

## Preparing for The Future with an Eye to the Past

Following on from last month's hectic activity this has been a month of preparing for the future. However, first a follow up from our activity with Diabetes UK. We have been sent a certificate by them recognising our fund raising activity. Then their volunteer, Roger Weeks, came and gave the club a talk on diabetes at our October business meeting. Members were struck by how common Diabetes is, particularly Type 2, the increased prevalence in the Asian and Afro-Caribbean population and the degree of resistance many members of the population have to reacting to symptoms or the warning signs due to either ignorance or complacency.

Planning is well underway for the Blackmore Vale Half Marathon (BVHM), a major fund raiser for us, on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2026. Our major charitable beneficiaries this year will be Prostate Cancer Charities.

On the subject of recognition in the post we have received a banner patch from LCIF. It recognizes our average member contribution to LCIF's funds this year.

Equally we are as busy working on the planned 2027 visit by our German twin club Hannover Tiergarten with whom we had a wonderful visit back in May. Although not until May 2027 there are things we need to do to get things moving and into people's calendars. Finance, booking entry tickets to events and preparing a provisional agenda being prime amongst these. The weekend visit starts on a Friday and ends on the Monday. Our plan is to have a private party with the guests given by their host families on Friday at a local pub or dare we say it a barbeque (that's ensured that May 2027 will be the wettest on record!) or similar.

Our ideas for the rest of the stay include a selection of visits to local traditional or cultural events-cheese and cider making, Morris Dancing, visit to a local traditional industry and possibly maypole dancing, Our guests will be invited to our charter evening, and we hope to touch on local Dorset/Hanoverian history.

The Kings German Legion were exclusively recruited from Hannover during the time of the Hanoverian monarchs and fought gallantly at the battle of Waterloo, as elsewhere in the Napoleonic Wars, as part of the British Army. They were mainly billeted in Dorchester and Weymouth, but other places on the South Coast too. Many were joined by their families or married local girls and settled in the area after their service. Also, most importantly we are looking forward to our skittles competition. We hope to reclaim the trophy!

Preparation is well underway for Christmas. We plan on the usual Bucket Collections and with the restrictions on the insuring of Father Christmas floats we are aiming to hold local events in Village Halls etc in the lead up to Christmas. If we can't take Father Christmas to the families, we will bring the families to him. We will let you know how we get on.

We are looking forward to a visit by Phil Bunt the First Vice District Governor, and possibly his wife Jill, to our November meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Caption.

***The 400 men of 2nd Light Battalion, King's German Legion,(in Green) held the fortified farm of La Haye Sainte at Waterloo protecting the left of Wellington's position, buying Wellington time, prevented a full frontal attack and forced the French to bunch up to attack the main position and become easier targets for British fire and counter attacks.***

