

Kier Group Fellowship Third Annual Luncheon

Over 250 people travelled from far and wide to attend the Third Annual Luncheon in November. Maidstone and Bromley, North East, London & Witham, Southern, Wisbech and Rushden were among some of the group welcomed, with the prize for the person who had travelled the furthest awarded to Graham Wheelhouse from South Wales who had travelled 228 miles one way. A presentation by Colin Busby highlighted the achievements and successes of the Group over the year. In an amusing speech, members were also pleased to hear Colin pledge the marquee's availability for the function for 2001!

On behalf of the Fellowship, chairman John Stamford wished Colin well in leading the business in the coming year. Proposing a toast to absent friends, John said that the Fellowship Trust Board always had in mind those members who, through age, ill health, or



Over 250 'fellows' pitched up for the third Annual Luncheon.

distance, could not attend Fellowship functions. This was one of the reasons why all Fellowship members had been sent a Christmas card. Last year's cards were an old Moss design which had raised a few eyebrows but he said the Trust had sufficient Moss designs for the next 10 years! However, in view of comments received, this year's card had been specially commissioned. Ken Stoneman, from the London area, told us that one of his members had telephoned him on receipt of a Christmas card from him to say how nice it was not to be forgotten!

John also spoke of the Fellowship news inclusion in the Kier Journal and the more recent launch of KierLink. Stressing the importance of keeping in touch with its members, John said that he hoped KierLink would be published twice yearly. With a growing number of ideas to expand its activities, the Fellowship seeks volunteers who can offer some spare time. Anyone interested in lending any support in this area was encouraged to approach a member of the Fellowship Trust. John paid thanks to John Hebblethwaite for his organisation of the lunch and for his role as MC. Vivienne Chesterfield and the public relations department were also congratulated on their involvement. Members were especially delighted that Vivienne who had done so much to ensure the event ran smoothly, was able to be...

(continued on page 4)

A note from the Chairman

I am delighted to learn that the first issue of KierLink has been well received by the Fellowship. I am pleased that the newsletter is viewed as a positive step forward in Fellowship activities and communications and I hope that it will continue to go from strength to strength to become an even more valuable source of information and provider of news. In this our second issue, you will see from the reports and photographs of smiling faces that there is a considerable amount of activity happening in the name of Kier and its former employees - and the good news is that this activity continues to grow.

Like most membership groups of its type, the Fellowship relies on a good base of volunteer support. It is not a Company activity. Nobody receives payment for their services. Everyone who is associated with it does so in their own time - purely for enjoyment purposes and on a volunteer basis. Through KierLink, the Fellowship aims to maintain contact with those who are able to come to the growing number of Fellowship events which take place nationwide plus those former employees who are unable to attend events and meetings but do want to hear our news.

KierLink aims to be a true 'membership publication' and, to that end, is keen to receive contributions from its readership. It hopes that KierLink will evolve through readership participation and involvement. Nuggets of information concerning former colleagues and Fellowship friends, details of forthcoming Fellowship events and general articles of interest are all warmly welcomed. Without a team of roving reporters, KierLink is dependent on its readers for any bits of information and gossip - with feedback crucial too. I look forward to developing KierLink with your input and hope that you enjoy this issue.

John Stamford

Regional round-up

news from around the regions

Newport & Bristol (Kier Western)

"Le weekend" in Paris



The Newport and Bristol group sightseeing in Paris.

On 10 November, full of expectation, a group of 22 members (largest numbers to date) left South Wales for an early afternoon 'Le Shuttle' crossing to France. Arriving on the continent at 3 p.m. local time, the group continued its journey south to arrive at their hotel in Paris at approximately 6.30 p.m. where they enjoyed a 'do your own thing' affair in the evening with a large group eating out locally.

The first full day in Paris was spent sightseeing with the Group enjoying some of the most famous Parisian tourist spots and great views of the city. At the end of the day, members met up for a four-course meal in a restaurant situated in the very heart of Paris.

Day 3 provided another valuable opportunity to take in more of the sites of Paris including the fabulous Palace of Versailles, which is the largest and most magnificent palace in France and a visit to the Sacre Coeur. The group then enjoyed a 'romantic' boat trip on the Seine before arriving back at the hotel to a welcoming aperitif. A splendid meal, washed down with a few bottles of Vin Rouge, Vin Blanc etc, was a wonderful end to an enjoyable day.

Travelling home on the last day encompassed an en route stop-off for a bit of discount shopping at Calais where

members took advantage of the favorable prices to stock up on some Christmas wine. All agreed that this 'Trip Francais' was a smashing few days much enjoyed by all.

North West Region Without a Hiccup!

