

## An introduction from the Kier Group chairman

I am delighted to have the chance to greet the growing number of Fellowship Trust members through this issue of 'KierLink'. I was surprised and pleased to learn that the Fellowship Trust has now attracted almost 1,000 members, many of whom I hope will have fond memories of their time with the Group. With so many new members having joined in recent months, perhaps now would be a good time to remind everyone why the Trust was set up. The aim of the Trust is to reunite old friends and colleagues and to maintain a link between Kier now and Kier then. You belong to a body of people that represents the foundation of Kier's success today and your continued association with the Group is highly valued and welcomed.

I am sure that most of you have memories worth sharing with other members and if you do have the chance to put pen to paper and drop a line to KierLink, it would be time well spent and, I am sure, would evoke fond memories for many.

It is clear that the area organisers have made an excellent job in creating a full social calendar up and down the country and I hope you are able to use these opportunities to meet up with old friends.

I know you are not all able to attend the Fellowship Trust Annual Luncheon but I look forward to seeing a good many members there and extend my very good wishes to you all.

*Colin Busby*

## Fellowship matters

*A report from the Trust chairman John Stamford*

Good news is worth spreading... With changes in the Board of the Fellowship at the end of last year, it seemed opportune to check whether any Pensioner who had initially declined the invitation to join the Fellowship wished to reconsider their decision.

Because of the onerous requirements of the data protection act we were unable to access the details of pensioners who were not members and after much deliberation, I decided to write to everyone including our existing members. Fortunately nobody was offended and the good news is that we have added 126 new members to the database, which at the time of writing gives us 935 members. I even had a two-page letter from an existing member with a completed form because he did not want to miss anything. Such enthusiasm!

We hope that amongst the new members will be people who want to get involved and make things happen. At the very least we are looking forward to a record attendance at the Annual luncheon at Tempsford on Sunday 1st December.

Finance and interest rates have never been far from our minds during the last year since we wish to give the areas a viable budget so they can organise events. However like so many institutions we have been hit hard by a falling stock market and minimal rates of interest which concentrates minds of the Fellowship Board.

Finally, another good news story, sales of Fellowship ties have been better than ever expected and we have only about 80 remaining. Therefore if you have been thinking about making a purchase, please contact your area organiser as soon as possible with a cheque for £5 and then you too can join the ranks of the sartorial elite!

We have not forgotten the ladies and have a number of ideas of what we can provide for them... but if any lady has her own ideas then please tell your area organiser who will pass on your message to the Board.

I look forward to welcoming you on 1st December.

*John Stamford*

## Editor's note

Many thanks to the area organisers for their hard work in arranging events and providing reports to be included in KierLink. The range of activities carried out is wide and varied and should provide inspiration to our members to participate in their own areas. A readers' letters section is still being considered provided of course letters are forthcoming on any subject! Please address to:-

Roger Almond  
Cottage Garden  
2 Orchard Road South  
March  
Cams PE15 9DE  
Telephone 01354 654601  
(Sorry no email or fax yet).

## Around the regions

### WISBECH

On 25th July, 25 pensioners and their partners (one was allowed out by himself!) once again ventured out of the Fens to see if Kew Gardens was all that it was cracked up to be. Needless to say, Wisbech had an interest in the construction of the Princess of Wales Conservatory in the form of Arthur Alecock who, due to ill health, was unfortunately unable to be with us.



*Wisbech at Kew Gardens*

Perhaps it was just as well because if he had come, we would have no doubt received a brick by brick account of how he built it! However, we did see his footprints in the clay pavours, trying to escape from a prowling predator!

Joking apart, we all had a most enjoyable day with good weather in attendance.

Now it is off to Cromer, complete with buckets and spades. What for? I hear you ask. To mix the concrete with of course!

*Andrew Pallant*

## LOUGHTON & WITHAM

Our annual luncheon was held once again at Sir James Hawkey Hall, Woodford with 132 members and partners in attendance. It was wonderful to see so many new faces making their first visit. This year's retirees included Geoff Coombes, John Spray and Duncan Brand and from the old days, Derek Gurner, Geoff Foster, Tony Bull, Reg Beagle, Terry Hale, Teddy Austin, George Algar, and all the way from Poole in Dorset, Bill Brewster.

