

VISOR

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



2023

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter which also contains a copy of my AGM report to the members, in case you were not able to attend in November.

A special welcome to new members who have joined in recent months —Janet, Lesley, Alan and Richard. We hope you enjoy your time with us at Visor.

Don't forget our special Christmas quiz and social gathering at the Richmond Library Annexe on Thursday 14th December at 2.30 p.m, when we will be holding a Christmas raffle.

The Trustees and myself would like to wish you, your families and friends, a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Pat

VISOR AGM

The VISOR AGM was held at Richmond Library Annex on 9th November 2023, and was well attended.

The Trustees and volunteers arrived at the Annex at about 1.30 pm to set up the tables, chairs and refreshments including hot drinks, either tea or coffee. The Members started to arrive just after 2.00 pm.

The AGM started at 2.40 pm, with the Minutes of the last AGM Meeting 2021/22, being read. These were accepted by one Member and seconded by another.

Pat McNamee (Chair of VISOR) gave her Report, which itemised the main activities of the Charity throughout the year. Members applauded at the end of the Report.

This was followed by details of the finances of the Charity, reported by Ed Price.

The Meeting concluded at around 3.00 pm, followed by the luxury tea being served, including sandwiches and cakes. Of course, tea and coffee were also included on the menu.

Grateful thanks and appreciation were expressed by Pat, to the Trustees and volunteers for their service to the Charity during the past year.

During Tea, Pat took the opportunity to visit each table of Members giving them the opportunity to ask any questions they might have about VISOR, and make any suggestions they may have for the smooth running of VISOR.

To end on a positive note, it was most encouraging to see Steve (a Trustee) at the Meeting, as he has been absent for over 12 months due to ankle surgery.

After the event, the tables and chairs were cleared away by Ed and myself. We had also set them out beforehand.

DOUG SMITH (TRUSTE

VISOR visit to Blenheim Palace
Wednesday - 20th September 2023



We assembled early at the Wellbeing Centre in Twickenham on a drizzly windy September morning frustrated a little by the fact that the previous day had been a warm sunny Indian summer September day.

Our members, including 4 new members, climbed aboard the accessible comfortable coach for the hour and a bit journey to the 18th Century only non - royal palace in the UK. Despite the rain, we arrived in good time and good spirits. As we reached the parking area the rain eased off. It was a little distance from this area to the palace building so, after receiving entry arm bands, some members opted for walking along the drive up to the palace, others - including my lazy self, awaited buggy transport provided for visitors

Sadly, the gardens were closed to visitors on this day due to the weather conditions and health and safety

concerns. Nevertheless, some views were possible from inside the palace.

We started in the stables café before embarking on the discovery of the main building's delights. The stables were extremely well maintained and, although no live horses were around, a life-size wicker horse was stabled next to a small open coach occupied by a young visitor probably acting out the role of Sarah Churchill, the first lady of the palace.

Moving to the main building we were able to get an audio tour which provided not only a description of the magnificent state room and other rooms but also an insight into the lives of the various Dukes of Marlborough and their families from the 1st Duke (John Churchill) to the current Duke - the 12th (Charles James Spencer-Churchill). The palace is still occupied in one wing by the current Duke and the family. Thus, part of the palace was available to visit at extra cost. We did not avail ourselves of this opportunity.

I was personally overwhelmed by the amazing quantity of paintings covering nearly all wall space and the some 300 years of family portraits, historic events and artistic treasures.

There was a particular interesting exhibition of the life and times of Sir Winston Churchill on the ground floor, after all, he had been born here.

The usual visit to the shop followed then back to the buggies to rejoin our coach for the journey back to Twickenham.

Overall, I think everyone enjoyed the day despite the inclement weather. Thought might be given to a revisit to include the gardens.

Edward

PS. The following day the Indian summer returned.
How galling!

FULL OF LIFE FAIR
TWICKENHAM RUGBY GROUND
FRIDAY 13th OCTOBER 2023

VISOR returned again for the second year to the Council's Full of Life Fair for borough residents over 50 years of age.

We rented a stall which only costs £30.00 if you are a local charity but £60.00 if you are a local business.

The night before the event Doug and I had to attend at a given time to set up our stall in readiness for visitors in the morning. We had a car full of items such as the Visor banner; our Queens Award for Voluntary Service; table cover; posters and our new leaflets to distribute.

On the morning of the event, we had to be ready to receive visitors at 9 a.m. The organisers provided free tea and coffee for stallholders but no lunch despite all of us being residents and over a certain age!

Doug and I manned the stall all day with a welcome break when Keith and Steve turned up to help us. We were very grateful to both of them.

We are really pleased to report that over 800 people visited the Fair and at our stall we received 40 enquiries for Visor. We also took the opportunity to visit other stalls and swap brochures and ideas. Everyone agreed that it was an excellent, worthwhile event.

Pat

THE VIEW LUNCH

16th November 2023

We had a three-course lunch for 36 members at the Training College on the 316. Members met in the reception area and then made their way up to the restaurant where we were met by the Maitre de and the students.

Members were sat at tables of 10. They then came round and took drinks orders and this was followed by lunch. We had a varied menu, and a good time was had by all. Everyone dispersed by 2:30 p.m. to get their taxis to return home.

Keith
Events Co-ordinator

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Members

Unfortunately, we have had some problems with members not turning up for events when they have booked, and the charity has lost out financially. As we have to account for every penny of the grants received, this is causing concern. Most of our events have to be paid for in advance by us, as you probably realise.

Please be assured that we understand sometimes illness or hospital admission cannot be avoided.

In future when we send out the details of an event and you wish to attend, can you please send the acceptance form back in the SAE provided, by the closing date specified. Alternatively, please ring

the office on a Monday to express your interest, followed by the form in the post. All enquiries regarding trips must be made direct to the office on a Monday. Unfortunately, the Trustees do not keep books at home and we do not know how many places, if any, are available at any time.

We also do not accept booking forms, cheques or cash at events. At events we are not returning to the office afterwards, and they can easily be lost, especially at the quiz because we have to carry so much equipment backwards and forwards.

Thank you in advance for you co-operation in this matter.

VISOR Trustees

OBITUARY

We are very sorry to let you know that June Hamblin has passed away. June had been a member of VISOR for many years and had accompanied us on five of the holidays to Devon. She regularly attended the monthly quiz when we held it at the Cabbage Patch near to her home. She was always smiling and enjoyed company.

Four VISOR Trustees/members went to her funeral on 30th October at the South West Middlesex Crematorium, and joined the family in a celebration of June's life.

We all send our condolences to Glyn and Linda and the family. We will miss June very much.

THANK YOU

VISOR Trustees would like to thank the following for their assistance and support:

- The London Mayor's Fund (Building Strong Communities)**
- The Hampton Fund**
- Richmond Parish Lands Charity**
- The National Lottery Community Fund**
- The Ulverscroft Foundation**
- Middlesex Association for the Blind**

- Ed Mears, IT Consultant, for his continued invaluable assistance**
- The Complete Office for their assistance with printing and advice with respect to office services and equipment**
- Richmond Libraries (Annexe) for providing a venue for our regular meetings**
- Kew Cricket Club for advertising us on their website**
- Keith Rose volunteer and Kew CC liaison**

VISOR Trustees