G. Member has been registered for your Club and please do not hesitate to contact me if any further information is required.

**Finally,** a thought for the day ...
'With age comes wisdom ...
and hair in really weird places!'

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TO: ALL CLUB MEMBERS OF AFFILIATED CLUBS**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 16.2 THAT THE 80th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF EX-ROUND TABLERS' CLUBS LIMITED WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 11th APRIL 2026 AT THE SHANE WARNE SUITE, UTILITA BOWL STADIUM, BOTLEY ROAD, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3XH COMMENCING AT 9:00 a.m.**

**AGENDA TO FOLLOW.**

Please note:

1. Resolutions in accordance with Rule 16.3 should be sent to the National Secretary, to arrive no later than Friday 10th January 2026. Resolutions proposed by a Constituent Club must be seconded by a different Constituent Club. Representatives of both Clubs must be present at the AGM to formally propose and second the resolution.
2. Nominations for Association Officer positions (listed below) in accordance with Rules 6.2–6.4, 6.6, 6.8 should be sent to the National Secretary, on the specified form, to arrive no later than Saturday 10th January 2026.
3. This year, nominations are sought for:
   (1) National Vice-President (President-Elect) (2026-2027)
   (2) National International Relations Officer (2026 - 2029)
   (3) National Treasurer-Elect (National Treasurer) (2027 - 2030)

Application forms and Job Descriptions for these roles for can be found in the members section of the 41 Club website – 41club.org

Please note the eligibility criteria as follows:

- All nominees –must be members of a Constituent Club (affiliated and has paid its National Capitation) (Rule 6.2)
- National Vice President –must have served on the National Council for two years within the three years preceding the Annual General Meeting at which he is elected (Rule 6.8).
- National International Relations Officer – must be a former Round Table member (Rule 6.2)
- National Treasurer-Elect –must have successfully completed an accounting course as part of his professional qualification (Rule 6.4).

# MEMBERSHIP

## Latest News and Announcements

Dear Members,

We are pleased to share this update to keep you informed about the latest developments and upcoming activities within our organisation. Your continued participation and support are greatly appreciated, and we remain committed to providing you with valuable experiences and opportunities.

### Membership Roadshows

We have been running Membership Roadshows for two nearly years now and they really do make a difference to the Clubs who attend them. We have two more left before the National Conference – on 30th & 31st January 2026 in Exeter at the Leonardo Hotel, Western Way, Exeter, EX21 2DB and on 13th & 14th March 2026 in Norwich at the Mercure Hotel, 121 -131 Boundary Road, Norwich, NR3 2BA. Bookings can be made via the Events tab on the 41 Club website – 41club.org.

The event is free for two Club members and this late in the year the content will be targeted at Vice–Chairmen and Membership Officers to assist them in planning the forthcoming year. The members a Club delegates to attend is of course your Club's decision.

The event will open from 5:00 p.m. on the Friday evening with socialising with the other delegates and having an evening meal to break the ice with some fellowship, before a full day's workshop on the Saturday.

We will look at Club structures and responsibilities, all the more important with the recent changes to our Association. We will then look at your programme and how to make it work to provide interesting and attractive events and activities which your members (and others) will want to attend. Many Clubs have low numbers and difficulties with people attending meeting – we will look at how these issues can be overcome.

Next, we will look at the thorny issue of recruiting members. In reality this is a necessity if your Club is going to survive. How to effectively market your club with or without a feeder Table and considering how to blend members aged 40+ with those aged 75+. Can it work? Yes, it can and we can help.

We will look at social media dos and don'ts, setting up a Facebook page and using Instagram, What's App, and Spond and understanding how to use hashtags # effectively.

We will introduce you to Canva, a tool for preparing print, and social media designs for posters, flyers and events using the Association typeface and design.

Finally, but not least we will look at retention and welfare of members who are older, infirm or going through difficult times – how to keep in touch and keep them involved and the use of Buddies, Vortex and organisations like Andy's Man Club. If you wish to bring more members, get in touch – we will try to squeeze them in, but don't leave it too late.





*Participants In Birmingham Roadshow – September*

## Get Involved (Bring Him In)

The Membership Team and the National Councillors have been receiving regular membership enquiries via getinvolved@41club.org. When we contact you, it is important that you contact the individuals who wish to join and invite them to your meetings. It's OK if it doesn't work, but let me or your National Councillor know so we can support them elsewhere. Many clubs are recruiting great members through this initiative.

## Bring Him Home

This is a slightly delayed initiative we hope to start in 2026. Its purpose is to recruit Ex-Round Tablers who, for whatever reason, never made the successful transition to 41 Club. The Team and I will be working on this, but we will need your help too.

If you have had an event that was a little different this year, or even last year – not a Speaker Night or Black–Tie Dinner – but something like a butchery night, ghost walk or something different, I would like your pictures to help with the campaign. Please send them to me at membership@41club.org before 31st January. Your Club can be part of a big social media and local radio campaign to raise our profile generally, but also to attract Ex-Round Tablers who didn't join us for various reasons. I also hope to get non-Tablers aged 40+ to be energised by all the fun we are having!

## Keep Him In

Whilst we have been reorganising, we have inevitably lost Clubs which have decided to disaffiliate, usually due to increasing age and/or declining numbers. However we have been working with Vortex, our online E-club numbers to provide an alternative to 'traditional' Club meetings and to focus on its programme for members whose Clubs have closed, or who have moved to somewhere without a 41 Club. Vortex's details can be found at VORTEX 41 Club | Facebook.

The group meets monthly and has virtual Speaker Nights and occasional face to face gatherings at National or Regional events. This is a great place to go if your Club folds, or you can no longer attend your Club meetings. The Membership Team will be working with Vortex to improve our services and fellowship to such members. Being a Vortex member means you can retain the fellowship which is the essence of 41 Club!

As Christmas and the New Year approach, your focus may shift elsewhere but consider making Club membership a New Year's resolution priority!

I look forward to sending more new member packs to your Club in the future.

Mark Gray

**National Membership officer**





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# NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

The National Fellowship events taking place over the last few months have been a great success with all selling out well in advance and with record numbers attending. So, if you are interested in coming along next make sure you book early to avoid disappointment!

To give you a flavour of what you are have been missing here is a summary of this year:

The Classic Car Weekend in June was hosted by Dereham & District who put on the Founders' Tour of Norfolk. Approaching sixty classic and some not so classic cars along with over 120 delegates took part and toured the county taking in the Norfolk Broads as well the coast and finishing at tour on Sunday at the magnificent Holkham Hall.

The first weekend in July was the Camping & Caravaning event held at Pentewan Sands just outside St Austell, Cornwall. Nearly eighty of us stayed for the weekend on the site with its own private beach and great facilities catering for everyone whether they camped, caravanned, motor homed or stayed in one of the static caravans on site. Adrian Wakefield and Viv Wyss organised everything to the finest detail and even the weather wasn't too bad!

The middle of July brought the motorcycle weekend in Bournemouth organised by National councillor, Trevor Langford. Around thirty bikes from Harley Davidsons to 1970's BMWs and everything in between took part along with their riders and some pillions. Tours of the Dorset countryside were the order of the day along with usual helping of fellowship.

For the golfers amongst us the National Golf Tournament took place at the end of September at the challenging Hellidon Lakes course near Daventry in Northamptonshire. It is fair to say that tricky greens found most people out with the lower scores posted this year compared to previous events reflecting this. The individual winner was Roger Barlow from Ashby De La Zouch and the team prize for both the Sunday and Monday competitions was won by a joint team from Dereham & District and Stalham.

Finally, we come to the Walking Weekend organised by Bill Bowen of Guernsey 41 Club. What fantastic weekend with the walks showcasing what the island as to offer both in terms of its rich history and stunning scenery. The weather played its part on the Friday and Saturday with Storm Amy battering the island and those of us fool enough to go out in it – as the saying goes 'there is no such thing as wrong weather just wrong clothing'! On the Friday our waterproofs were tested to their limit and on the Saturday the 50 to 60mph winds tuned the coastal walk in to something of a grit blasting experience. However, I am pleased to report that by Sunday calmer weather and seas returned in time for our trip and walk around to the delightful island of Herm.

Planning for next year's events is already well in hand to help you plan your diaries for next year the programme currently looks as follows:

**National Spring & Social Weekend** – Coventry - 6-8 February. Booking already open

**Classic Car Weekend –** Hexham – Northumberland 250 – 22-25 May

**Motorcycle Weekend** – Felixstowe – Suffolk Coast – 10-12 July

**Camping & Caravanning Weekend** – Norfolk – 4-6 September

**Walking Weekend** – Swansea – Mumbles & Gower - 11-13 September

**National Golf Tournament** – 27-28 September – Venue TBC

Further details on all events when available and how to book can be found on the 41 Club Events page of our website: https://41club.org/41-club-events/

The events cover a wide range of interests and will not happen without the enthusiastic members who volunteer to organise them and so if would like to help with future events or we do not put on an event or activity that you think would be of interest to us then please get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at one or more of the events next year !

