



## SKÅL INTERNATIONAL BRIGHTON, SUSSEX AND THE CHANNEL

**President**  
**Ron Brooker**

**Secretary**  
**Edward Lewis**

# **MAY 2019 Newsletter**

*Editor: Valerie Field*

Your President writes:

## **MAYOR JOINS THE PARTY AT NATIONAL**

Our guests for the National and Brighton gala dinner, The Mayor of Eastbourne Gill Mattock and consort have kindly sent a card of thanks to all Skål members for their hospitality. They were very excited to be asked to lead the first dance and had a very enjoyable time.

Unfortunately the Friday programme was cancelled due to lack of support. The National meeting on the Saturday only just survived a quorum.

The gala dinner was a great success. I have received many compliments from non members and guests who attended. Without them, friends, family and support from Eastbourne hoteliers, the gala evening would quite possibly have gone the same way as Friday. Fortunately, 17 members turned out for a great evening.

Ten Brighton, Sussex and the Channel Skål members attended. Our Skål guests were Margaret Cahill, the Irish National President, Paul Hoskins who stood in for Eric Etienne who was unable to travel, presidents from London, Cambridge, and Southampton, and National Secretary Lyn Snelgrove from Southampton.

Thanks to Edward Lewis and all his staff at the Lansdowne Hotel for their great service. Well done.

Sunday 28th April was Skål International Day. Four members and a guest attended lunch at the Tollgate Hotel in Bramber. Fortunately it was a very pleasant lunch, but on these numbers and recent attendances we should reconsider future events.

Your comments and support would be most welcome.

*Ron Brooker*

## ***Immediate Past President Christine Ayers reports on the National Assembly***

So didn't we all have a good time despite the low numbers!!

Those that booked threw themselves into the Skål spirit and from the numbers dancing to the music from All Time High, something good was happening. Even the Eastbourne Hospitality Association people got into the spirit and won quite a few raffle prizes too. Not that I'm jealous or anything. On the Friday evening a few stalwarts took themselves off to an Italian restaurant for an excellent meal, food and Amicale in abundance. During Saturday morning the Brighton, Sussex and the Channel 80th birthday cake arrived. What a thing of beauty that was! A very steady hand with the icing bag methinks. This was on show at the Saturday drinks reception and then disappeared to be skilfully cut up for our dessert course.

The hotel was incredibly busy with a 'Lodge' gathering and birthday parties but the skill and care of looking after us didn't falter. When several hardier souls made it to the bar at midnight, to join with a couple of errant separate 80th birthday party goers, the staff were happy to keep us supplied until bed called at 2am.

Unfortunately our National President Eric Etienne was unwell and couldn't come over to join us but Immediate Past National President, Paul Hoskins, stepped into the breach. This also meant we would be short of Camembert discs for our cheese course - Eric was going to bring them over but the problem was solved by me sourcing a supply of ripe and ready Camembert rounds which were brought to perfection in our cheese safe in the cellar. They were well locked in because by Friday they could have walked to the hotel under their own steam! Shame however that when handed over to the hotel they went straight into the fridge. That there elf n'safety geezer again.

The weather was very kind to us except on the Saturday morning when a large grey cloud loomed over the town, emptied its contents onto the seafront and disappeared over the horizon. Maybe a few people were caught on their shopping jaunt to the town centre but we just watched from the comfort of the meeting room. Saturday lunch was very enjoyable but pescatarian Dieter Schlieben found prawns in everything he attempted to put on his plate! Pity he can't eat them but a lovely piece of fish was promptly grilled and supplied with a bed of veg that disappeared fairly quickly.

All in all a very enjoyable weekend with the spirit of Skål more than apparent, pity there weren't more people to also enjoy it. President of Ireland and husband seemed to throw themselves into it as did the Mayor and consort. Madam Mayor complained that some of the chains of office were better than hers!

Mid morning Sunday and the flag lowered, it was time for Philip and I to go home for a well earned plate of home grown asparagus and glass of cool wine, put our feet up and enjoy the afternoon sun in peace and quiet.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US



*Photo supplied by  
Mike Scott*

## POSTBAG

Dear Paul, Lyn & Philip,

On behalf of Jimmy and myself I want to offer a sincere thank you for your kindness and hospitality over the past weekend in Eastbourne. We really enjoyed our time with you. It was very nice to see so many old friends again. Although we share the same problems of lack of new members and the retention of members it is still interesting to have a discussion and share ideas with each other. Please convey big congratulations to Ron and all the Skålleagues in Brighton, Sussex and the Channel for a great weekend and on celebrating their 80th birthday. What an achievement.

I do hope that Eric will be well soon and back hale and hearty among the Skål family.

Kind regards to all,

Margaret.

**Margaret Cahill**

National President & International Councillor  
Skål International - Republic of Ireland

Dear Ron,

A quick note before any more time elapses to thank you and Brighton Skålleagues for all the National arrangements last weekend and which went off so well.

The Gala Dinner, during which we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the founding of your Club, was excellent and most enjoyable. It was good too that you could include so many of your Eastbourne Hospitality members, friends and colleagues.

