

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Newsletter November 2020, edited by Graham Marsden and Allan Evison, HMF Secretarial team.

(Membership Enquiries: For more information on joining the Fellowship retired and semi-retired men can ring Graham (020 8654 0872) or Allan (020 8402 7416) for a friendly chat, drop us an e-mail to secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org or browse our website at www.hayesmensfellowship.org.

CORONAVIRUS SPECIAL

Latest News

HMF Subscriptions: As mentioned in the Welcome Back Letter, subscriptions for 2020-21 are now due and 43 have paid so far – Thank you. For those who have not already paid, our Treasurer will be delighted to relieve you of the very modest £10.00 for the year. Whilst his preference is for online payments, he is also happy to accept cheques and cash. If it more convenient for you, subs could also be dropped off with Colin Vivian (42 Heath Rise, Hayes), Graham Marsden (8 Edgewood Green, Shirley) or Allan Evison (129 Pickhurst Lane, Hayes).

Future Meetings and Outings: While we have a programme of Meetings and Outings from January 2021, we will have to consider the impact of the latest Government guidance with London moving to Tier 2 High. We have not yet heard when OCS might again be available to us for our meetings. Also, we gather that a number of Outing venues are not presently admitting coach parties. We continue to monitor the situation. See also the report below on a recent Premiere Travel outing.

Foodbanks: Please remember to continue to donate to our local Foodbanks, Bromley Borough Foodbank, Hayes Community Foodbank and Shrublands Foodbank, as they continue to support the most needy in our communities during this coronavirus outbreak.

RIP: It was the funeral of Joe Gilbert on 16 October at St Mary's, the Avenue, West Wickham. Under the current arrangements this was a family only affair so there was no HMF representation – a sadly familiar occurrence at the moment.

Printer Cartridges: Following a change of printer, Jim Rudduck has some surplus Canon printer cartridges (2 XL540 black and 2 XL540 colour) available free to HMF members on a first come first served basis. Please contact Jim direct – his contact details are in the Membership List.

November's Events

Walk on 26th: Our walks Co-ordinator, Tony Archer, is hoping to organise another walk in November. Details of the route and timing will be sent round when they are available but this will again be local, ie no car sharing or public transport required (Tony Archer 07886 680546).

Looking Ahead

Annual Lunch on 20th January: This is still booked for Regan's at the New Inn, Hayes. However, while London remains at the Tier 2 High Covid alert level, the New Inn will be unable to host this event. As a result, we plan to postpone the popular Annual Lunch until we can all gather again in a more normal manner. To enable us to act quickly when restrictions are lifted, we will liaise with Regan's on menus and costs and share those details with members.

Future Outings: Colin Vivian, Ray Lydall and Ray's wife Jackie acted as guinea pigs to test out the new travel arrangements, with added covid safety precautions, offered by our usual coach provider Premiere Travel. Colin's report is as follows:

“At the invitation of Premiere Travel we joined 23 members of the Beckenham and Bromley National Trust for a day trip to Cirencester and the Cotswolds with some free time at each location.

We had our temperature taken upon boarding the coach and used the hand sanitizer both getting on and off at all times and of course we all had to wear a mask. We were limited to 26 on the 54 seater so everyone had a window seat couples if they wished could sit together. It all felt safe and comfortable as indeed did our stop at Reading Services and the pubs in Cirencester where everything was done to make us feel as safe as possible.

This was an enjoyable day out and to see new surroundings a psychological boost.”

This experience will be used to help shape our future Outings Programme, so once again “Watch This Space” for developments.

Current opportunities for Outings: For anyone keen on an Outing before our new programme commences in the new year, Premiere Travel have extended the range of day trips offered to the public. To whet your appetite a few of the trips available are Henley and Marlowe rescheduled for 4 November, Winchester on 25 November, Canterbury on 10 December and Salisbury on 14 January. For full details, see the brochure on their website at <https://premieretravel.co.uk/> or call Premiere Travel direct on 01959 576519. We suggest you explain that you are members of the Fellowship but be aware that earlier trips were popular and well-booked. One lady begged Proprietor Chris Summerscales to include her whatever the destination as she was desperate to get out and about again, “somewhere, anywhere!” Note that these Outings are organised by Premiere Travel and the Fellowship has no involvement with them. Also that Premiere Travel is subject to changing Covid rules, just as the Fellowship is, so may have to vary its offering.



Interior of the Premiere Travel coach

Looking Back

Annual Service: Our very unusual 2020-21 Season got off to a very familiar start in October when more than 20 of our members congregated in Hayes Parish Church for the HMF Annual Service. This was reported more fully in the October Extra Newsletter, but the opportunity was taken to bid a proper farewell to the members we lost over the last year; Alan Cheeseman, Len Hicks, Clive King, Tony Kite, James McGarey, Bill Morris, Ian Pryer, Ken Truss and Terry Wheeler.

The retiring collection was for the Bromley Homeless Shelter. If anybody wishes to donate to the BHS can they please make any cheques payable to the Hayes Men's Fellowship and drop them off in the same way as subscriptions (see above).

October Walk: Walk report 28 October 2020, - Hayes to Shirley. It was super to have another HMF walk after quite a break, which followed Ramblers' Association covid guidance and had such a good take-up. The distance walked was 3.8 miles to the Appletree Pub for an excellent lunch and 2 miles back for those who made the return leg. The 11 walkers were Tony Archer, David Abberly, Denis Chandler, Ray Lyddall, Graham Marsden, Sid Perrett, Barry Sansom, Stephen Smythe, Stuart Talbot, Doug Tredget and Colin Wyman. They were joined at the pub for lunch by Andy Graham, John Hobbs, David Hunt, Derek McWalter, and Ron Payne. Once again a big thank you to Tony Archer who researches and practices all of the walks for us.

Finally we leave you with this topical message from a wooden wall plaque restored to its former glory on BBC TV's Repair Shop recently:-

Today is the Tomorrow we worried about Yesterday – and all is well.