Stuart Bizley

**National Fellowship Officer – fellowship@41club.org**












# STEPPING INTO FRIENDSHIP:

## A Memorable 41 Club Walking Weekend in Guernsey

94 members and friends of 41 Club & Tangent gathered on the picturesque island of Guernsey for the National Walking Weekend. From Thursday 2nd to Monday 6th October 2025, the Guernsey 41 Club , lead by Bill Bowen, hosted a National Walking Weekend that blended camaraderie, coastal beauty, history, and hearty laughter into an unforgettable experience.

### A Warm Welcome to the Island

Guernsey, just 3 by 6 miles in size, welcomed us with open arms and stunning scenery. This gem of the Channel Islands offered a perfect backdrop for our walking adventure.

The Duke of Normandie Hotel in St. Peter Port served as our base, and it couldn't have been more ideal. Centrally located, cozy, and welcoming, it quickly became the hub of our social and walking activities.

### Kicking Off with a Toast

We arrived to bright blue skies on Thursday and a cheerful welcome Vin d'Honneur at the hotel. Introductions were made, and the spirit of continued friendship—the very heart of the 41 Club—was alive and well. Some chose to dine at the hotel, enjoying a delicious three-course meal, while others ventured into St. Peter Port to explore its vibrant culinary scene.

### Walking into Wonder

Friday morning dawned as storm Amy barrelled in. Perfect for walking! Luckily, we were far enough south and it brightened up as the day went on.

Walk One was a more strenuous trek from St. Peter Port to Jerbourg Point, winding along dramatic cliff paths with breathtaking views. After a packed lunch at Jerbourg, walkers continued along the south coast to Petit Bôt beach, where a bus awaited to return them to town.

Walk Two offered a gentler pace, starting with a walk to St. Sampson harbour. A guided tour revealed the rich history of shipbuilding and the granite industry, with stunning examples of architecture along the way. After a picnic lunch near Vale Castle, the group meandered along the east coast to Pembroke bay , on the way visiting a Dolman stone grave over 2500 BC.

Friday evening brought a guided night walk through St. Peter Port exploring tales of privateers, smugglers, ghosts, and the infamous press gangs. The cobbled streets and historic buildings came alive under the moonlight, adding a touch of mystery to our weekend.

### Granite and Grandeur

Saturday walkers experienced high winds but dry. In two groups we were bussed to either Pembroke or Fort Hommet, with coastal scenic routes connecting the two. Fort Hommet's Accredited guides and members of Festinog Guernsey (who are opening up the German fortifications and restoring to original conditions. ) Showed us around the Napolionic, German fortifications and shell shrine .

Onward via Les Vardes granite quarry with characters from wind in the willows carved in timber and one group had their picnic lunch overlooking the very deep working quarry.



*The midday Gun*



*JT, National President with Bill Bowen Guernsey41*




*Le petit train transport to the gala dinner*



*Rugged west coast walk*



*Herm Walk*

The afternoon was free for shopping—tax-free, of course—or exploring local attractions. Guernsey's charm extended beyond its trails, with boutique shops, museums, and seaside cafés offering plenty to discover.

The evening luxury transport , le petit train, took us for the Celebration Dinner at Les Cotils. Overlooking St. Peter Port and nearby islands, the venue offered spectacular views and a warm ambiance. Laughter echoed through the dining hall as stories from the walks were shared, new friendships cemented, and old ones rekindled. JT , national President made a speech promoting mental health and the raffle raised £1156 towards the two charities.

## Island Escapade to Herm

Sunday was dedicated to Herm Island, a short ferry ride away. With no cars and only the sound of seabirds and waves, Herm was a tranquil paradise. We walked the entire island including Shell and Belvoir beaches with there wonderful sands giving us spectacular views over the small islands known as the Homps with France in the distance. Final stop was at the Mermaid Tavern for a hearty lunch and then ferry home.

## Farewell, But Not Goodbye

Monday marked the end of our walking weekend, but the memories lingered. Some members extended their stay, taking advantage of off-season discounts, while others made their way home, already reminiscing about the laughter, landscapes, and lasting connections.

## More Than Just a Walk

What made this weekend truly special wasn't just the scenery or the well-organized programme—it was the people. The 41 Club's ethos of continued friendship shone through every moment. Whether sharing a pint, navigating a cliff path, or swapping stories over dinner, the sense of community was palpable.

Special thanks go to Bill & Gerardine Bowen, the Guernsey 41 Club co-ordinator, whose tireless efforts ensured everything ran smoothly. From travel logistics to guided tours, Bill's attention to detail and warm hospitality were appreciated by all.

## Looking Ahead

As we packed our walking boots and souvenirs, one thing was clear: the 41 Club Walking Weekend in Guernsey was more than an event—it was an experience. One filled with laughter, discovery, and the joy of shared journeys.

Here's to the next adventure in Wales. Until then, we'll cherish the memories of Guernsey's cliffs, camaraderie, and the enduring spirit of the 41 Club.

By Alan Short, **Shirley Late Knights.**



*Fort Hommet*



*Gala Meal Night*



*Friday morning start in Storm Amy*

# WEEKEND REVIEW:

## 41 Club Motorcycle Fellowship – Bournemouth, 18–20 July 2025





The 41 Club's annual motorcycle weekend returned in spectacular fashion, this time rolling into Bournemouth's Carlton Hotel. Building on the legacy of previous hosts—Hinckley, Kings Lynn, the Peak District, and Llandrindod Wells—this event offered scenic routes, social warmth, and unbeatable camaraderie.

As a relatively new member to the 41 Club this was my first attendance at one of these events and I had a great time riding and meeting other members.

From the Friday afternoon pre-ride at Chieveley Services to the final coffee stop back at the same location on Sunday, the schedule was thoughtfully arranged. Attendees were welcomed by organisers Trevor Langford, John Spinks and Peter Quinn, who ensured a smooth, memorable weekend. The presence of National President Jason Thomson, Vice President Kelly Clarke, and Fellowship Officer Stuart Bizley added a layer of distinction to the gathering.

Saturday's ride was the highlight: a stunning journey through Dorset's and Hampshire's most picturesque destinations—from Wimborne Minster's historic charm to the dramatic cliffs of the Jurassic Coast and iconic landmarks like Cerne Abbas and Portland Bill. Riders returned to a dinner in the Library, capping the day with food and fellowship. Both Friday and Saturday were sunny and warm/hot ideal biking conditions.

On Sunday only the very hardy took the winding farewell ride through the New Forest included a visit to the Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum café, allowing a glimpse of legendary machines the rest battled the weather for a soggy ride home.

Throughout, the 41 Club's purpose shone brightly: promoting lifelong friendship beyond Round Table years. This weekend wasn't just about riding—it was about community, shared memories, and the freedom of the open road with friends who never rust.

Looking forward to next year's ride around Suffolk.

Mark Best

**Downend 41 Club**








MOTORCYCLE WEEKEND






# JULY CLUB MEETING AT WEST BAY

The July meeting this year was organised for a trip to Bridport and in particular, West Bay. There were fourteen members who decided to make the trip and any early travellers were invited to meet at Tony Rogers house for Sausages. This invitation was accepted by one carload. They were joined later by President John accompanied by Tim Beech and Roger T. All the others made their way to the Quay at West Bay where the action was due to start at 1830.

We met a number of Bridport 41 Club members there,where there were moored two very large rigid inflatable boats which are normally used to take members of the public for a hair rising spin in Lyme Bay. These were named Dubh Mer and Dash of Lyme. Well it was our turn and we were met by the two chaps who were to helm these boats. We were all kitted out in life jackets and divided between the two boats. We were given a briefing by the crew before we set off which consisted of assuring us how safe these boats are. He continued to say that if anybody did fall out then the life belt would do its job and inflate in which case then lay back in the water until picked up. He continued to say that if the life belt did not inflate there was a red nozzle to pull in which case it would do as intended. He also added that if anyone was in trouble then to raise a hand and wave it in the air so that it could be seen and if that was not possible then to get someone else to raise their hand for you. BUT ITS VERY SAFE!!! This sounded like famous last words.

With that we set off from the Quay our members divided between the two boats We were sat on individual seats each with a grab handle, oh yes! Part of the briefing was to keep your head up as you could end up losing a tooth or two on the grab handle, BUT ITS ALL VERY SAFE!!!!

The boats left the harbour very sedately and then launched themselves into Lyme Bay at terrific speed. Remember that its VERY SAFE. Initially we went along the coast in the direction of Lyme Regis. The sea although looking flat before we started did have a little swell on it causing our boats to leap in the air and then hit the water with a bang and clouds of spray. Fortunately the spray returned to the sea and not the occupants of the boats. The boats then did a few wheelies - if that's possible in a boat - passing each other closely, enough to hear the groans from the passengers. By now knuckles were fused to the grab handles (personally speaking in any case) and the waving of a hand seemed extremely foolhardy.

