

KierLink

The magazine for the Kier Fellowship Trust | Issue 35 | Autumn/Winter 2017



All aboard for autumn!

DINORWIC –
PAGE 6

WHICHWAY JUNCTION –
PAGE 20

THE TRUST'S GOT TALENT –
PAGE 24

"We're looking to recruit a new editor..."



Viv Chesterfield
Editor

Hello everyone!

Welcome to 2017's Autumn/Winter edition of KierLink. I expect by now you have experienced the chill in the air that heralds the onset of autumn. It's a wonderful time of year for walking and taking in the glorious colours of the season – provided you dress appropriately for the weather of course! At a time when the health benefits of a brisk ten-minute walk are being promoted, it's good to see so many of the Fellowship activities getting people out, about and active.

In the last edition of KierLink I mentioned the Dinorwic Power Station project – an incredible feat of civil engineering – and was delighted to hear from Jeff Taylor who joined the project as a fresh-faced graduate. He's kindly put some words and pictures together recalling his time there which I hope you find interesting.

And if you find small-scale construction fascinating, Harold Thompson's report on the latest developments at his model railway scheme will not disappoint.

I am sorry to tell you that this will be my last offering as editor of KierLink due to family commitments which are likely to take up more of my time in future. This means we're looking to recruit a new editor for KierLink. If you are interested, please contact me on viv_chesterfield@yahoo.co.uk

"Wishing you all the best..."

Please note the copy deadline of **Monday 29 January 2018** and I will ensure your submissions are passed on for inclusion in future newsletters.

Wishing you all the best for the forthcoming festive season and beyond.

Viv Chesterfield

Chairman's Fellowship matters



Neil Meixner

I am delighted to report that the Trust has received increased funds from the Group, or more accurately, from the Construction Division, and this has assured the long-term position of the Trust for the years to come. We are very grateful to Peter Young and David Hodson who listened to our concerns and reacted in the most positive way.

Funding and expenses will now be administered centrally by Brendan O'Boyle and all event monies should be reimbursed through him.

This year has been most successful; so many events around the country and yet another great Garden Party at Tempsford Hall. Next year is our 21st birthday and to celebrate, the Kier Group Fellowship Board will be providing incentives to encourage our further flung areas to attend the next Garden Party.

I'd like to extend my personal thanks to John Simson who after having worked tirelessly for the Loughton and Witham areas over many years has decided to stand down as the area organiser for the Witham area. John and Geoff Brown jointly

received the Chairman's Award this year for best performing area.

The Trust is blessed with an extremely active and effective set of area organisers and their helpers, whether they be individuals or committees, but there is always room for more help. If you think you can provide some time to organise or assist please contact your area organiser. I'm sure they'd be delighted!

Once again membership has reached an all-time high at 1,325, however I still make my usual appeal for you to encourage other retirees or qualifying leavers to join our fellowship.

Neil Meixner

"Have a great Autumn."

Contents

Chairman's Fellowship matters.....	3	More from Whichway Junction	20
Administrator's report.....	4	National Golf Competition	21
Message from the Group Chief Executive	5	Obituaries	22
Dinorwic	6-7	Charity support for ex-employees of William Moss Builders	22
Area reports.....	8-18	Warwick's gardening page	23
New members	19	The Trust's got talent	24

COVER PHOTO:
MEMBERS FROM
THE BRISTOL AND
NEWPORT AREA ENJOYED
A TRIP ON THE SEVERN
VALLEY RAILWAY.



Copy deadline for Spring/Summer 2018 issue:

**MONDAY
29 JANUARY 2018**

Email kierlinkmag@gmail.com



Brendan O'Boyle



Administrator's report

but with a link to the main Kier website. We hope to give more information and updates about this development at the forthcoming area organisers' meetings. The membership page is still operational on the main Kier website so if you have former colleagues who are not yet members and wish to join please encourage them to visit the website.

From a financial point of view I am pleased to report that our last statutory accounts for the year ended 5 April 2017 showed that we have maintained the original sum placed in the Trust 20 years ago. We held nearly 100 events in the last year and we continue to operate on a break-even basis. We still hold 80% of our funds on the stock exchange in investment trusts and unit trusts with the remainder held in short term cash bonds.

Interest in the Trust remains high with new members joining from divisions of the company acquired in recent years including more 'blue collar' employees which is particularly pleasing. Our membership currently stands at 1,325 – a record for the Trust.

New members wishing to join or re-join the Kier Rewards Scheme need to

be aware that the Rewards Team at the Rushden service centre cannot register them direct and they must contact either their area organiser or me with their full name, date of birth, email address and National Insurance number so that Trust records can be updated first. The information will then be passed to the Rewards Team on a monthly basis for loading on the system.

Please remember if you change your address to let your area organiser know as soon as possible so you continue to receive invitations.

If you require help or information with any matters relating to the Fellowship please contact me by email as shown below.

Kier Group Fellowship Trust

7 Chestnut Drive
Harrow Weald
Middlesex
HA3 7DL

Brendan O'Boyle

Email brendan.o'boyle.ext@kier.co.uk

Message from the Group Chief Executive



As we're about to enter the last quarter of the year, I'm sure you'd like to know how we are doing as a business. I'm pleased to let you know that we announced a good set of results for financial year end 2017 which are in line with what we said we would deliver and highlight the strong performance of our businesses.