The old adage "couldn't organize a booze-up in a brewery" can't be said of the North West region. A large number of members paid a visit to Liverpool's Cains Brewery recently to enjoy a fascinating tour of the manufacturing facility and learn a little of the various processes involved in the making of bitter, mild, and lager beers.

The group were told that approximately 80% of production is canned and between 300,000 and 400,000 cans of beer is produced a day. As Liverpool's own Cilla Black would say, that's a "lorra, lorra" beer.

After the tour, the group was invited to sample as many of the products as they liked - and needed no persuading! Needless to say, a number of cars were left overnight in the brewery car park to be retrieved the following day.

Biannual Luncheon

At the Regions twice-yearly lunch held at the newly refurbished and renamed Suites Hotel in November, members and their partners enjoyed good food and good company in very comfortable surroundings. Arrangements are now well underway for a Reunion Dinner on 23 February when the group is looking forward to meeting up with former colleagues who have completed 25 years' service with the company.



Loughton/Witham

Thirty-five members from the region attended the Tempsford lunch on November 26th with all thoroughly enjoying the day.

W&C French & French Kier Members sought

The spring luncheon at Sir James Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green is confirmed for 23 April. Members are urged to refer details of any former W&C French or French Kier employees who are not yet Fellowship Trust Members and who may like to attend to Ken Stoneman or Doug Hutchin.

Member Feedback

It is always valuable to receive feedback from our members. The region received a kind letter from Arthur Barnes who expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Fellowship, which enabled him to remain in contact with old friends and workmates.

Kier Southern Super Suppers

Two supper meetings were held recently at The Grange, Northwood and attended by a total of 38 members and their partners - an ever-growing number. Members were pleased to welcome once again June and Tom James who have been regular supporters of the regions activities.

The Fellowship lunch at Tempsford attracted a party of 28 members including Kier Southern managing director, John Yates.

Events in the Offing

As 2001 starts to unfold, the group is planning a calendar of events for the year. Events under discussion include a long weekend at the Warners Hotel, Littlecote House in Hungerford, as well as a summer lunch at the Pre Hotel in St. Albans. More details will be announced once finalised.

With Best Wishes

Eric and Doris Davies have sent their best wishes for the New Year as has Jim Fell who is recovering from an operation - though it is hoped he will soon be back on the golf course! Bob Baker has asked that greetings and best wishes for the forthcoming year be

conveyed to all his old colleagues and, while at the Cheltenham Fellowship lunch, both Len Gayler and Alf Rowe wished to be remembered to friends past and present.

Cheltenham Festive Revelations

Held at the Cotswold Hills Golf Club in Cheltenham, the Christmas lunch was attended by 30 members and guests. Paul Cullen, chairman and managing director of Moss Construction and his wife Alison plus Don Robinson, area manager for Maple Cross and his partner Daphne also warmly welcomed to the festivities. During the lunch it was revealed that Don and Moss manager Len Gayler shared quite a long history of association having initially met in 1936 at a junior school in North London then, in 1946, joining William Moss & Sons at the Staples Corner offices within one week of each other! Both men went on to retire in their sixties, by which time they have clocked up a staggering one hundred years service to the company between them!

The next Cheltenham event is scheduled for the spring - all members very welcome.

North East What a Good Sole!

Anne Leslie puts her best foot forward to raise £1,000 for charity.



Congratulations to Anne Leslie who completed her walk on Red Hot Coals and departed 'Hot Foot' to the bank with a cheque for more than £1,000 for Motor Neurone Disease.

March luncheon

The North East group is steadily growing in numbers and plans to hold another

luncheon in March when it is hoped that Alan Grey, the recently retired managing director of Kier Northern, will join them.

Rushden A Packed Calendar

It has been decided to amalgamate the activities of the popular M25 Club with those of the Kier Group Fellowship Trust. The extensive forthcoming program of events includes trips to the dog track, the Royal Albert Hall, Sunday lunch, Bistro trip, an Austrian break, the annual Tempsford lunch and Christmas lights. (Watch out Kier Western!)

Kind Thoughts & Best Wishes

Best wishes are sent to Maurice Tyler who retired on 7 February after nearly 47 years with the Company and it is anticipated that he will become an active member of the Fellowship. More best wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to Harold Binder, one of Rushdens senior members, who is recovering from a stroke in Kettering General Hospital. Making good progress after a spell of hospitalization are two senior Rushden members, Fred Hays and Dick Blackwell, who both attended the Fellowship lunch in November.



Fred Hays and Dick Blackwell at the fellowship lunch

Wisbech Excellent Xmas

The Wisbech group Christmas Lunch was held at Mendis Restaurant on the 5th December when 38 members and their partners plus some employees enjoyed some pre-Christmas festivities.

