



## APRIL/MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



I hope that this Newsletter brings some good news – a brighter light at the end of the tunnel – following publication of the Government’s planned Covid exit strategy which, if implemented, will allow the resumption of some Club activities. Specifically after the 17th May (allowing friends to meet albeit with some restrictions with most businesses including indoor entertainment venues to reopen) and June 21 (removal of most social distancing restrictions and allowing any remaining premises to reopen). Initially, in anticipation of a desire by many members to escape from lockdown, your Secretary has arranged a programme of monthly Outings beginning in June. Coffee Mornings and Whist will, it is hoped, resume in September and arrangements are being made to book the St Mary’s Church Hall for these activities with dates to be circulated later.

By June it is hoped that we will be out of lockdown, free of most restrictions with everyone in the 50+ age group having been vaccinated! As our first outing is now on the 2nd Jul (the 2nd June outing being rescheduled to 31 August) we are hoping that some of the current Covid-19 restrictions will have been relaxed. Should this not be the case, Blakes have advised me that the maximum number of useable seats will need to be reduced (*depends on the number of couples or people in a “bubble”*) and bookings will therefore have to be allocated on a “first come first served” basis. Also I will have to prepare a social distancing coach seating plan for any such outings so it is important I know if you are travelling with whom you wish to sit next to..

Whilst Blakes are maintaining their 2020 prices, any reduction of seat occupancy does of course mean that there will have to be an increase in our outing prices. The cost of this year’s outings have been calculated using an average seat occupancy of 33 passengers (*assumes a mix of full and limited capacity events during the course of the year*) compared with 42 last year. Otherwise, every endeavour has been made to minimise Outing prices so that they remain affordable and reasonable value for money. Many venues in last year’s programme however remain closed (*or as in the case of the Britannia Royal Naval College have decided not to offer private tours at all this year*) and it has not therefore been possible to repeat some of the destinations featured in last year’s programme which, because of coronavirus restrictions, we were unable to visit.

Outings will be subject to Government coronavirus guidelines and will take place only if there is sufficient demand. Members can make bookings anytime after the 1<sup>st</sup> April using the new Booking Form accompanied by cheque (payable to Silverton & Exe Valley Seniors) or cash for each outing. If it becomes necessary for the Club to cancel an outing because of either insufficient bookings or coronavirus restrictions, a full refund will be given. Members who cancel bookings more than a week in advance of the outing departure will receive a full refund. Member cancellations received within a week of departure will however be subject to a £10 per booked passenger administration charge subject to there being no refund entitlement in respect of any cancelled booking within 48 hours of departure.

***Martin***

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