We would like to take this opportunity to pass on our sincere appreciation for the assistance we receive from both Kier London and French Kier Anglia.

*Ken Stoneman and Doug Hutchin*

## MAIDSTONE

At the request of group members, I was asked to arrange a different venue than the sit down luncheon at the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood which had been our annual event for the last three years. To meet this request and to prove that I am capable of organising 'an event' in a brewery, I organised a trip to the Shepherd Neame Brewery at Faversham. This was held on 18th April 2002 and was attended by 32 members. Following coffee on arrival, we were split into two groups and given a full tour of the brewery, with detailed explanations of all the processes involved in the manufacture of their range of beers and lagers. Back at the visitor centre we were allowed to sample the products with soft drinks available for non-beer drinkers. We were then treated to a first class buffet, which gave us an opportunity to circulate and talk to old friends. After lunch we split into smaller groups for a walking tour of the historic town of Faversham. The guides provided by the Faversham Society were

excellent and everyone commented on the vast amount of history connected with the town. Everyone agreed it had been a very enjoyable day out.

On 23rd May, we had a day out to Chislehurst Caves.

Although this is near to Bromley, very few of us had previously visited the caves or realised how extensive they are, over 20 miles of passages. Thirty-two members were given a 45-minute guided tour of the main caves which were cut out of chalk over a period of 8,000 years. The Romans mined flints and chalk and during the Second World War the caves were used as the largest air raid shelter outside London.

Having checked that we had not left anyone behind in the caves, we then set out for Chislehurst Common and the Crown Inn. The buffet lunch was well received and everyone was happy to chat and renew old friendships. Another enjoyable day.

*Alan Munday*

## NEWPORT/BRISTOL

By way of a change our post Christmas lunch took place at Dewstow Golf Club on 21st February. Our first event of this year was exceptionally well attended by 30 members with our guest of honour being Gill Hardwick who works at the Newport office and who kindly undertakes all our secretarial work.



*Kier Western Spring Ball*

We received a warm welcome at Kier Western's Spring Ball at the Royal Marriott Hotel, Bristol in April. Hosted by the Bristol office, members were given an opportunity to meet colleagues with whom they had previously worked.

A return visit to Dewstow Golf Club on 8th May for the first of

two golf days was also very successful. Nine members attended and the golf was followed by a splendid meal. Although a friendly event, competition was nevertheless in evidence and our self-declared winner seemed to be Brian Hazel from the Bristol office.

Our coach trip to Ilfracombe for the Victorian Festival in June was again well supported even though the weather was somewhat mixed.

Future events include a further golf day and a four-day trip to Holland.

A warm welcome to new members William Ford (Kier International), William Richards (Kier International), Phineas Rowley (Second City) and Clive Thomas (Caxton Facilities Management).

*David Orr*

## NORTH EAST

Our last event was a lunch in March attended by 18 members and partners and a further lunch is planned for later in the year. Our current membership stands at 32.

*Revie Morris*

## NORTH WEST

We had our usual spring get together for lunch at the Suites Hotel where we were able to welcome our new members. Some of our members went on a Mediterranean cruise to the Bay of Biscay in the summer, taking in some ports in France and Spain and also calling in at Ibiza.

An autumn lunch is planned, a Christmas dinner on 10th December and our annual reunion dinner will take place on 28th February 2003.

*John Neil*

## KIER SOUTHERN

Our spring luncheon was held on 5th April at The Old Chequers, Gaddesdon Row. Twenty-four members and partners attended and despite the last minute change of management, the occasion was a success.

A new venue was booked for our summer luncheon on 2nd August The Three Blackbirds, Flamstead. Once again a last minute change

of management but 24 members and partners (including Olive and Maurice Bailey and Bill Wager who were first time visitors) found plenty to talk and reminisce about. Three members (Messrs Fell, Bromwich and Robinson) attended the Golf Day held at Bishops Stortford. The day was well organised and it was fair to say that the temperature was considerably hotter than the golf!