Sonia Battle helped Andrew Pallant organise the event which was also attended by Brian Webb (area estimator), Roger Almond (marketing manager) and Bob

Kidger (commercial director), who assured members that the Company was very busy and keeping the pension fund topped up!



Wisbech Christmas Lunch

Coming Up..

With plans for events during 2001 now underway, popular opinion suggests that a day trip to London would be a good start to the activity calendar during the early part of the New Year - watch this space for details.

Maidstone

Thirty-one members and partners from the Maidstone group attended the Annual lunch at Tempsford Hall in November. Many had traveled a fair distance to participate and all very much enjoyed the day. Another luncheon is being organised for April to be held at Hop Farm with details to be circulated closer to the time.

INFO REQUEST!

Do you remember RAF Kemble, Gloucestershire?

Did you work on - or do you recall - RAF Kemble? Glen Moreman, who is writing a book about RAF Kemble in Gloucestershire, has contacted the Fellowship in the hope that members may be able to provide him with some valuable information and recollections. His research showed that work began on August 15 1936 and he is especially interested to know more about the construction phase of the project. Can anybody who worked on the building of the RAF station, please contact Glen on 01285 770994 or email him at glen@kemble.org

Newport & Bristol Area Wins Chairman's Award

Announcing a new award at the third Kier Group Fellowship lunch, chairman John Stamford said that he wished to officially acknowledge the efforts of the Fellowship area that had progressed the most during the last year. The award was presented to David Orr of Newport and Bill McColl of Bristol, who run a combined area based on Kier Western. Both were congratulated and pledged a jeroboam of champagne by John Stamford. Their outstanding activities during the past year included a trip to Belgium, a New Year lunch, a trip to Kew Gardens, two golf days and a weekend trip to Paris.

David Orr and Bill McColl proudly holding the Chairman's Millenium Award, a jeroboam of champagne



In Remembrance

Members have suggested that, in order to send their condolences to relatives, notice of the deaths of former employees would be useful. The following former employees passed away during last year. Our heartfelt sympathies are with their families.

A J Macdonald	Elderslie, Renfrew	16 June 2000
K D Warren	Rushden, Northants.	20 June 2000
D W Roberts	Wisbech, Cambs.	23 June 2000
W Hardy	Salisbury, Wilts.	29 June 2000
V J Thomason	Dallington, Northants.	27 June 2000
F L Beacham	St Columb Cornwall	9 August 2000
J R Carrington	Wellingborough	20 August 2000
R H Cumming	St Neots	17 August 2000
A F Stockwell	West Haddon N'hants	29 August 2000
L Jarman	Cherry Willingham	2 September 2000
A Harne	West Bridgeford Notts	3 September 2000
W Strickland	Loughton	14 September 2000
G R Dalgleish	Cwmbran, Gwent	13 October 2000
R L Rice	Exeter	19 October 2000
H J Brownjohn	Farnham, surrey	19 October 2000
R Read	Southport	24 October 2000
G A Nisbet	South Shields	2 November 2000
M Sheehan	Lewisham	3 November 2000
W E Edwards	Maidstone Kent	4 November 2000
E W A Malcolm	West Bridgford	4 November 2000
R C Pearson	Manningtree	21 November 2000
H Malster	Brandon, Suffolk	2 December 2000
A B Dickenson	Diss, Norfolk	6 December 2000
Mrs G Henderson	Wallasey	10 December 2000
C G Cake	Snodland Kent	21 December 2000
B Davies	Abbey Hey, Manchester	29 December 2000
M Glancey	Sunderland	31 December 2000
L W Thorne	Epping, Essex	30 December 2000
G E Robinson	Benfleet, Essex	17 January 2001
C W Allgood	Maidstone, Kent	19 January 2001

Fellowship luncheon continued...

...present on the day.

By custom and practice, the person on each table who guessed the length of John's speech won the table centre floral decoration - this year it was 24 minutes exactly. After the formal part of the day, it was encouraging to see so many people renewing friendships and catching up with old colleagues before journeying home. Here's to next year - make a note in your diary for Sunday 25 November now!



FANCY THAT!

Revellers at Marriott's Christmas fancy dress party included such characters as Darth Vader, Woody from Toy Story and Snow White!

Welcome Aboard!

The Fellowship extends a warm welcome to the following new members who have recently retired from the Kier Group.

Name	Group Joined
Mrs A Lory	Kier Western
Keith Mumford	Loughton
Basil McIntosh	Tempsford
David Stewart	Tempsford
Daisy Wordsworth	Tempsford
Derek Leaver	Tempsford/Loughton
E Colbran	Wallis/Kier Southern
Philip Winter	Wisbech
Ian Bilboe	Witham