We then blasted back along the coast to the east as far as Hive Beach where followed a number of very high speed turns seemingly standing the boats on their sides and sterns (back end for the non sailors) at an alarming rate. During all of this a number did take photos with their mobiles and even managed to hang on to them. It was then back into West Bay Harbour and mooring up and guess what??!! It was VERY SAFE AND NOBODY FELL OUT. Well none that I saw anyway. No one was wet and no teeth lost. Amazing!!

As far as I know no one was ill either.

We all then retired to the West Bay Hotel where it had been organised for a meal for all of us. The menu had been pre selected for the pubs convenience and the beer was the local brew -Palmers and no its not brewed with water from the River Brit strained through an old supermarket trolley. It is a very acceptable pint and the food was excellent. The staff were very friendly and the atmosphere was excellent.

Our thanks to Bridport 41 Club for arranging such a super evening was given by President John and I should mention that Kevin Toon had something to do with it as well. Those who were not there missed a super evening.

**From Your West Country Reporter**

Roger Thompson

# IRO KEVIN STEWART

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS TO DATE

Between May and June I attended 3 AGMs, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands and then in October the FYM in India. I have already reported on the Norwegian AGM, this report will cover the rest of my travels.

The Swedish AGM was held in Gothenburg and was a combined weekend with Round Table, Ladies Circle and Agora. I flew in on the Thurs and in the evening caught up with people I hadn't seen in years, in particular the Swedish 41 club president who I first met 10 years ago at the Round Table conference in Aviemore. Friday was spent touring Gothenburg and then in the evening onto home parties where I was able to mix with members of all 4 clubs and get a sense of how membership stood and issues they have. Saturday was introduced at the AGM along with the other international guests and then in the evening with them at the Gala dinner. I met my counterpart from RT as well on the night. Because this was a combined event, there were 1400 attending with all the organisations having their own dining venues. I certainly enjoyed the weekend, however just the sheer numbers meant it wasn't really easy to talk to people in any quiet sense.

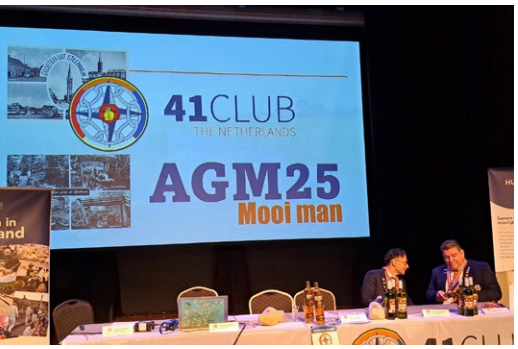
The following weekend I attended the Dutch AGM, in Steenwijk which was about 1.5 hours by car from Amsterdam. This again was a combined event with the Round Table but was much smaller in scale. Myself and Dr Sid the international 41 club president were the only international guests. The Friday night was the traditional welcome party and I had forgotten how crazy the Dutch are when it comes to partying. Many years ago when I was in City of Edinburgh RT , we were part of the Euro 193 clubs and it was great to meet up with current tablers from the club. ( no 41 club unfortunately. On the Saturday I sat through the whole AGM and although it was conducted in Dutch, I could certainly see that 41 Club in the Netherlands is expanding and how they are putting strategies in place to keep this growth going. The Sat night was the Gala dinner which was a really good evening, though having no set seating plan was a new one on me.

My final international trip as IRO was to attend the 41 Club international HYM in Kochi , India which I combined with a post tour personal holiday afterwards. Across the 4 days, there was great fellowship, however by the time the event and the post tour were over, I did not want to see or taste anther curry again. Suffice to say my first meal back was good old fish and chips.

We were taken on a sightseeing tour of Kochi on the Friday morning and it was certainly an interesting experience. The traffic was crazy and how we avoided not crashing in to other traffic I'll never know. The workshops on the Friday afternoon gave updates and presentations on the European Regions, the 41 Club academy and prostate cancer awareness .With regards to the European regions, the issues over how this had not being formally voted were dealt with, with the board putting in pace a formal timeline for voting by the delegates. I can also report that the proposed changes to how international capitation were to be collected are no longer being taken forward. At the AGM on the Saturday, Gibraltar were formally inducted as a full member of 41 club international. The Saturday night we were treated to traditional Indian opera with a disco to finish. However beforehand we had to listen to speeches from business people on leadership, this was obviously something the Indians put a lot of take on and this is reflected in how the Indians use 41 club as part of day to day business. This was not one of best attended from a GB & I point of view, as there were only about 2 of us there, compared to the usual 30 or so we normally have at these events. Cost and location did have something to do with this. The post tour was the highlight of the 2 weeks as we were taken around Southern India and It will be one I will fondly remember as my time as IRO. Looking forward to Southampton in April next year and handing over to my successor.

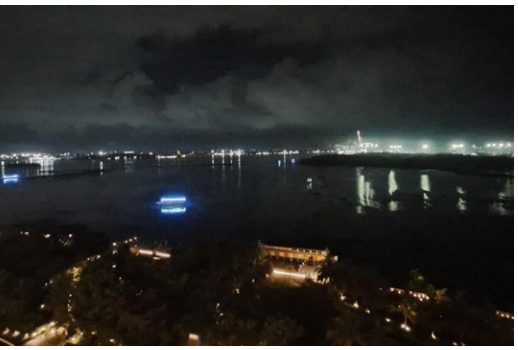





41CLUB
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AGM25
Mooi man










BANNER EXCHANGE

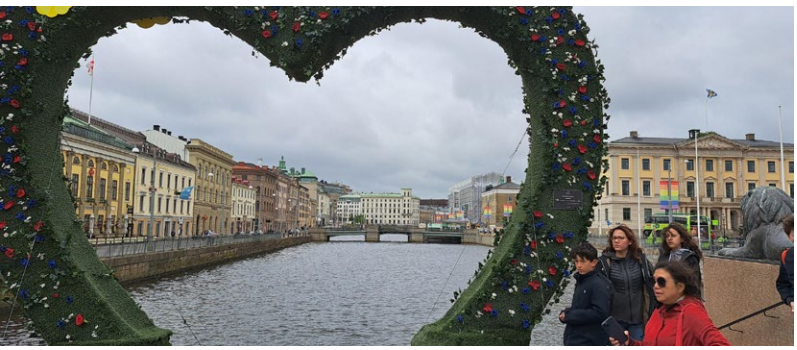

MA-TROSOR








Keraleeyam





# ROUND TABLE ROUNDUP




## 3 NEW TABLES CHARTERED

We (re)chartered 3 Tables at the October Council meeting, Cork 329, Chigwell 666, and South Dublin 1256. We also have Wimborne, Southam, Congleton, and Foyle in formation. If you have any leads on potential re-charters in your area reach out to Richard Clarke National Membership Officer, membership@roundtable.org.uk





## 500 NEW MEMBERS (AND COUNTING)

Another storming year for recruitment so far, with some of the biggest fundraisers and community events still to come there is expectation that Round Table will see growth once again this year, continuing the trend of the past two years, with little sign on any let up.



## 6 MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Much of the recent success in terms of membership numbers and the opening of new Tables can be attributed to the Chairman and Vice Workshops.
These weekends have been the launchpad for sharing best practice, teaching practical skills, and enjoying some good old fashioned fellowship.

With over half of all GB&I Tables attending in the last 24months we are now focusing on making sure those yet to attend are making sure they have access to the resources and are given the opportunity to make it to their local workshop.

We have also opened our doors to international guests looking to replicate our model and learn a bit about our content. IRO James Edwards even delivered a mini workshop at the CEE Region Meeting earlier this year.

## TICKET TAILOR PLATFORM DISCOUNT

The National Board have negotiated a 50% discount with ticket selling platform Ticket Tailor for all Round Tables regardless of their charitable status. They also do not charge fees for free to attend events which makes it a very flexible payment collection platform. More details can be found on our website here: www.roundtable.co.uk/post/ticket-tailor-x-round-table



## WIDER WALLET DISCOUNT SCHEME

Tabler Experience Offcier, Steve Crocombe, introduced the wider wallet discount scheme to Table members in May. This also includes discounts from Tablers businesses exclusive to Tablers, ranging from financial services to discounts on Velux Roof Windows.



## AREA KICK-OFF WORKSHOP

At the beginning of the Table year we attempted to bring together as many area and region representatives in the first 'Kick off' Weekend hosted in a generation.

The aim of the weekend was to empower and equip area teams to help the Tables and Tablers in their areas. As well as discuss in a wider forum some of the struggles and weaknesses felt and found across the association.