A tremendous effort all round and a National Assembly which will stay long in the memory. Thank you again.

*With all good wishes. Yours in Skål,  
Paul*

**Paul A. Hoskins**

**Immediate National Past President, Skål International UK**

## **SHEILA TAKES A TUMBLE**

*I have received the following letter from Sheila Smith – Editor*

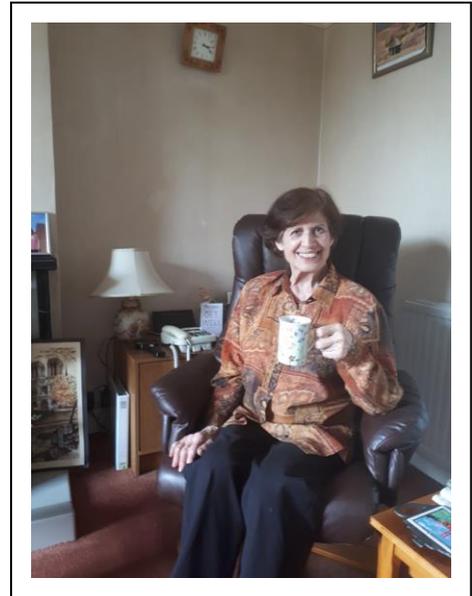
Hi Valerie

Thankyou for the April newsletter.

Sadly I won't be joining any events for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately I had a fall on a bus and fractured my pelvis. It didn't need surgery, but lots of rest and rehab so I'm home now with the help from my son and a carer who visit twice a week. I'm improving slowly but surely but it will take until the summer to recover.

Say hi to all Skål members on my behalf and I wish you happy travelling

Love Sheila x



*Photo supplied by  
Sheila*

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

On Friday, 31 May there will be an afternoon/evening visit to Bluebell Railway with a Fish & Chips supper. For full details please contact Martin Haley (email: [haley.ivermansion@btinternet.com](mailto:haley.ivermansion@btinternet.com))

Our President's 'at home' Patio Party is on Sunday, July 7. It will be a seafood buffet at a price of £12. His address is 16 Beverington Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 2SD.

The Eastbourne Airborne event is on Sunday, August 18 and we will have a lunch and watch the flypast at the Mooring Restaurant, Seaville Drive, Pevensey Bay. There is a good carpark on the beach. The three course classic menu includes daily specials and, including tea/coffee, will cost £15.50 per person. The lunch will be at 12o'clock. The flypast will be viewed from the beach and it is suggested that members bring foldaway chairs for comfort.

## **BIRTHDAY BLACKBOARD**

Happy Birthday wishes go this month to Peter Sargent. Enjoy your special day.

## OUTLINE PROGRAMME FOR 2019/20

- FRIDAY MAY 31 –** Afternoon/Evening visit to Bluebell Railway  
Fish & Chip supper
- SUNDAY JULY 7 –** President's at home Patio party lunch  
16 Beverington Road, Eastbourne
- SUNDAY AUGUST 18 –** Lunch and Airborne flypast  
Mooring Restaurant, Seaville Drive, Pevensey Bay.
- THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 5 –** Skittles, Supper and Pub Quiz  
Royal Oak, Barcombe
- WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 14-20 –** 65<sup>th</sup> Skål International Congress  
Miami, USA
- SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 19 –** Visit to Cote d Opale  
Lunch at Le Cap
- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3 –** Lunch – Brighton arrival of London/  
Brighton Car Run
- SATURDAY OR SUNDAY –** Christmas Lunch  
**DECEMBER 7 OR 8** Cooden Beach Hotel, Bexhill
- 2020**
- SUNDAY JANUARY 26 –** AGM and Burns Lunch  
Lansdowne Hotel, Eastbourne

To: Philip Ayers, The Old Rectory, Litlington, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 5RB

I/We will/will not be attending the President's Patio Party on Sunday 7 July 2019 at 16 Beverington Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 2SD.

Time: ?. Price: £12.00 per person.

My guest/s is/are .....

My cheque for £ is enclosed being £12.00 per person. (*Cheques should be made payable to Skål International Brighton*)

OR

Internet Transfer to Club Account:

Account Name: Skål International Brighton

Account No: 54205181

Sort Code: 09-01-55 (Santander)

NAME:

.....

I/We will/will not bring a raffle prize. **Replies and payment to Philip by 30 June please.**

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To: Philip Ayers, The Old Rectory, Litlington, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 5RB

I/We will/will not be attending Eastbourne Airborne event on Sunday 18 August 2019 at the Mooring Restaurant, Seaville Drive, Pevensey Bay BN24 6AL. Time: 12.00.

Price: £15.50 per person.

My guest/s is/are .....

My cheque for £ is enclosed being £15.50 per person. (*Cheques should be made payable to Skål International Brighton*)

OR

Internet Transfer to Club Account:

Account Name: Skål International Brighton

Account No: 54205181

Sort Code: 09-01-55 (Santander)

NAME:

.....

I/We will/will not bring a raffle prize. **Replies and payment to Philip by 10 August please.**