

The Kier Fellowship News

The magazine for the Loughton & Witham area Fellowship Trust | Issue 24 | Winter '20



**THURSFORD CHRISTMAS
SPECTACULAR
PAGE 4/5**

**LUNCH AT BLAKE'S
GOLF CLUB
PAGE 6**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT
LITTLE CHANNELS
PAGE 7**



A warm welcome from your committee

www.fellowship.kier.co.uk

Contents

3	• Editor's notes
4/5	• Thursford Christmas Spectacular
6	• Lunch at Blake's Golf Club
7	• Christmas lunch at Little Channels
8	• Events programme 2020/21 and deceased members

IMPORTANT NOTE

We urgently require two members to help organise events for the Fellowship: one female and one male would be great. You would be required to attend four meetings a year and perhaps organise one or two events. Please let Geoff Brown or John Abbott know if you are interested.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WELCOME TO... the 24th issue of The Fellowship News magazine. Without your interest and support this magazine cannot exist. As much feedback as possible is always welcomed and can be directed to your editor, Jim McCluskey. All feedback will be taken into consideration when designing the next issue.

Andrea Lorraine Designs

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

VERY IMPORTANT: Please remember to always notify us when you have a change of address.

John Abbott: 07768 467976: john@bythorne.co.uk
 Geoff Brown, 07502 582950, 01353 648 110, geoffbrown42@sky.com

- Derek Bryant
- Alan Cope
- Chris Oats
- John Spray

Editor's notes



07746 463902
jimbo52.mc@hotmail.co.uk

A Happy New Year to all of our members from all of the committee and welcome to this edition of the Fellowship News.

I am pleased to report that the committee have a full programme of events planned for the forthcoming period as you will see from the programme on the back cover.

Additionally, there are still two events from the 2019/20 calendar to take place.

On 20 February there is a Lunch with a Speaker at Mulberry House. The topic is 'Swinging London' which sounds great and I'm sure will take many of you back down memory lane. But of course, as they say about the 'Swinging 60's', if you can remember it you weren't really there!

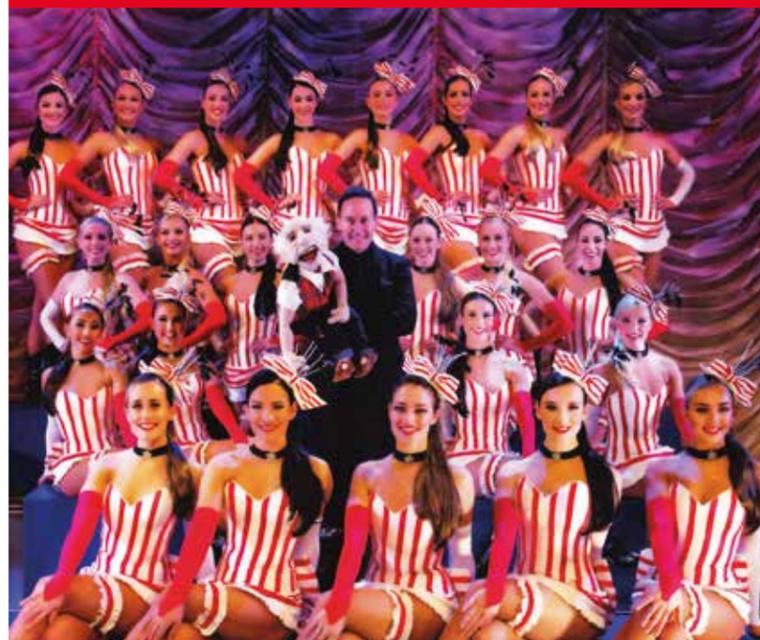
On 12 March there is a visit behind the scenes at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, including lunch.

The new programme for 2020/21 starts with the Spring Lunch at Mulberry House on 23 April 2020 and it would be great to see as many members as possible at this popular event.

Membership of the Loughton & Witham area currently stands at 197. As always, I would encourage you to attend at least some of the events in order to meet up with old friends and colleagues and to support the Fellowship.

Jim McCluskey 

Cover picture: Thursford Christmas Spectacular: 20 November 2019



July '20

Features for the next edition of the Fellowship News!

Please send all features to Jim McCluskey by no later than the above date. Many thanks!

Thursford Christmas Spectacular



November '19



In 1977 the venue was all old farm buildings but has been built up over the years and is now a huge shed-type building in the middle of the tiny village of Thursford.