## RTI SOCIAL MEDIA AWARD

RTBI was recognised for the success of the 'Man Creche' campaign which has been widely adopted by Tables up and down the association as part of their membership drives and generally increasing the visibility of the association in public forums.

# STRONGER TOGETHER: A Mid-Year Message from Tangent President Josie



As I reach the halfway point of my Presidential year, it feels slightly strange to be introducing myself — but here we go! I'm Josie, and I live in Leicestershire with my husband Mark, our three cats, and a wonderfully mad Springer Spaniel named Steve.

I am absolutely delighted to serve as President of the National Association of Tangent Clubs this year, to be working alongside all the other Presidents — and in particular, Jason. Having known him since our Table and Circle days, we've built a strong working relationship founded on friendship, shared goals, and a genuine passion for ensuring that the Round Table Family continues to thrive and inspire the next generation. Through shared ideas, training sessions, and the development of new materials, we've been able to strengthen our Associations. We truly are *Stronger Together,* making sure we are *Fit for the Future*.

Jason's drive and energy both inspire and, I must admit, occasionally provoke a little envy. Every time I check Facebook he seems to be somewhere new — often overseas — visiting 41 Clubs and meeting members. I'm not sure where he gets his stamina from, but I do know that with his leadership, the dedication of the Board and Council, and the enthusiasm of the membership, the future of 41 Club looks incredibly promising.

This year saw an extraordinary milestone, with 41 Club celebrating its 80th anniversary in May. The September celebration was a real highlight of my year. I was honoured to attend the lunch, joined by Danielle, President of Ladies Circle, and it was wonderful to reconnect with old friends and make many new ones. I did my best to stand out in a red dress, though a couple of 41 Club members certainly gave me a run for my money! It was also a pleasure to speak at the event and announce the plan for each Association to celebrate its special upcoming anniversaries with the planting of an oak tree at the National Arboretum — a legacy that will last for generations.

JT's National President's *Groove and Give Ball* was another tremendous success. There was certainly no shortage of grooving, plenty of generous giving, and an absolutely fantastic atmosphere. Congratulations to everyone involved on raising such an impressive amount for ANDYSMANCLUB — a truly remarkable charity supporting men and encouraging open conversations about life. That's something we in Tangent are very good at!

This year, I am proud to support the British Heart Foundation. I'm encouraging everyone to take part in CPR training — either in person or through the BHF's simple 15-minute online session, *BHF RevivR,* which teaches the basics using nothing more than a cushion. Why not schedule it into one of your meetings? Or even try it at home with your family?

# LADIES CIRCLE

Can you believe we have reached the 6 month mark and what a 6 months it has been!

We have seen a steady increase in members and have re-chartered 3 clubs, with the next re-charter happening in January 2026 in Elgin, Scotland (the very top of). We have many clubs in formation and excited to start their journey within the Roundtable Family. We are finding that our success with new clubs and growing the association is supported further when there is a well established club from one of the other Round Table Family Associations. We have had many a meeting alongside one, if not two other clubs to support getting of the ground and give that helping hand locally. This also strengthens our bonds and make us truly Stronger Together.

We have had so many things going on, as do we all within our associations. From our International AGM in Brasov, Romania, with fantastic food, hospitality and culture. To Remembrance Sunday and standing Side by Side in the act of Remembrance and one of the most honourable experiences. As the President's of the Associations, we are having regular meetings to work alongside each other and support one another, as we did through our year as Vice President's and stepping into this role. Working alongside, JT, Josie and Jon has been a real honour and they are truly inspirational members of our association and I look forward to the next 6 months together and our continued support of one another.

The highlight for me, is growing these friendships across all associations, getting to meet so many inspirational members and to see first hand the amazing events they put together to bring out the Fun, Friendship and Fundraising.

**Yours in Friendship**

Danielle Rosemary

**Ladies Circle President GB&I 2025-26**
**Charity of the Year: Young Minds**







# ROUND TABLE PRESIDENT – JON CLARKE

Since we last spoke we have had an action packed calendar of everything that Round Table is all about, starting with our October Council Meeting where we re-chartered 3 new clubs in Chigwell, South Dublin and Cork! I'm sure that you will join me in passing on our congratulations to all 3 clubs.

Community events are at the core of many Table schedules at this time of year, and 2025 has been no different. We have had around 120 fireworks displays organised by Tables across all nations, our annual Children In Need events raising money for children's charities across the UK, and many are now preparing for the start of Santa Season. This is a great opportunity for 41 Clubs to offer support to your local Tables to help raise money for some fantastic local causes, and all of the support is greatly appreciated!

From a membership point of view, membership is growing as the year progresses, and we are quietly confident of another year of overall growth in our membership, sustaining the growth that we have seen in the last 2 years led by our programme of workshops across the UK and Ireland.

We have also challenged ourselves this year to have a growing number of clubs, looking to arrest the decline that we have seen over the course of the past 20 years. We are hopeful that we will achieve this, however if you are in a 41 Club with no Table in your town/city and you would like to support the setup of a new club to ignite the social lives of the young people in your community, please do reach out to us! We're looking for opportunities and any support on the ground would be greatly appreciated.

We also continued our support for my chosen charity for this year, SpecialEffect, with 12 of us from across the Round Table Family taking part in One Special Walk, a group walk event from West Ham to Wembley of about 25km (although it turned out to be nearly 30km!). Unfortunately I was unable to make the finish due to illness along the route, however many of the team did complete and we were able to raise thousands of pounds to contribute to the over £100k raised by the participants!

As we head into the festive season, I would like to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - looking forward to 2026 and finishing the year in style with more members, more clubs and stronger areas!

**Yours in Table**

Jon Clark

**RTBI National President 2025-26**















# TABLE WINES

By John Martin (Region 9 National Councillor) and Mark Bonham

## Why is fine wine so expensive?

Perhaps the most sought-after red Burgundy is Romanée-Conti Grand Cru. The 2020 vintage, which may be starting to be drinkable now after 5 years, fetches around £17,500 a bottle. This price arises from its reputation and rarity. The Romanée-Conti vineyard is tiny. It is 4.5 acres and produces about 5000 cases of wine a year. Roald Dahl once wrote of it, "Sense for me this perfume! Breathe this bouquet! Taste it! Drink it! But never try to describe it! Impossible to give an account of such a delicacy with words! To drink Romanée-Conti is equivalent to experiencing an orgasm at once in the mouth and in the nose."

Compared to that, the top clarets (the red wines of Bordeaux) seem a bargain. Château Haut Brion is one of the five wines long considered the highest rank in the area. The 2020 vintage is around £500 a bottle. It is worth quoting the diary of Samuel Pepys from his entry on 10th April 1663, "Off the Exchange with Sir J. Cutler and Mr. Grant to the Royall Oak Tavern, in Lumbard Street, where Alexander Broome the poet was, a merry and witty man, I believe, if he be not a little conceited, and here drank a sort of French wine, called Ho Bryan, that hath a good and most particular taste that I never met with." The vineyard is just under 120 acres and produces around 11,000 cases of red wine and 700 cases of a white, which fetches higher prices than the red. The justification for the high price of both these wines is the limited quantity and, in the case of Haut Brion, its 350-year-old 4-star Trustpilot rating.

A better justification for high prices might be made for another wine, Château d'Yquem, commonly called simply Yquem (pronounced "eekem"). This is accepted to be the finest sweet wine of France and, perhaps, the World. Surprisingly, it is sweet because of the rotting of the grapes from which it is made. That sounds unlikely and unpleasant and, indeed, the grapes at the time of picking and pressing look unappetising. Encouraged by the humidity and climate, the skin of the grapes are attacked by a mould called Botrytis cinerea, more appetisingly known as the Noble Rot. It has the effect of allowing the water in the grapes to evaporate leaving the grape shrivelled. The sugars within the grape are thereby more concentrated making for a sweeter wine.

The story goes that a wealthy owner lived a long distance away from his vineyard but insisted on being the one who gave the instruction for the harvesting of the grapes to begin. One year, his messenger was delayed and, by the time he arrived, the grapes had been attacked by the mould. The harvest went ahead; the wine was made and was delicious.

The time to harvest is one of the most difficult decisions for a wine producer to make. Are the majority of the grapes at optimum ripeness, given that the grapes in the bunches do not ripen at the same rate? Is the weather forecast good? Rain at harvest time may dilute the grape juice. Harvesting is expensive. There are harvesting machines, but highest quality wines are made from grapes gathered by hand, so a large number of pickers need to be available at just the right time.

At Château d'Yquem the pickers do not simply bring in the harvest. On each occasion they are sent out, they bring in only the botrytized grapes. On average, it takes six visits to the vineyard to bring in the crop.