The results reflect our growing positions in our three key markets – building, infrastructure and housing – and now represent 90% of the Group's revenue and profit. It also showed strong performance from our four divisions – Property, Residential, Construction and Services – as they all delivered revenue increases with robust margins.

We are also focused on helping to plug the skills gap in our sector by launching our new exciting campaign "Shaping Your World". It is our new recruitment and business development campaign designed to change public perceptions of our sector, help win new work, showcase the projects of our clients, and encourage the next generation of talent into the industry, by specifically engaging with Generation Z (11-15 year olds).

In order to engage with young students, we have created the 1% pledge which involves 200 Kier Ambassadors visiting secondary schools over the next 12 months talking about their roles in the industry.

Please visit our website at shapingyourworld.co.uk and tell your friends and family members to do the same. Please share it as widely as you can particularly with the younger generation. This is our opportunity to start to make a real difference and attract a whole new generation into our industry.

As always, thank you for your continued support and interest in Kier.

Haydn Mursell

On 25 June 2017, we celebrated our 20th Garden Party since the formation of the Trust in 1998. Our older members will of course remember that in the earlier years it was called our annual luncheon and held in November or December each year whatever the weather.

It was astonishing, at this year's event, to discover that some members present had been to all twenty events. The best area award deservedly went to Loughton and Witham and thanks are due to Geoff Brown and John Simson; the most improved area went to Maple Cross and Terry Delany collected the award on behalf of Norman Elliott. A special thanks was given to Brian Hill of the Rushden area for another outstanding year of events.

At the time of writing this article we are still engaged in the development of a micro website for the Fellowship which will be self-sufficient for us



Dinorwic...

MY FIRST CONTRACT AS A GRADUATE WAS WITH KIER AT DINORWIC 40 YEARS AGO. WE WERE BUILDING A PUMPED STORAGE POWER STATION INSIDE A MOUNTAIN. THIS USED OFF PEAK ELECTRICITY TO PUMP WATER UP THE MOUNTAIN FROM LLYN PERIS TO MARCHLYN MAWR. IT WAS THEN USED TO PROVIDE ELECTRICITY WHEN THERE WAS SUDDEN DEMAND AS IT COULD GO TO FULL POWER IN ABOUT 15 SECONDS.



Drilling rig in action 3 boom



Landrover basket



Machine hall incomplete

I started work in the diversion tunnel which enabled the stream to bypass Llyn Peris. It was quite a learning experience with all the noise, blasting, fumes etc. making it rather surreal. Initially I had to check gas readings in the tunnel using a handheld pump and chemical containing tubes which detected different gases. Unlike the modern electronic detectors you had no early warnings. I was wearing my newly

issued battery and caplight, but they had no belts for the heavy lead acid battery so had to carry mine. On the way back I saw a long waste cord, so chopped a piece off using a rock, for my belt. When I returned with the gas readings I was told the cord was explosive!

Soon I was transferred to the tail race tunnels where water exited after flowing

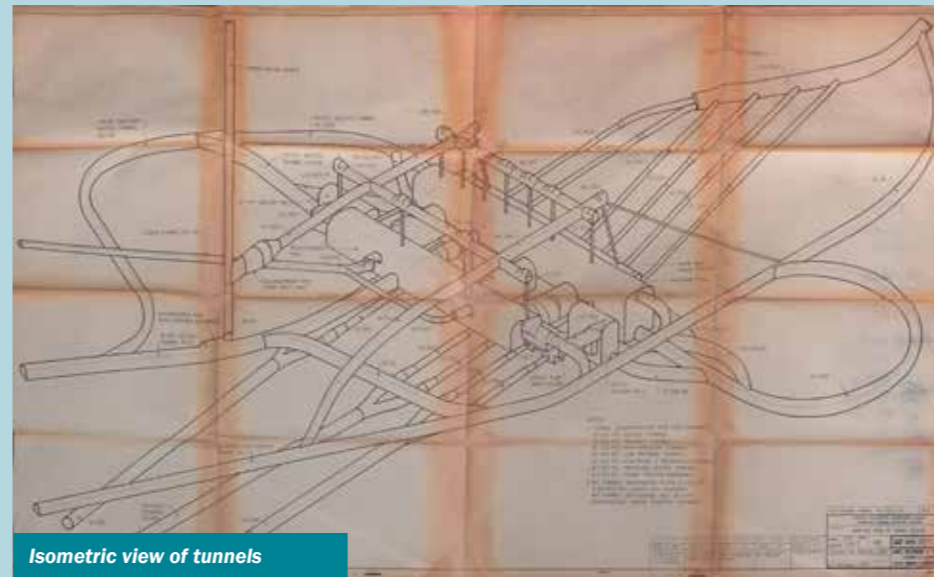


Jeff Taylor

through the turbines. There were three main tunnels which split into six smaller tunnels as they reached the six pump/turbines. I had to set out the face showing where to drill holes for explosives. Each firing 'pulled' about 3 metres of rock so it was very repetitive: only by marking a drawing with each 'pull' could you see any progress.

We worked three shifts, two weeks on days, a week on evenings (backs) and a week on nights. The back shift was great, I was in bed by 1am and got up about 8. I'd have till 4pm to do what I liked. In the summer I'd go walking and climbed Snowdon many times. Snowdon was opposite the site so when I'd finished I could get a shower and food before work.