Inside it's warm, cosy and decorated to portray the Christmas spirit. It includes a 19th century gold painted and glistening carousel around which horses prance (incorporated into the show), twinkling lights and fake snow everywhere, decorated Christmas trees, sparkly icicles line a 130ft wide stage and a Mighty Wurlitzer played throughout the show. The finale includes a flyover of white doves across the auditorium.

The show now has a production budget of £2m, runs for seven weeks and attracts 50 coach loads of visitors per day. Since its inception it has been seen by more than 5.2 million people.



Thirty-five members once again made their bi-annual trip, leaving early from Chigwell Met Police Sports Grounds, for Norfolk and see the Thursford Christmas Spectacular.

We experienced a pleasant journey up in dry autumn weather, enjoying the countryside as we passed through. We stopped off at Swaffham, a nearby market town, for lunch before continuing on to Thursford.

This year the show was celebrating 42 years of performances for the lead up to Christmas. The show's first performance was in 1977, produced by its Founder John Cushing who is still very much involved with its production and also now his two sons.

The audiences come from every county in the country, some coming year after year.

With more than 65 musical pieces and talents of a cast of over 120 the show is an extravaganza of non-stop singing, dancing, music, humour, variety and trapeze artistry.



On leaving, the route to the coach park is also amazing. Across the complex are 6,434,937 lamps. Fairy lights etc, hang from trees, bushes, buildings and self-supporting figures. The sight is incredible and leaves you with an everlasting memory of your visit.

The three hour show was enjoyed by all members who attended and on our long trip home to Chigwell everyone was reflecting on the show and the whole day's outing in general. The overall comment was:

"Can we go again in the years ahead?"

Our coach driver for the trip was excellent and looked after us exceedingly well. Thanks to him, and two of our members, we avoided a long delay on our return due to a serious accident on the M11. We took an alternative route back and arrived back at Chigwell about 7.45pm. Despite a long day everyone said it was worth the experience.

Chris Oats



Lunch at Blake's Golf Club



This year we had the hog roast at Blakes Golf Club, North Weald, which consisted of pork and chicken with all the usual accompaniments. Forty-eight members attended and enjoyed the food and location (plus a few drinks) had a good chat and reminisced over old stories.



The golf club is superbly situated for excellent views of the Essex countryside all around. We were blessed with a beautiful warm sunny day which added to our enjoyment of the occasion.

John Spray 



Christmas lunch at Little Channels



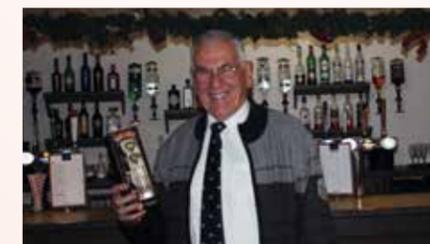
Sixty-three members and guests assembled at The Little Channels Golf Club for our Christmas lunch.

Guests were welcomed with a drink and after the opportunity to catch up with friends and former colleagues, sat down to a splendid three-course lunch served with wine or fruit punch.

After lunch, and a few words of welcome and thanks from John Abbott, the Fellowship Trust Chairman, Neil Meixner, spoke.

Neil gave an overview of the Trust nationally and its current relationship with the Group. Neil also spoke of his meetings with the new management team at Kier and, while things were financially difficult, confirmed their continuing support for the Trust.

John then thanked Neil for his update and proceeded to draw the raffle.



A good time was had by all and a very pleasant end to the year.

John Abbott



Events programme 2020/21

Date	Event	Organiser
23 April 2020	Spring lunch at Mulberry House	Geoff Brown
June/July 2020	River trip and brewery, Windsor	Chris Oats
July 2020	Area Golf Day	John Spray
September 2020	Chicken and pork lunch at Blakes	John Spray
26 November 2020	Brick Lane Christmas Show	Geoff Brown
December 2020	Christmas lunch at Little Channels	John Abbott
February 2021	Lunch with speaker at Mulberry House	John Abbott
March 2021	Mountbatten Festival, Royal Albert Hall	Chris Oats

NB: Final dates and costs still to be confirmed at time of print.
The final programme will be notified to all members as usual by letter in due course.

Deceased members

Des Bacon

Sadly passed away on 9 January 2020.

Alan Fordham

Sadly passed away on 10 October 2019.

Cyril Williams

Sadly passed away on 18 November 2019.

Bernard Wilson

Sadly passed away on 12 September 2019.