Yield varies enormously. In parts of the World where irrigation is allowed and the emphasis is on quantity, it is said that a single vine can produce 24 bottles of wine. For high quality wines, the yield might be








between 2 and 8 bottles per vine. Because the grapes to make Sauternes are shrivelled by the Noble Rot, they produce far less juice and at Château d'Yquem a vine might give one glass. Imagine squeezing the juice from a raisin! A bottle of Château d'Yquem of the 2020 vintage is likely to cost around £400 per bottle, which may be reasonable given the difficulty of producing it.

Such wine is often served with a dessert, for example Bread & Butter Pudding, Eves Pudding or Pannetone, but many people also drink it with blue cheese or foie gras. It is definitely not recommended for the Sunday roast!

Sauternes is not the only area in the world that produces sweet wine by using the Noble Rot. In Germany the wines are called Trockenbeerenauslese and in Hungary they are Tokaji, but others come from the Loire Valley, Austria, Italy and elsewhere. A good example of this style of wine at a reasonable price comes from Morrisons supermarket. Their Botrytis Semillion 2019, part of their "The Best Range" is just £7.50 for a half bottle. It is made by De Bortoli Wines of New South Wales, who have been making wines there for almost 100 years.

As the festive season approaches, it's definitely worth considering spending a little bit more on yourself and your loved ones to enjoy those special occasions to the full. That little extra money directly increases the percentage of wine quality in your bottle rather than shipping and taxes, so you will have a much better bottle in your hands. Cheers!






# ROUND TABLE FAMILY GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

**The Round Table Family is proud to be rolling up our sleeves and taking part in the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean, in March 2026.**

**This is our chance to come together, make a difference and show pride in our communities. From litter-picking to tidying public spaces, let's commit to creating cleaner, greener and safer environments for everyone.**

**The Great British Spring Clean will take place for the 4 Club family between 23rd-29th March 2026.**
**One Bag, Big Difference!**

- **Help protect local wildlife and nature**
- **Make public spaces cleaner and more enjoyable**
- **Meet like-minded people and have fun**
- **Show that small actions can create big changes**



# COMMUNITY

This year saw the introduction of the Community element being added to Communications, creating the role of Comms & Community Officer. Whilst it's been difficult to have enough time to give this part of a very important element to 41 Club, we have launched some initiatives. Firstly we have been supporting the National President with his promotion of AndysManClub, and helping where possible to publish the events and fundraisers taking place around the country.

A new initiative we have started this year is Walk into Light, a 6 mile walk taking place at 5.30am with the intention of starting in the dark and finishing in the light, signifying the journey for men struggling with their mental health. After every dark time there can always be light and this event was to highlight this as well as support AMC. A public event it was open to everyone and was well supported with 62 people turning up including members from all 4 Round Table Family clubs, as well as the general public and 3 men from the Coventry branch of AndysManClub. Held in Kenilworth as a free to attend event we did collect donations of over £1,000 for AMC, and have already started to plan next years walk for 26th September 2026.

Another community project we've been promoting is Big Breakfast. Held last year by Redditch 41 Club, and also similar events by Wrexham & Wallington and Carshalton 41 Clubs, we have been encouraging more clubs to participate. Redditch have now ran for 3 years and raised over £5,000 for their local hospice. It's simple to do, the concept is that you cook the typical items for a full English breakfast, hold it in a village hall or similar venue, and sell them to local residents with the proceeds going to a local good cause. If anyone would like more information about running their own Big Breakfast next year then please get in touch as we have help and support available to you.



The next community project I'd like to promote is the Great Tommy Sleepout. This is ran by the RBVE (formally known as the RBLI), and it supports veterans by getting sponsorship to stay out overnight somewhere in March. This could be in a tent, on the streets, in a football ground, or anywhere (legal) that you'd like to do it. More details on this project can be found on pages 42 and 43 of this magazine, or contact me directly and I can send you more information. It's worth noting that RBVE are sending out details of 41 Club and Round Table to every person who takes part, so it would be amazing to show some support back to them.

The final initiative we're launching this year is the Round Table Family Great British Spring Clean, the flyer for this can be seen opposite here on page 30, and further details about it will be released very soon.

I would like to hear about all of the community projects going on around the country by 41 Clubs and the members, so please do send them over to me. I will be sending a questionnaire to ask what you've been up to and how much you've raised before the AGM.

Thank you for your support.

**Keep on Tabling...**

Andy Waring
















# Redditch 41 Club Supporting the Primrose Hospice Santa Dash – 7th December







Members of Redditch 41 Club, along with other helpers from the Redditch Round Table Family clubs of Table, Circle and Tangent will once again be lending a hand at this year's **Primrose Hospice Santa Dash,** taking place on **Saturday 7th December.** The event, which sees hundreds of festive runners and walkers donning Santa suits to raise vital funds for Primrose Hospice, has become a highlight of the local Christmas calendar. Our members will be out in force helping with marshalling duties, cheering on participants, and ensuring everyone enjoys a safe and merry morning.

It's a wonderful opportunity for the Club to give back to the community and support a charity that does such meaningful work for local families. With plenty of festive spirit, laughter, and the occasional mince pie, the day promises to be as heart-warming as it is worthwhile. We're proud to play our part — and maybe even join in the dash ourselves!

Every participant gets a FREE Santa suit, a medal at the finish line, and a mince pie to celebrate! Sign up your squad today and support Primrose Hospice https://primrosehospice.org/events/santa-fun-run/









# Alcester XRT Take Aim in a Friendly *Laser Conflict* Showdown!

The newly affiliated **Alcester XRT** members recently locked horns — in the friendliest way possible — with **Alcester & Stratford Round Table** and a few brave friends for an evening of **Laser Conflict** action. For the uninitiated, Laser Conflict is an energetic, team-based game where players use harmless infrared "lasers" to tag opponents' sensors in a fast-paced, tactical battle — no pain, no bruises, just plenty of laughter and competitive spirit!

The teams battled it out over several rounds, combining strategy, stealth, and a fair bit of good-natured chaos. While everyone claimed victory at least once (depending on who you asked!), the real winners were camaraderie and banter. It was a fantastic evening of exercise, teamwork, and light-hearted rivalry — proof that even when the lasers are flying, friendship always wins in the end.










# Oink-redible fundraising effort for ham radio studio

A crackling fundraising event saw over 100 guests trot to Sitwell Park Golf Club to take part in a unique pig racing event.



With seven races taking place during the night, there were plenty of chances for guests to bring home the bacon – with colourfully named entrants including Pjork, Notorious P.I.G. and Albert Einesweine hogging the limelight on the specially built racetrack.

However, the real winner on the night was Rotherham Opportunities College, with the evening raising an impressive £2250.

The event was organised by members of the Rotherham Round Table, Rotherham Tangent, the Rotherham 41 Club and the Rotherham Sitwell Rotary Club, with proceeds from the event being used to purchase specialist radio broadcasting equipment, which will be installed in a purpose-built studio within the college.

The charity, which helps young adults with special educational needs to prepare for life after education, hosts a weekly radio show on the community radio station Red Road FM, where students share their experiences, as well as treating listeners to some of their favourite tunes.

However, the college recognised that although the weekly show has proved to be a popular activity, since it first hit the airwaves earlier this year, some of its students were unable to take part in the experience, due to limited mobility and the restricted space available at the radio station – and members of the four clubs decided to step in to support their plight.

***Jo Galloway, Chair, Rotherham Tangent, said:***
"Our four organisations share common goals of supporting the local community in Rotherham. When the college approached the Round Table, we realised that it could provide a good way of working together. We wanted to create an event that would raise a few eyebrows and leave people squealing with laughter; pig racing seemed like a natural choice. It was great to see so many people come together to support the event, as well as raise money for a good cause."

***Luke Staveley, Chairman, Rotherham Round Table, said:***
"Rotherham Opportunities College makes a real difference to the lives of its students. Every penny that we raise through our fundraising activities goes directly towards investing back into Rotherham. We knew the amount needed to purchase the equipment would require an extra special effort. I'd like to thank everyone who supported the evening, especially those who worked their trotters off behind the scenes to make this event such a success."

***Dr Perdita Mousley, Principal, Rotherham Opportunities College, said:***
"When we talked to the Round Table about the challenges our students were facing, they told me they'd like to do something special to support us. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the idea of a pig race, but it was a fantastic evening and I'd like to thank all four clubs for their incredible efforts and generosity. The proceeds from the event will help our students develop skills they will use throughout their lives.

Our regular broadcasts on Red Road FM have been a terrific way for students to learn and develop ways of communicating. The weekly broadcasts have become one of the highlights of the college week. Building a studio in the college will help more of our students to take part in this unique learning experience."

Rotherham Opportunities College is a specialist education provider that supports students aged 16-25 with special educational needs. The college currently supports 80 young adults, equipping them with the vital skills needed to enjoy greater independence, as well as preparing for life after college.

Matt Ridsdale

# Wallington & Carshalton ‘go Dutch’ to celebrate 40 years of friendship with Veldhoven

In life, we all have those ‘old’ friends that you met years ago and the moment you meet again, it’s like no time has passed and you reconnect on a different level.