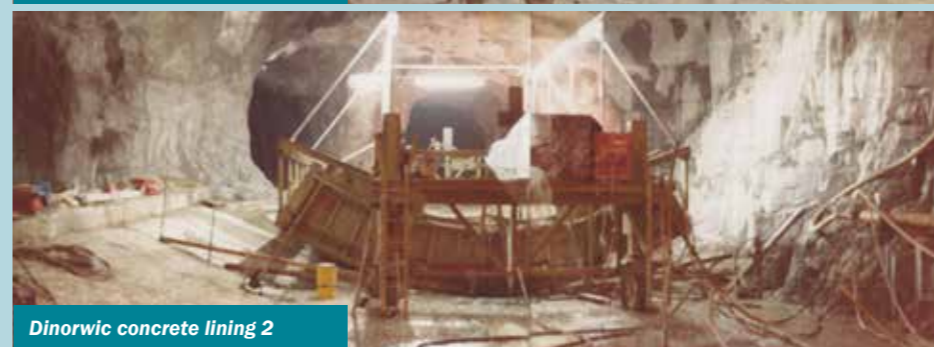
Sometimes I set off the explosives, and with straight tunnels you could see the detonators fire. Different delay detonators were used with the shortest delays in the centre, and even longer



Isometric view of tunnels



5 boom jumbo drilling rig



Dinorwic concrete lining 2

delays blowing the rock progressively into the hole just formed. It took about a second, and was like a very quick firework display followed by an incredible boom. Then you left quickly before the fumes came.

I had a couple of 'near misses': in the first I'd forgotten my cap lamp but went to the tunnel face anyway. As I reached it the lights went out and the darkness was total. There were two possibilities, a fault or a face was going to be fired. As quick as I could I worked my way up the tunnel by feel. Luckily it was only a fault but it taught me a lesson, I never forgot my lamp again. Also once I was using a Landrover basket to fix a plumb line to a roof station. I'd gone up in the basket and reached maximum extension when the Landrover began to tip. Luckily a passing miner jumped on the bonnet and it tipped back again. The cause was the tunnel slope meant the vehicle couldn't be levelled: other precautions were then taken.

When breakthrough occurred we found we'd only 'missed' by a few 10s of millimetres – amazing when you realised how far we'd come. Then the concrete lining commenced. I'd spent 12 months forming the hole so decided to move on, and with my wedding approaching I transferred to the Heathrow area.

Jeff Taylor



Around the regions

Bristol and Newport

Our area has had a very successful increased and full programme of events. In February we were able to visit the Concorde Museum in Filton, Bristol, being constructed by Kier, just after Concorde had been delivered and built into the new hangar. We were even able to have a quick look in the cabin of this iconic plane. Our thanks to the site staff for the arrangements. Following our visit we enjoyed a lunch nearby.



Our usual March meal in the grand surroundings of the De Vere Hotel, Tortworth Court was very well attended and a great success; we were pleased that our local Director, Mr David Snell, was able to also come to this.

An early informal golf match was played at Stinchcombe Golf Club in April, in excellent weather. Several current Kier staff also played.



Twenty-five members came to the Forest of Dean for lunch at The Globe Inn, Alvington, in May. This was followed by a visit to the nearby Lydney Park Gardens owned by Lord Bledisloe's family, where the important collection of rhododendrons and azaleas were in full flower in a peaceful sheltered valley. The gardens also contain a deer park and have a Roman villa. Again we had beautiful weather for this memorable day, some members having tea after on the terrace of the mansion with spectacular views across the Severn towards the Cotswolds.



In June we travelled north to Kidderminster for a most interesting day on the Severn Valley Railway following the River Severn through beautiful countryside. We were able to travel on both steam and diesel trains with our day tickets and members met for lunch and thoroughly enjoyed the well-kept stations, period exhibits and museum.

Our July trip took us to Cardiff where we visited the St. Fagans Folk Museum. This was again very well attended by 21 of us. After meeting at the refurbished and extended new entrance, (by Kier, of course!) everyone enjoyed the high standard buildings, many moved stone-by-stone from all parts of Wales. Many of the cottages and contents reminded us of our childhood. Most purchased traditionally baked pasties from the on-site bakery, which tasted so good, few were kept until lunchtime!



Our 2017 events will be rounded off by a local golf day in September and our October meal, near Newport. Our thanks to the committee members who arranged the various events in this most enjoyable Spring and Summer of activities.

David Priddis

Central

24 January: 29 members met at The Fleet, Twynig, for the annual planning meeting. Everyone enjoyed the new year get together over a meal and lots of ideas were put forward for forthcoming events.

23 March: 25 members met at The Drop Forge Inn in the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter for lunch before visiting the Jewellery Quarter Museum. We had a most interesting guided walk around the Museum, which is an old jewellery factory, left exactly as it was when it closed in the 1980s. After the museum tour some of our members visited a local church.

11 May: 11 members met at Worcester Racecourse for lunch of a pint and a pie whilst studying the form in the Racing Post. Once again Denis Wood got it mostly right and the rest of us went home a bit poorer. Nevertheless it was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

6 June: 20 members braved pouring rain and a howling gale to visit Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, and despite the weather, enjoyed a wonderful day. After getting together for coffee everyone went off to explore the amazing building and exhibits and then met for lunch. The sun did finally shine and it was then possible to explore the beautiful grounds as well.

13 July: On a sunny and warm day in early July, 25 members boarded the 'Countess of Evesham', a converted river barge at Stratford Upon Avon Basin for a cruise on the river Avon while enjoying a delicious hot lunch. As the barge is licensed the merry banter increased as larynxes became lubricated and everyone agreed that the ambience and food made for a very pleasant trip. Oh yes, the passing countryside was appreciated also and an added bonus was that we were returned to base in time to get home and watch Wimbledon.

