

Dear Colleague

26 February 2021

You will have seen the details of the Prime Minister's road map back to normality. Assuming things go as planned it will be possible for branches to recommence meetings after 21st June. Indeed the Barking, Havering and Brentwood Branch have already announced that their first meeting will be on 1st July.

Before that the rules will change to allow groups to meet outdoors which will enable branches to undertake some outdoor activities if they so wish. The Walsall Branch has called an outdoor meeting for 20th May. Also from 17th May up to 6 people can meet indoors and therefore it is possible for some branch committees to start meeting. I very much encourage branches to begin arrangements for meetings to recommence in the summer. If you encounter any obstacles to your branch reopening please get in touch with Central Office so we can share your experience with other branches.

As you know the capitation fee is £20 but for 2020/2021 this has been reduced to £10. At the Trustees meeting held on 24th February it was agreed that the capitation fee for 2021/2022 should also be £10 and revert back to £20 for 2022/2023. I trust that you and your members will feel that this is a reasonable approach.

The Trustees also agreed that we should continue to plan for the AGM/Conference to be held in Manchester 22nd – 23rd October 2021.

What a remarkable effort it was that the Fellowship was able to send more than 100 cards to Joan Dew on her 100th birthday. Joan wrote *"I am overwhelmed with the cards and wishes from so many branches of the Fellowship. Congratulations must be given to whoever organised this event. During my time I have attended 13 annual conferences, met some amazing folk and seen the Fellowship grow. My hope is for a renewed recruitment effort to enable the Fellowship to continue its support to the NHS and its retired members. Kindly confirm my thanks for "The icing on my cake" to everyone."* We would like to know if you have a member who is approaching their 100th birthday so we can help to celebrate.

As always my grateful thanks to Branch Officers for keeping the Fellowship alive during this difficult period. Please don't hesitate to make contact should you want advice or help the Central Office remains covered 5 days a week although there will only be one member of staff in the office at any one time.

You can call the office 01305 361317 at any time and if there is no-one there at that time, messages are monitored and someone will get back to you.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



John Rostill OBE
Chief Executive