So it was for our Wallington & Carshalton 41 Club and our RT166 Tablers on a November weekend when we travelled by train, car and plane to celebrate the Veldhoven RT166 40th Anniversary in the Netherlands. The moment we all reconnected, it was like we had hung out days ago and the years melted away with memories and laughter.

Our 41ers decided to take the more leisurely route on the Friday flying from Stansted to Eindhoven, where they were met and transported by their respective home hosts.

John, one of our older members had some early technical difficulties when checking in at Stansted when his boarding pass failed. Whilst we all moaned about him being beaten by technology, it was eventually discovered that I had already just checked in using John’s Boarding Pass by mistake thus blocking John’s attempt – but this was sorted when I used my Pass to check John in!😂

We enjoyed an excellent pre-flight lunch in the airport – John mentioned how large the restaurant was the other side of a doorway – only to be told that the doorway and he was looking at a reflection of himself and the area we were sitting in (me thinks a trip to Specsavers is overdue)!




Following an enjoyable dinner and a relaxing overnight rest, some of us were treated to a fascinating guided tour around the nearby PSV Eindhoven Stadium on the Saturday. Despite being shown their Trophy Room showing PSV’s European Cup and 26 Dutch Champions Trophies 😲, as two of us were Palace supporters, we weren’t intimidated as we held our heads high, responding that Palace had won the FA Cup and the Community Shield earlier this year (our guide wasn’t impressed).

Meanwhile, our more active Round Tablers had decided to take the more traditional route of driving via ‘Le Shuttle’ and on to Veldhoven on the Saturday.

Tabler Matt Preston had panicked at the last minute as he had booked the Channel Tunnel crossing times the wrong way round – this resulted in them not arriving at their hotel until 4pm – only an hour before being collected for the dinner!




In that brief time however, Matt managed to get four lengths of the pool swam before taking an 8-minute sauna with 2 naked Dutch men (whatever floats your boat, Matt) and ironing his new shirt (after having to request the iron from the concierge) – before just about making it down on time.

On the Saturday evening, around 85 attendees gathered at the superb venue (that turned out to be owned by one of the Dutch Tablers!).

Welcome hugs, smiles and hugs followed and within a few minutes, the buzz and background noise of friendships being rekindled gradually rose aloft – you could feel the energy!

Table Chairman Chris presented Veldhoven RT Chairman Wouter Verhoeven with a gavel that was engraved with the words “Aangeboden door Wallington & Carshalton 166 ter ere van het 40-jarig charter van Veldhoven 166. 15 November 2025” - which translates in English as “Presented by Wallington & Carshalton 166 to celebrate Veldhoven 166’s 40th Charter. 15th November 2025”



Peter gave a speech on behalf of W&C 41 Club thanking Veldhoven for all their friendship over the years and recalling many of the memories. He reminded all



that our Netherlands adventure actually began 42 years ago in 1983 when Alan Sharp organised a fund-raising bike ride to RT66 Wageningen – (choosing Holland as a destination as it is flat!)

But they knew that the charter of RT166 was imminent and sure enough in 1985, on a foggy afternoon in November 40 years ago, the Tablers from Wageningen travelled to Eindhoven Airport to accompany us to the Charter event and provided translation services for those who were not fluent in Dutch - everyone, in other words.

With the handover complete, they returned home, North, and so the wonderful "Love Affair" between our RT166s that has endured for 40 wonderful years began.

Other past '166 Euromeeting' memories Peter reminded the audience of included (but weren't limited to):

- Alan Jayne & Simon Cliffe sleeping in a 'peep show' bed shop – and Dolly the Sheep becoming their new best friend
- The many cabarets – and the weird German cabarets!
- Convincing Veldhoven that they would be scuba diving on the Thames and hanging a 'April Fool' message on a huge sheet over Tower Bridge
- Painted faces on stomachs dancing (you had to be there)
- Ballroom dancing with mops (Anton du Bec would've scored it a zero)
- Demonstrating Morris Dancing (confused the hell out of the Dutch)
- Tandem riding into Belgium for a beer or three
- And of course – throughout the years – a certain song became our unofficial anthem: Billy Joel's 'For The Longest Time'

***

So, on Saturday evening as the music gradually started to fade, handshakes and hugs were shared and genuine. As we all said our farewells, the venue was full of smiles and promises to meet up again at some future event. The weekend had been a very emotional one and thoroughly enjoyable.

One of the Veldhoven Old Tablers said **"We didn't realise we were making memories, we just knew we were enjoying time with good friends."**



**"There are three things that grow more precious with age:**
**Old wood to burn, Old books to read, and Old friends to enjoy."**

Peter McBride

# AMC visits Dundee 41 Club



Mark Inglis our Andysmanclub representative up in Scotland spoke to us at our September Meeting. Good meeting very interesting and honest talk by Mark, he also had a first class power point presentation and video, all very professional. Dundee 41 Club made a donation of £100.00 to the Charity and that was greatly received by Mark.



This is a really deserving Charity and it is good that 41 National and our President has chosen it during his year.

**YICF**

Allan Keillor
**Secretary Dundee 41 Club**

# Nerja 41 Club (Spain) visits Norwich

Nerja 41Club (Spain) recently spent a few days in Norwich to see the City where RT was born. Hosted by Martin Sexton and members of Wensum and Yare 41Club they visited all of locations important to RT, accompanied by Karl Sandall of Castle 41Club who guided them from the site of Marchesi's restaurant to Suckling Hall, the site of the inaugural meeting in 1927. They joined members of Wensum and Yare 41Club for dinner at the Louis Marchesi pub. During the visit they also visited the Assembly House, the Guildhall, the Cathedral and Castle, not to mention the market and innumerable pubs: great fellowship!



























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# The Phoenix rises from the ashes

How the membership workshops can inspire not only new members but new clubs.

Back in the glory days of Round Table, Dorset had 3 of the largest clubs in Great Britain.
The largest of all was Wimborne, sitting at the top of the leader board with 51 members.
They organised and promoted events, winning many trophies and were seen as guiding lights within the movement.
Their fundraising skills were legendary and topped the £MILLION mark several years ago.

Sadly, Wimborne RT is no more, another victim of the decline in membership seen over the past decade.
Wimborne 41, however had, until recently, managed to stay together, with a healthy membership of 22. Mostly the same people responsible for Table's success.

This all changed at this year's AGM when the members decided that they would all leave 41 club en masse.

Area 12 National Councillor, Trevor Langford was devastated that a club with such a great history could just disappear overnight.

The Club itself could not disaffiliate, as no secret ballot had taken place.
The treasurer was still in post to look after the £11 in the bank.
It was not all over by any means. Trevor was hatching a plan.

The club was officially still active, so Trevor joined and became Caretaker Chairman.
He roped in Paul Clarke as Vice and Secretary. The new club began to take shape.
6 months down the line there are five members and a planned programme of meetings and events starting in November. There are four other existing local clubs offering support and the teamwork and camaraderie is incredible.

Added to this is the involvement of Round Table, both locally and Nationally.

They are working alongside 41 Club to re-charter Wimborne Round Table and have a detailed marketing plan in place that runs into 2026 with a comprehensive programme of events and meetings to encourage new members.

Both clubs are using tools and campaigns which have come directly from the Membership Workshops, especially last September's event staged in Bristol. Apps such as Spond, Canva and Facebook are at the heart of this project.
Trevor, Paul and John Fairhall came away from Bristol inspired and putting new life back into Wimborne will serve as a great example of what can be achieved by listening and learning.
If you have the opportunity to attend a Membership Workshop, please do so. You won't regret it, and nor will your club and its members.

*Paul Clarke*

**Wimborne and Christchurch 41 Club.**

# Newport (Salop) 41 Club News

Our Speaker Secretary is Bill Jones whose role is cajole all members to "Speak on any topic of their choice or Host a Speaker", in order to fill our annual Speaker rota for our monthly Club meetings. This shared approach has helped our Club maintain and grow our membership, due the quality of topics presented by our Speakers.



For our October meeting our Speaker's host was fellow member Graham Kelcher who introduced a Lady Speaker Katie Foster, a first so far as our records go. Katie Foster, a former successful business lady is Chair of Alzheimer's Research UK (Shropshire) that she set up in 2017 following which Katie has been awarded by the national organisation as their "Champion" in 2018 and their Volunteer of the Year in 2022.

Our Treasurer's wife is in a local Care Home suffering from Lewy Body Dementia among other things and so his daughter was keen to attend our October Club meeting. This would be another first other than for our Club Chairman's evenings and Christmas Parties. Knowing that many people have family afflicted by Dementia, members were then contacted to see if any other wives or partners wanted to attend resulting in five other ladies joining us.

We hold our meetings at the Harper Adams University and the Catering staff had decorated the dining room beautifully with autumnal colours; not something that would have happened for an all male Club meeting, and provided as usual an excellent dinner for us all.