Leeds (formerly Boston Spa)

On 19 March a good gathering of 26 attended a very enjoyable lunch at the Milford Lodge Hotel which has become a firm favourite with our members.



Grand Temple. Each leaf weighs around 1.25 tons and details the story of the building of King Solomon's Temple. Despite the incredible weight the doors are so well balanced they can be opened by a push of a finger. Once inside we were given a talk from our guide and we were privileged to have been treated to a recital on the recently refurbished organ.

The tour ended with a visit to the museum which contains an extensive collection of Masonic exhibits and memorabilia.

Lunch was held at the Sarastro Restaurant in Drury Lane. It is named after a character in Mozart's Magic Flute and it has a unique 'Opera House' decor. Additionally, the toilets have their own unique and risqué form of décor that leave little to the imagination, which caused much merriment and post lunch conversation among the guests! The food was good and enjoyed by all.

A great day in London, we missed the rain and our coach journeys were without delay.

John Spray



Loughton

Forty-nine members enjoyed the visit to the exhibition at the Masonic Hall on 26 July celebrating 300 years of Freemasonry. Freemasons' Hall was opened in 1933 as the Peace Memorial Building for the Great War and the fallen brethren are named therein.

The tour guide was excellent and explained the history and aims of Freemasonry. Freemasonry is recorded as beginning on 24 June 1717 at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern near St. Paul's Cathedral. It has since spread all over the world. It is a little known fact that it is the largest contributor to charities, second only to the Lottery Fund.

The structure itself is a fine example of building crafts. In addition to the stonework there are many stained glass windows, joinery works and high quality decorations all of which embody the insignia associated with Freemasonry. Particularly impressive are the bronze entrance doors to the

Maple Cross



Valentine's Day Luncheon

On Thursday 16 February, 37 members gathered together at Freddie's Italian Restaurant in St. Albans to celebrate Valentine's Day and more importantly get together to discuss old times and what is on the agenda for our Maple Cross Fellowship visits and lunches this year. The great turnout was almost too many for the restaurant to cope with in one room, which again goes to show how well Freddie caters for our select group. A fantastic lunch and social occasion was experienced by all.

St. George's Day Luncheon

On Thursday 20 April, 28 members met at The Mercure Oaks Hotel in Hatfield to celebrate St. George's Day. This was a new venue for the members from Maple Cross Fellowship and we were pleased to be shown to our own private room with private bar. A good lunch was enjoyed by all attendees and a good level of social sharing of stories and chatter was experienced by all. We even left our mark on the hotel events organiser when one of our members moved his chair onto his foot, resulting in him screaming in pain and limping out of the room. I was advised by the hotel that there was no lasting damage – only embarrassment from the recipient of a bruised foot!

Windsor Horse Racing Evening

On Monday 12 June, 11 members met up at the entrance to Windsor Horse Racecourse at 4.30pm to enjoy an Irish themed evening at the races. The Guinness was flowing and the Irish jigs ringing in our ears and in the background were some race horses running frantically to get to the winning post first. The first race was won by Frankie Dettori who had flown in especially to ride in this one race on a new thoroughbred... guess who was the favourite? Yes he won but the odds were very low for all the punters. The weather was good and an excellent fish and chips was had by most whilst they lost their money backing three legged horses. But a most enjoyable evening was had by those that came.



Kier Fellowship Summer Garden Party

A record turnout from Maple Cross saw 40 members attending the 20th Annual Garden Party at Tempsford Hall on Sunday 25 June 2017. A very enjoyable day was had by all attendees and we were pleased to receive a bottle of champagne for our area organiser to recognise the continued work that goes into organising all of our events.

Plymouth

On 11 April our members joined together once more at the Marsh Mill Beefeater for our Spring lunch. Our usual stalwarts were in attendance although unfortunately our numbers were somewhat depleted by illness.

Our next lunch is scheduled to be held on 11 September, once more at the Beefeater which seems to suit most of the members' travel arrangements being midway between Cornwall and Exeter area.

We will arrange our Christmas lunch during this meeting which is usually held during the first week in December.

Rushden

Since the last issue of KierLink the group has been as busy as usual with a good turnout to most events. We started the year at a medieval banquet held at Coombe Abbey near Coventry – only 27 attended but enjoyed the lively entertainment.

Our annual visit to the Royal Albert Hall in London for the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines was as usual a full house enjoyed by all. March started with a city break to Amsterdam where 44 members and friends enjoyed window shopping! See separate report from John Billington.

On Sunday 21 May, 34 members were attracted to a mystery coach trip – we visited Trentham Gardens, Buxton and Matlock Bath. On Sunday 25 June 17 members attended the Tempsford Hall Garden Party and thoroughly enjoyed the whole occasion. Congratulations on the organisation of the event.

On Sunday 16 July 41 members had a long day visiting Spetchley Park Gardens near Worcester then venturing further south to Berkeley Castle near Gloucester – certain people in

the group found it 'heavy digging'. Good job we had a good bar on the coach... a long day!

On Wednesday 19 July we took a full coach to Kneller Hall next to Twickenham Stadium for a visit to the Museum of Army Music with an evening concert featuring the Bands of the Household Cavalry and the Gurkhas – plus fireworks. A picnic in the park for 44 members is a tall order but we succeeded with warm weather.

On Saturday 12 August 35 members attended Shrewsbury Flower Show and had an enjoyable day with good weather. In early September, a large group of members of the countrywide Fellowship Trust visited Woburn Golf Club for the European Senior Masters Golf Tournament. Special thanks to the main sponsors Travis Perkins plc.

The following events are still planned:

Date	Event
Sunday 24/09	Sussex Prairie Gardens
Wednesday 27/09	Melton Mowbray fun evening and buffet (making our own pork pies)
Monday 9-Saturday 14/09	The Austrian Tyrell – six days five nights (40 booked)
Saturday 11/11	London Christmas shopping and Lord Mayor's Show
Friday 24-Sunday 26/11	Potters leisure resort Christmas spectacular – three days two nights (26 booked)
Thursday 30/11	Annual Christmas lunch at John Whites Golf Club
Sunday 10/12	London Carol Service in the Guards Chapel with Christmas Lunch in hotel
Saturday 30/12-Tuesday 02/01/18	New Year break in Valkenburg with fancy dress party
Saturday 10/03/18	London Royal Albert Hall – The Mountbatten Festival of Music
Monday 19-Thursday 22/03/18	Four days three nights break to Monschan

SO WE HAVE PLENTY TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

Since the last edition we have lost several members who were staunch supporters of the Trust, hence we are down in numbers to 164.

OUR TRIP TO AMSTERDAM: FOUR DAYS THREE NIGHTS MONDAY 6 TO THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2017

DAY 1: A group of 44 left Marriott House promptly at 05:45 hours to travel direct by coach to Eurotunnel Folkestone. With no traffic hold-ups, our driver arrived on time, we boarded and via Calais drove direct to Amsterdam with a lunch stop en route. On arrival at the Ramada Hotel Amsterdam all was organised to proceed to our rooms. At 19:00 hours we met for a complimentary drink, followed by dinner. The service and meal were of a very high standard.

DAY 2: We decided to amend our itinerary so instead of a full day in Amsterdam we visited Volendam instead. Volendam is a small fishing town on the Dutch coast with a variety of shops and places of interest. With a 15:30 hours departure back to our hotel, there was time to prepare for our dinner at the Floating Sea Palace restaurant. On arrival at the restaurant everyone was made very welcome by the staff after which we enjoyed an excellent Chinese dinner. To conclude our day we took an evening walk through the famous red light district looking at windows!

DAY 3: This was left for us to enjoy at our leisure. Within the group, various discussions took place of how to spend the day – until one looked out of the window at the prevailing wet cold and miserable weather! However, undeterred, some departed for the canal boat trip, some went to visit the museums and some enjoyed shopping. Dinner for that day was left to our own choice.



DAY 4: We left the hotel at 10:00 hours to begin our journey home. Special thanks went to the staff for the hospitality during our stay. We proceeded direct to Ostend for a brief visit and lunch break. With the weather improved fresh but sunny, Ostend was enjoyed by one and all. It was then on to Eurotunnel at Calais for boarding and the journey home, arriving in Rushden at 21:45 hours.

Before arriving home special thanks went to Mr Brian Hill our group leader for the first class organisation of this trip and also to his helpers. Extra special thanks went to Martin our coach driver who is always very considerate to other road users and always very helpful to his passengers.

John Billington

Solent

Bursledon Brickworks and Museum: 17 May 2017

Eleven members of the Solent group met at the Bursledon Brickworks and Museum on the eastern outskirts of Southampton on a very wet May morning. After an initial welcome drink in the café we were shown around the museum by one of the very knowledgeable staff members. We were taken through the process from the arrival of the clay, conditioning the clay to the final extrusion of the brick. We also had a hands-on experience throwing clay into a mould and checking out the various moulds for the many 'specials' made. The principal source of power for the machinery in the works was by steam and the volunteers have refurbished the main engine and it is run at various times and 'special weekends'.



Following lunch seven members were shown how to prepare and decorate individual wall tiles with applied details and coloured 'slips'. The Museum offered to fire the tiles for us which were collected and distributed to the members when we next met.

Up to the late 19th century, brickmaking was generally on a small local scale dictated by the location, quality and quantity of clay with a number of manufacturers around Southampton. One of these was owned by the Ashby family and when their source of clay was nearing the end the family found a much



better site to the east of Southampton at Bursledon, blessed with a large source of clay and better transport links by road.

The family then teamed up with fellow Quaker, Edward Hooper, a local builders merchant with a wharf in Southampton docks. This alliance allowed a major development of the Bursledon works to produce bricks on a much greater scale with the introduction of new machinery. Production peaked during the 1930s at around 20 million per year. By this time hand excavation had given way to machinery and with the clay pit enlarging away from the manufacturing plant the clay was carried to the works by an aerial cableway.

Manufacturing continued through various company mergers ending under the wing of Redland Holdings Ltd.



The death knell of the site was the construction of the nearby M27 in the early 1970s which bisected operations effectively cutting off the source of the clay from the manufacturing plant which had never been updated and would have been uneconomic to modernise to meet the requirements of the 1974 Health & Safety at Work Act.

The northern area of the site was sold off to the Civil Aviation Authority for the construction of the NATS air traffic control centre. The clay pits were retained in part now forming the Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve.