Our Speaker gave a very interesting and well received talk with "Powerpoint" support, giving the latest news on the research into Dementia and the way the national Alzheimer Charity was running a volunteer monitoring programme, helping with research, which needed more people.

At the end of the meeting members gave £100 to add to £25 from Club funds, so £125 donated to the Alzheimer Charity.

After fifty plus year Speakers are not easy to find and after this successful meeting it seems likely we will welcome more Lady Speakers. Going forward if a future Speaker's subject is relevant to our Members and their families, as was the case with Dementia, then it will be appropriate to invite wives and partners.

# Ringwood 41 Club latest events

November was a very busy month with many excellent social events concluding with the Butchery Night hosted by our very own Nick Hill at The London Tavern. What an absolutely fantastic experience with Nick butchering a pig whilst giving us a full explanation interspersed with three wonderful courses of a pate starter, a huge Tomahawk pork chop and vegetables all finished off with a very tasty apple crumble and custard. Twenty of us were indebted to Nick for putting on a unique evening with the possibility of another event in 2026 when venison might be on the table.

Earlier in the month Sara and I had the honour to lay wreaths at the War Memorial in Ringwood following the Remembrance Service at Ringwood Parish Church. I was humbled to wear my father's Distinguished Flying Cross medal awarded to him recognising over 25 bombing missions across the Ruhr and other parts of Germany. Squadron Leader Cecil Lomax was a navigator flying in a Halifax and was one of the fortunate to return home safely.

Tangent's great organisation of the lunch at Brockenhurst Training College meant that we had a splendid time with beautifully prepared by the students of Brockenhust College. Fantastic value.

**Greetings from the jewel of the New Forest.**

Peter & Bob

**Ringwood & District 41 Club**





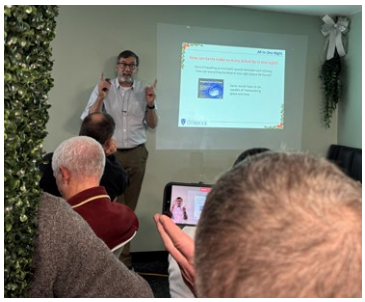











# Dr Steve Barrett Unwraps
## *"The Science of Santa"* at Ellesmere Port XRT

Ellesmere Port XRT recently hosted an evening where science, Santa, and a generous helping of festive chaos collided — courtesy of Dr Steve Barrett from the University of Liverpool. His talk on The Science of Santa had members laughing, scratching their heads, and questioning whether Santa might secretly hold a PhD in quantum physics. How else could one man, one sleigh, and a handful of reindeer possibly deliver presents to millions of children in a single night without defying every law of time, space, and common sense?

The evening had a perfect Round Table vibe, with eight 41 Clubs from across the region in attendance. Our National President, Jason "JT" Thompson, joined the fun, adding his own brand of good-natured commentary — mostly questioning whether Santa's sleigh came with a fire safety warranty, and if not, it could be supplied at an affordable cost for himself. It was also a real treat to see our good friend Nick Morcumb from Whitchurch 41 in the crowd, contributing banter, friendly challenges, and the his Stg At Arms …" that had everyone in stitches.

This evening was made even more special thanks to the support of a grant from Fellowship Fund, provided via the National Fellowship Officer Stuart Bizley. We are very grateful to Stuart for helping make this event possible.

Dr Barrett took the audience on a festive journey through reindeer aerodynamics, sleigh logistics, and the mind-boggling problem of "how does Santa get down chimneys without leaving soot stains on the sofa?" Inter-club debates erupted over whether a red suit could really withstand sub-zero polar winds, and whether Rudolph's nose might actually be a tiny fusion reactor. Some members were convinced Santa simply bends the laws of physics with Christmas magic — though others suspected it might just be very clever time zones.

Between experiments in sleigh speed (theoretical, of course), jokes about cookie consumption rates, and the occasional "Santa would never approve of that!" remark, the night blended laughter, learning, and a festive sense of fellowship. By the end, it was clear: in the world of Santa — and 41 Club camaraderie — the impossible is not only possible, it's downright hilarious. And one thing everyone agreed on? No matter the physics, a mince pie and a friendly debate makes everything better.

**Yours in Past Table,**

Pete Heaney

**Chairman, Ellesmere Port XRT**



# ALGARVE 41 CLUB CELEBRATES 40 YEARS



Over three days in October 2025 the Algarve 41 Club celebrated its 40th Birthday.

Nineteen members along with their wives, partners and guests from Costa Blanca and Stockholm Clubs attended the events which culminated in a celebratory dinner on the Saturday evening at the Hotel Baia Grande, Albufeira.

Throughout the three days our National President, Jason, was represented by the Immediate Past President, Wynn Parry, accompanied by his wife Heather.

Chairman Kendal Milne, also a member of Westhill & District 41 Club in Aberdeenshire, started the celebrations by welcoming fifty attendees to his Welcome Party in Almancil, where the wine flowed and fun and fellowship prevailed.

The following day thirty-four of those attending the party went to the local bowling club for the annual 41 Club bowling competition, where thirty-one members competed. Always keenly contested the men's competition was won by Mike Trice, who beat one of the Clubs newer members, Chris Lester in the final, with the lady's trophy being won by the President's wife, Elaine Rushworth, for the second time in 3 years.

On the Saturday evening the 40th Charter Anniversary Dinner had fifty-nine revellers dancing the night away to the live music of "Nightshift". But not before honoured guest Wynn Parry responded on behalf of the members and guests to the welcome speech given by Chairman Kendal during which he received several banners from some of the 19 Clubs represented at the dinner. A 41 Club shield was also presented to the Club by Westhill and District 41 Club to mark the historic occasion.

The President of the Algarve 41 Club, Robert Rushworth (Brighouse & District 41 Club) proposed the final toast to the Algarve 41 Club and absent friends.

In his speech Robert explained how the Club was formed by Robert Todman (Raleigh 41 Club) and chartered on 30th October 1985. He had managed to muster and encourage twenty-two ex-Tabler's









CLUB NEWS






from 18 UK 41 Clubs as far afield as Wick in the North of Scotland to Sherbourne in Dorset to form the Club, with only four members being resident on the Algarve.

Today the Club still meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays, the latter being a social dinner, and has thirty-seven members, two of whom are now the only founder members attending the celebrations. And the number of resident members has increased to eight.

When you consider that the 1980's were the days before the mobile phone, emails, the internet, Zoom and WhatsApp Groups keeping a Club together when 70% of the membership was "overseas" was quite an achievement. That was managed by having two secretaries, one on the Algarve and one in the UK who between them sent the monthly newsletters and business meeting minutes to every member.

Every year the AGM and Charter Dinner was a 4-day event, attended by most members, and today that tradition continues although since Covid the celebrations have become a 3-day event.

Visitors also spread the word, helped by the membership, which over the years has had past National Round Table Presidents, past 41 Club National Presidents, and past Presidents of 41 Club International and Rotary International amongst their numbers.

The Club embraces the National rule that states international relations are to be encouraged and our numbers now include one member from Ireland, two members from Finland, and two prospective members from Sweden.

The Club has also hosted a National Council meeting on the Algarve and three Iberian Cluster meetings and supports several local charities.

Over the past 40 years the Algarve 41 Club has fulfilled Robert Todman's objective of bringing 41 Club fun and fellowship to the Algarve. Would he have thought that when, in 1984, he had a letter published in the Spring edition of the Round Table National Magazine saying that he was anxious to try and bring together many Tablers and ex-Tablers who frequent the Algarve with a view to forming an offshore Algarve 41 Club that it would come to fruition and still be flourishing 40 years later.



**For more information on the Algarve 41 Club, and to be part of our ongoing adventure, whether you are a regular or occasional visitor to the Algarve sunshine, please contact the honorary secretary Mike Trice (mike.trice46@gmail.com)**

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Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

| | |
|---|---|
| FELLOWSHIP | LOUIS |
| NORWICH | MARCHESI |
| TABLE | FORTYONE |
| PRESIDENT | CLUB |
| TANGENT | DINNER |
| NSSW | AGM |
| COMMUNITY | MEETINGS |
| MEMBERS | CIRCLE |
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| GONG | |

# THE GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT

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## Bigger and better than ever before in March 2026

**SLEEP BENEATH THE STARS FOR ARMED FORCES VETERANS**

**Date:** Anytime in March 2026

**Location:** You can take on this challenge wherever you are!





# THE GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT:

## Brave the Night. Support our Veterans.

Every March, thousands across the UK swap the comfort of their beds for a night under the stars. The Great Tommy Sleep Out challenges us to brave the cold for one night, echoing the struggles faced by veterans who endure homelessness, and raising vital funds to change their future.