The site was acquired by the Bursledon Brickworks Trust in 1997, now the Bursledon Brickworks Museum Trust and benefited from a Heritage Lottery Trust grant of £666,300 in 2012 to help create a fully functioning museum open on a regular basis.

<http://www.bursledonbrickworks.org.uk/index.php>

Volunteers with the help of part time 'staff' who were originally employed as part of the Lottery project currently run the museum. They help with managing the museum. The volunteers carry out most of the restoration work and help to man the site when the museum is open. The museum is completely independent and relies on visitors for its income.

Summer Barbecue: 20 June 2017

For those who can remember, we actually had a summer this year, just for one week or so, and this was when the Solent group had chosen for their annual barbecue. Once again, we convened at the Royal Victoria Country Park, situated on Southampton water, our fourth time. Close to 30 members turned up to be served the usual barbecue fare of burgers and hot dogs with salad accompaniments (for the healthy ones) prepared expertly by Ian and Derek under the critical eye of our barbecue guru Tony. It was good to see so many turn up with the promise of good weather for the day, albeit

the main problem was avoiding the fierce sun and finding shade! It may be too much to hope for the same again next year.

Pitch and putt

Leading up to our yearly pitch and putt on the links course on Hayling Island, the weather had been glorious and had been so for some time. This led one into a strong sense of security for the day that the weather would be fine. However true to form on the day the weather forecast was for wind and rain! The only rainy day before and after for some considerable time.

As we prepared to go from home it rained quite hard and as we drove to the golf course it did start to rain again, but luckily, the rest of the morning, although cloudy, was dry but windy. Two of the four golfers were regular players at another course, but, I would add, probably not playing enough to provide them with the skills required from this demanding par 3 course!

After some wayward shots and the occasional search through the gorse bushes, we all finished with smiles on our faces. The winning score was 37 (the par for the course being 27) and is now held as a joint first between Ian Burrell and myself to be beaten we hope next year!

We then all retired to the nearby bar/restaurant called 'Inn on the Beach' which is literally on the beach! We were joined by another golfer John Gains and his wife Anne who was unable to play. The rain then started in earnest for the rest of the day so we were so lucky for our game of golf!

The yearly pitch and putt was attended by Ian Burrell, Derek Ward, Linda Anderson and myself.

Graham Baker

Tempsford

Our first event of the new calendar year was a lunch on 9 February. It had been scheduled for The Greyhound Inn, Haynes, Bedfordshire but the pub was closed for refurbishment, so we went to the Wheatsheaf, Perry (near Grafham Water). On 14 March we lunched at The Wheatsheaf, Tempsford, where, as ever, the food was excellent. On 13 April, we planned to lunch at the Greyhound – but it was not due to reopen until the next day so we went to the Five Bells in Henlow. At each of these events we had a group of 13 diners, although not necessarily the same people on each occasion.

On 10 May (a Wednesday for a change this time), Ron Whitlock and his partner Jane, led a group of six for a morning walk around woods near Moggerhanger Park (the public is not allowed in the woods) after which we joined the six, non-walkers of our group for lunch in the Guinea public house – good country fayre and plenty of it! On 5 June, we made our long-planned visit to The Greyhound in Haynes which had been very smartly refurbished with a greyhound theme, and we enjoyed some more lovely food. Unfortunately, holidays and other commitments interfered with people's plans and there were just four of us on this occasion.



Garden Party, Tempsford

The Garden Party at Tempsford on 25 June was another wonderful event when we were able to catch up with friends and colleagues from other areas – our numbers were down a bit due to holiday commitments (43 this year) but our thanks are due to all involved in organising this for us once again.

Our thanks are also due to Stephen Jarvis for organising a talk at The Anchor, Great Barford on 4 July, by David Fowler, one of the official Tour Guides of Bedford. He told us about the Bedford Parks and River Heritage and some Hidden History of Bedford. A group of 20 was present and enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch.

Trinity College, Great Court 2, Cambridge



On 16 August ten of us had a very enjoyable, private walking tour of Cambridge, followed by an excellent lunch at Cote Brasserie on Bridge Street. The weather was just right and Ruth, our very knowledgeable official guide, took us at a sedate pace to many places of interest – the historic, the modern and the quirky. We now know why Alice Springs in Australia is so named, and why Henry VIII above Trinity College entrance is holding a chair leg! The highlight of the tour was the interior of King's College chapel, where Ruth's encyclopaedic knowledge of its history and iconography was enthralling. The 2½ hours of our 2-hour tour went all too quickly but lunch was overdue and we had an excellent lunch at the Cote Brasserie. Many thanks to John Busby for organising the event and writing this report.

Harold Thompson



King's College, Chapel 2, Cambridge

Trip to the Bure Valley

Well what a great day! It was one of my first trips out with the Tempsford area and I was not disappointed. A merry throng of 22 met in St Neots on 12 September to catch the coach to Aylsham Station in Norfolk where we boarded the quaint little train for our trip on the Bure Valley Narrow Gauge Railway.

On the best day of the week weather-wise, the train, powered by steam, took us on a delightful journey through the Broads National Park to Wroxham where we stopped for lunch.



On the short walk to the local hostelry we were amused to see a Kier (Environmental) van and exchanged pleasantries with the (very professional and polite) driver who's now fully appreciative of, and very impressed by, the Fellowship Trust!



All aboard!

Lunch took longer than expected and as the schedule was tight, we had to make a dash to the waterside for the next stage of our trip – a cruise on the Norfolk Broads. This meant Harold Thompson having to forego his apple pie so he could rush off to meet the craft and, if necessary, stop it leaving without any of our party! The next few minutes were anxious ones as the rest of the party made their way to the boat. An excellent display of initiative by the Chaplins saw George commandeer a wheelchair for Ralph Goodchild who was treated to an impromptu white-knuckle ride along the water's edge to the boat!

With everyone safely aboard 'Queen of the Broads' the gang enjoyed a guided tour of the local Broads taking in some wonderful scenery and fascinating

wildlife while learning about the history of the area and the various watercraft.

Our trusty coach was waiting for us when we disembarked to deliver us safely back to St. Neots.

Happily, and in another display of initiative, Lou Mouatt had thoughtfully foil wrapped Harold's apple pie and brought it to the boat for him to enjoy! Don't you just love a happy ending? Many thanks to Harold for organising such a splendid day out.

Viv Chesterfield



A wherry on the Norfolk Broads

Waterbeach



On 11 May 2017, 12 members and guests from the Waterbeach Fellowship club visited the Poppy Line – North Norfolk Railway.

Whilst any visit to this coastal steam railway is always very pleasant with glorious views across the Norfolk coast, on this occasion guided tours of the busy working Weybourne maintenance sheds and signal box were specially arranged for our members. These busy areas, manned by volunteers, are



not normally available to visit by the general public. Everyone found the visit to be very interesting and informative.

Members met at Holt station where there is also a railway museum, and travelled the line to Weybourne where the tours took place. Following this the party again boarded the train to Sheringham for lunch and returned by the last train back to Holt.



A warm welcome to the following new members

Name	City/town	Area	Worked for	Years of service
John Abbott	Harlow	Loughton	Kier, W&C French, Kier RBW, French Kier, Kier Building, Kier London	43
Amber Avery	Gravesend	Maidstone	Kier Construction Southern	9
Brian Bell	Royston	Tempsford	JL Kier, Kier Construction, Kier Management, KI	12
Susan Booth	Spalding	Rushden	Kier Services	3
Stephen Cable	Bournemouth	Solent	Kier Mechanical & Electrical	12
Lynn Ganesch	Sandy, Beds	Tempsford	Kier Infrastructure & Overseas	34
Sevond Henderson	Ipswich	Waterbeach	Kier Plant	34
Benn Hunter	Hove	Solent	Kier Western, Henry Jones/Kier Southern	17
Dianne Linney	Liverpool	Liverpool	Moss Northern/Kier North West	5
Richard Mason	Northampton	Rushden	Kier Construction	14
Geoffrey McClure	Grange over Sands	Liverpool	KMI Water, KI	10
Rachel Moseley	Stoke on Trent	Liverpool	Kier Infrastructure & Overseas	10
Paul Murphy	Ramsgate	Maidstone	Kier Build	2
Andrew Nannery	Chatham	Maidstone	Wallis	35
Tony North	Hoo St. Werburgh, Kent	Maidstone	Wallis/Kier South East/Kier Construction Southern	44
David Parker	Newbury	Cheltenham	Moss/Kier Construction Central	30
Nigel Powell	Denmead, Hants.	Solent	Brazier Construction/Kier Southern	10
Susan Simpson	Tadcaster	Leeds	Kier Construction Northern	29
Michael Spencer	Gainsborough	Tempsford	Kier Infrastructure & Overseas	9
Andrew Spray	Basingstoke	Solent	Kier Construction Central	11
Alan Stannard	Thaxted	Loughton	W&C French	6
Bruce Terry	Tunbridge Wells	Loughton	Kier London	36
Tanya Trafford	Basingstoke	Solent	IEL/Kier Building Services	12
Andy Ward	Huntingdon	Tempsford	Marriott, Kier Ltd	22
Steve Ward	Walthamstow	Loughton	Kier Eastern	20
Tim Yeandle	Eastleigh	Solent	Kier Southern	19

More from Whichway Junction

The scenery on Whichway has come on by leaps and bounds. As you can see from the pictures, the hill farm (Oredale Farm) is finished (almost) and the farmer (whom I have not yet named) is muck-spreading. That's why the sheep and cattle are sharing the other field, where there are also a couple of horses, one of which is at the drinking trough. It is springtime and there is hay left in the Dutch barn so the winter cannot have been too bad. In fact the farm must be doing quite well as the farmer has just bought a new Rover 100. The farm buildings are card kits which I have modified to put in working lights. I have yet to plan how to finish the farm yard.



Oredale Farm



Middleby Station completed



Middleby Platforms 3

Oredale quarry is a bit of an oddity! The plant is too modern and I think perhaps the method of working isn't right but it was fun to create and justifies the private rail line and tank engine which it shares with the creamery. Private locos cannot normally use British Rail tracks so there is an exchange siding/loop at Gleasdale station. Alternatively, the BR locos can access the ore trucks direct from the quarry.

Between the quarry and the Cleveage Hills (corruption of Cleveland Hills) are Cleveage Cuttings through which the

line from Claggy Feet to Gleasdale runs after it crosses the line from Oredale to Middleby. The idea of making it hilly was to create the illusion of distance between the different rail lines. There is a lake (made using silver paint) among the trees which are made from pieces of sea moss coated with flakes of artificial foliage. A few trees are coated with lichen instead but, although that has been a standard modeller's method of making trees for many years, I do not find it very satisfactory.