Run by the Royal British Veterans Enterprise (RBVE), the campaign is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices veterans have made. By taking part, you're not only raising money to help but also sending a powerful message: our veterans are not forgotten.

Founded in 1919, RBVE was created to provide veterans with opportunities to live independently and thrive after service. Over the decades, RBVE has grown into a national charity that creates jobs, provides homes, and builds communities for veterans and people with disabilities across the UK.

Every sleeping bag, every cold night, every donation makes a difference. Funds raised through The Great Tommy Sleep Out support RBVE's frontline services, ensuring veterans have:

- **Jobs:** Tailored employment opportunities through RBVE's social enterprises and national employability programme.
- **Homes:** Secure, purpose-built housing for veterans and their families.
- **Community:** A culture of pride, belonging, and recognition, ensuring no veteran feels forgotten.

Beyond the fundraising, the campaign sparks national awareness. It reminds us all that service doesn't end when the uniform comes off, and that together, we can stand up for those who once stood for us.

### A Call to 41 Club Members

As members of 41 Club, camaraderie is at the heart of what you do. Joining The Great Tommy Sleep Out is your chance to extend that spirit to veterans across the UK. Whether you sleep out in your garden, garage, or a community space, your participation raises vital funds and shows veterans that their service is honoured.

This March, let's make the night count. Brave the cold, share the cause, and help us change lives.

**Sign up for The Great Tommy Sleep Out today.**

rbve.org.uk/events/the-great-tommy-sleep-out/

# ANDYSMANCLUB (AMC) OPENS IN MARKET HARBOROUGH

## Just in case you haven't been following the story...

We have been providing regular updates both in the 41 Club Newsletter and through National President Jason's "Update on our Support for ANDYSMANCLUB" about Market Harborough 41 Club's partnership with AMC to open in Market Harborough.

Here's the full story.

## What's been involved?

### A cluster meeting in Market Harborough

AMC came to a 41 Club meeting in Market Harborough along with National President Jason and other local Clubs to talk about AMC and what they are looking to do in the future. With the nearest AMC 10 miles away, 41 Club were so enthused they decided to work in partnership with AMC to open in Market Harborough.

### Facilitator training

AMC had experienced facilitators to open a new group in Market Harborough, but they needed more to make it a success.

4 members of Market Harborough 41 Club – ranging in age from 50 to 80 - stepped up and went along to an existing AMC in Corby each Monday for 3 months and are now approved AMC facilitators - not easy and a big commitment on their part.




*Our 4 Musketeers - Nick, Charlie, Ian and Gordon (L to R)*

### Finding a venue

AMC have a checklist for venues so 41 Club went searching for somewhere that met AMC requirements AND would be available every Monday night from 7.00. – 9.00. (excluding Bank Holidays).

Again, it's not an easy task but Market Harborough Rugby Club came forward and offered their club house for AMC to meet every Monday – and it's free of charge.

### Advertising the launch

*Standing in the cold and wet – we've all done it!!*




For a month before the Market Harborough opening, we ran an awareness campaign involving AMC and the Market Harborough Round Table Family to promote the new group.

The campaign included social media as well as posters and leaflets being distributed around the town AND an AMC gazebo in the centre of town on a couple of Saturdays. We've all done this sort of thing before, but it helps raise awareness for both AMC in Market Harborough and hopefully encourages new members for Round Table!!

ANDYSMANCLUB




*The team on opening night*

## So, how did it go?

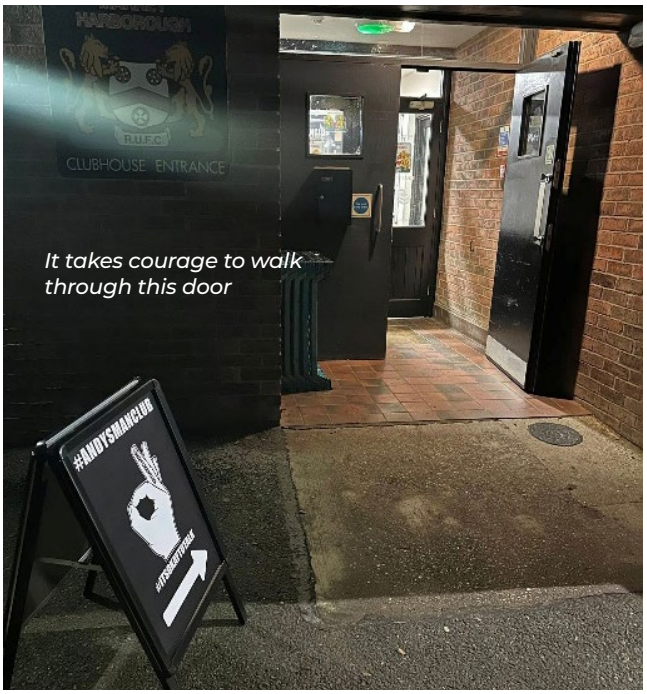
We opened the new AMC at Market Harborough Rugby Club on Monday 24th November and 25 men came along - that included 10 who summoned up the courage to walk through the door for the first time.

## What happens next?

The 4 facilitators from Market Harborough will help ensure AMC in Market Harborough is a major force for good in our local community.

Members of Tamworth & District Mercian XRT have started their training to become AMC facilitators and have already identified a suitable venue in Tamworth.

Are there other 41 clubs ready to take up this significant community challenge?




*It takes courage to walk through this door*

## Do you want to get involved?

With the Association's increased emphasis on "Community" the aim is to get more 41 clubs involved in providing practical hands – on help to support AMC.

If you want to roll your sleeves up and invite AMC along to one of your meetings, simply email: info@andysmanclub.co.uk

If you are interested in opening an AMC locally, contact National President Jason at contact@jasonthomson.co.uk and we'll connect you with the Market Harborough team.

## A last thought.....

The Chairman of Market Harborough 41 Club, Charlie Randon, also now one of our AMC facilitators says: "It has been a great team effort from the Market Harborough Round Table Family working alongside AMC.
As a club we have been amazed at how much the Market Harborough community has got behind the initiative, including our local rugby club hosting the AMC weekly meeting for free; local radio interviews promoting the opening; a local company providing free digital advertising around the town and the Chamber of Trade and Commerce holding a Charity Evening which raised over £500 for AMC.

People just want to talk to us about what we are doing and can't do enough to help.

We know that AMC opening in Market Harborough is a major benefit to men's mental health in our local community.

Is it easy? No
Does it take you out of your comfort zone? Yes
Is it rewarding? Yes"





# Monifieth 41 Club Dinner

On Monday 24th November 2025 Monifieth 41 Club (former Round Table members) celebrated its 50th birthday. A dinner for past and present members along with guest members from three other local 41 Clubs, was held in The Grange & Broughty Golf Club who served everyone a first class three course meal. 41 Club Chairman, Ian MacLeod, welcomed everyone to the celebration dinner before introducing the top table which included guest speakers, Dave Adam and Tom Dymock and Master of Ceremonies, Iain McMurray. The top table also included 41 Club National Councillor Stuart Hall and Vice Chairman and Dinner Convenor Pat Durkin The Vote of Thanks was given by Dave Inglis, Secretary and Treasurer also at the top table. Grace was said by founder member Jim Liness, two other founder members Alan Booth and Bill Soutar also attended the celebration. 41 Club International Relationships Officer, Kevin Stewart and former 41 Club National Councillor, Colin McKenzie also attended the celebration

# OBITUARIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Colin Smith** | Petersfield |
| **David Smith** | Past National President |
| **Mike Lambert** | Ringwood & District and formerly Bournemouth North |
| **Chris Tayler** | Solihull |
| **Sean McCormick** | Saffron Walden (Past National Secretary and National Honorary Archivist) |
| **Charles Hammersley** | Lyme |
| **Andy Wallace** | Past National President |
| **David Herbert** | Northampton |
| **Graham Craker** | Cheshunt |
| **Peter Hoskins** | Radstock |
| **John Norman** | Hornsey & Southgate |
| **Stuart Pennel** | Cheadle & Gatley |
| **David Rust** | Cheltenham |

Please send all obituaries to obits@41club.org to be entered in the 41 Club remembrance book.

# Round Table Family Presidents' Festive Drinks



Join us for a festive catch up...
30th December 2025
18.00-19.00hrs

To join us
https://meet.google.com/oti-sfpd-zvk?hs=224



# 41 CLUB NATIONAL BOARD 2025/26



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **National President** | Jason Thomson (JT) | Jasonthomson@41club.org |
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| **National Secretary** | Stuart George | secretary@41club.org |
| **National Treasurer** | Colin Steen | treasurer@41club.org |
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| **National Fellowship Officer** | Stuart Bizley | fellowship@41club.org |
| **National IT Manager** | Steve Tasker (Tas) | it.manager@41club.org |
| **National IRO** | Kevin Stewart | international@41club.org |
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| **Immediate Past President** | Wynn Parry | wynnparry@41club.org |


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