More recently, I have been working on the buildings at the main station – Middleby. Another planning error led to the goods shed being land-locked so, in order for lorries to reach them I decided to create a flyover that would also serve a raised scenic area (a market square or perhaps an open air museum). In order to get it right, I had to make up the kits of the station buildings before I could create the flyover. They didn't fit the plan. The result is a long, sweeping access road that hides a lot of the station yard from view. So now the car parking and bus stops are under the flyover. I now have to work out how to modify a footbridge kit to span the non-standard distance between the platforms and to give pedestrian access to the raised market square. Well, I never did want to finish the project!

National Golf Competition 14 September



Another enjoyable day!

On a rather blustery September afternoon which was a mixture of sunshine and showers, 24 members met at the St Neots Golf Club, the home club of Colin Busby and Ian Tidey for the Annual National Golf Competition.

This year we managed to attract four more players than last year who were all women.

The afternoon started off with the usual bacon bap and coffee and a chance to catch up on the news. The actual golf started at 1pm with the lowest handicaps starting first and in all there were nine individual matches. Following a drink at the bar and an excellent two course meal, chairman Neil Meixner presented the prizes as follows:

- Overall winner of the Cup was Ian Tidey (pictured bottom right) on a countback against Colin Busby
- Best front nine: Graham Howe
- Best back nine: Roy Murphy
- Ladies Prize: Inga Adlington
- Nearest the pin: John Simson
- Longest Drive: Derek Adams ("Del Boy").

John Stamford



Obituaries

Our thoughts are with the loved ones of those who have passed away.

Arthur Alecock	23/05/17
George Anderson	12/02/17
Christine Atkinson	05/04/17
Olive Barnes	03/02/17
Marion Beaumont	29/04/17
Robert Blackhurst	17/02/17
Peter Blake	20/02/17
Harry Burrell	27/04/17
Stella Burrows	14/02/17
John Clark	23/03/17
Pamela Costello	10/02/17
Kenneth Cotter	22/02/17
Judith Coulter	03/03/17
Jack Ehlen	14/01/17
Alan Elliott	18/03/17

John Gough	14/05/17
Leonard Harrison	07/02/17
Reginald Hatchman	23/05/17
Fiona Heslop	27/04/17
Mary Huddart	26/04/17
David Middleton	27/02/17
Cyril L Mitchell	26/02/17
Kenneth Peake	19/03/17
Terence Raven	22/03/17
Marie Rees	06/04/17
Donald Robinson	15/02/17
Joseph Scully	09/03/17
John Shaughnessy	21/03/17
Peter Smejco	31/03/17
Joyce Smith	11/03/17

Mary Sweeney	08/04/17
Roy Tateson	02/02/17
Joan Waite	30/03/17
John Walsh	19/05/17
Ronald Warner	22/02/17
Leonard White	30/03/17
Betty Whitlam	15/12/17
Bernice Wilkinson	24/01/17

Charity support for ex-employees of William Moss Builders

You may recall that our Spring/Summer issue highlighted a Loughborough-based charity that offers help to former William Moss employees facing financial hardship or ill health.

We have received a letter of thanks from the Robert Moss charity for running the piece and it is hoped that any qualifying person will contact Anthony Benskin of Moss Solicitors, 80-81 Woodgate, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2XE. Tel: 01509 217770 or email: a.benskin@moss-solicitors.co.uk

Copy deadline for Spring/Summer 2018 issue:

**MONDAY
29 JANUARY 2018**

Email kierlinkmag@gmail.com



Autumn's the time to enjoy the fruits of your labour – and to prepare the garden for winter



Warwick Stevens

Once again, summer's gone and we look forward to autumn and a lovely cold winter to kill all of those horrible bugs.

When the leaves have fallen off the fruit trees give the trees a cut back and a winter spray with Vitax Tree Wash. Dig all of the garden and spread manure and leave to mulch over winter ready to turn in the spring.

Clear out the greenhouse and give it a good clean. Clear all the debris that would hold bugs, spiders and mites. Once the shelves are clean you can bring in your pots to store out of the cold. Any plants that are tender need to be covered in fleece for protection.

Autumn is the time to give your lawn a good cut and to re-seed the bald patches. If you haven't already done so as you go along, clean your lawn mowers ready to put them away for the winter. If you have a petrol mower make sure you clean out all the petrol ready for storing.

By now you should have all your over wintering onions, parsnips, carrots, leeks etc, in the ground. Autumn raspberries need to be cut to ground level and take out blackberry branches that had fruit on. Trim leaves off strawberry plants and don't forget pruning of gooseberry bushes, redcurrants, blackcurrants etc. If you have grape vines take all the small 'branches' off – back to the main stem. And give it a good feed with high potash.

Email warwickstevens1942@gmail.com



Put your potatoes in trays for chitting (or brutting if you're from the south). And for the layman, it's putting them in a cool, light place which causes them to sprout.

Most of all, plant all of those bulbs in readiness for spring. In early March get all your seed trays ready for early planting of marigolds, onions, cabbage, corn on the cob etc.

Warwick Stevens

The Trust's got talent!

I think we're all talented in some way or another although it's finding the time to exercise those talents that sometimes prevent us from reaching our full potential. In the years since I stopped work, I've rediscovered my creativity in several ways. I've made Christmas elves, rag dolls, miniature advent stockings and some counted cross stitch samplers. I've also baked some special celebration cakes for my family. I loved making them all and I think the end users (usually my granddaughters) enjoyed them too!

Viv Chesterfield