A small party of members has booked a weekend away at Sinah Warren Holiday Village, Hayling Island at the beginning of November.

*Don Robinson*

## RUSHDEN

The year started with our annual pilgrimage to The Royal Albert Hall for the Mountbatten Festival of Music, a concert to suit all tastes by the Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines. This was followed by two trips to the theatre for popular shows My Fair Lady and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Just before Easter we attended the Guards Chapel in London for an Easter Choral Concert followed after Easter by a long weekend in Paris. Forty-six people had an enjoyable trip to the romantic city and we tried to do everything in a weekend that most people would do in a week.

May Day bank holiday weekend was very busy. On Sunday we had a mystery trip ending up at Gloucester Docks and on the Monday we took a full coach to The Millennium Stadium, Cardiff to witness the third division playoff final between Rushden & Diamonds and Cheltenham Town. Rushden lost but we were not downhearted.

In June we attended the rehearsal for trooping the Colour at Horseguards with a picnic in the park and a trip to Kew Gardens. A day at Hunstanton with children and grandchildren took place in July complete with donkey riding and fish 'n' chips and another theatre trip to see the Queen musical 'We will rock you'. A full day in and around Ipswich was the venue for August's trip including a cruise up the river Orwell, Sunday lunch, a trip around the Tolly

Cobbold brewery and a ghost walk - yes all in one day!

Our September break this year took us to Holland for the Floraide - a special garden extravaganza only held every ten years. Thirty members and friends made the trip.

Coming events include the Lord Mayors Show, Christmas shopping in Nottingham, a Dickensian market and Christmas lights in London and a New Year break at the Moat House, Wigan.

*Frank Furlong*

## CHELTENHAM

A lunch was held at Cotswold Hills Golf Club on 7th June which was attended by 30 members and friends with a further lunch planned for December.

*Len Gayler*

## People and places Home and abroad

Stuart Low, who emigrated to Australia in 1986 after working for French Kier for 28 years, was interested to see in The Journal (which his wife receives as an ex-employee pensioner) the article on John Spray's retirement.

John and Stuart were at college together and worked in the same area for years. Stuart was employed under the late Ernie Fowle at Abridge, while John was at Buckhurst Hill and later Loughton.



*John & Stuart outside the temple*

On his trip down under John met up with Stuart and spent a weekend at his home in

Wollongong catching up on old times and all that has transpired at Kier over the last 15 years.

Stuart sent us these snaps of John's trip to Australia and says: "There may be some people who remember me but not looking as I do in the photo with John outside our local temple!"

## Revie Morris, area organiser for the North East

I joined Kier in 1956 working on a coal washing plant at Hem Heath Colliery in my home town of Stoke on Trent. I then spent nearly two years at the then head office in Lygon Place. My next few years were spent working on power stations in the Midlands, interrupted by a two-year break 'getting some in'. After this I worked on contracts in Halifax and Derby where I met my wife and then in the Newcastle area on a pumping station and the metro. Since 1983 I worked in the Northern area office retiring in 1995 following a heart attack.

I now spend my days gardening, golfing, driving for the local community and as a fund raiser for the local church, upsetting the neighbours and worrying my wife. We have two children. Toni is married and lives about two miles away and David works in Barnsley but is currently living at home.



Pictured is the J L Kier Ltd Head Office football team formed in 1957 which I believe was the first ever (I am seated on the left facing camera). I don't think any of the other players remained with Kier after the move to Tempsford. If any are still around I would love to hear from them.

## People and places cont... Don Stevens...

Reading KierLink in Spain, Don Stevens formerly estimating director of French Kier Construction first learned about the Tempsford Golf day to be held at his old Bishops Stortford Golf Club on 15th August.

It was then a quick telephone call to John Hebblethwaite, flights booked and there he was. So KierLink really does get read by some people.

## Back issues

Copies of KierLink issue no. 4 are available from Brendan O'Boyle at Kier Southern.

## What not to say on an insurance claim form!

- In an attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone box!
  - To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck and ran down the pedestrian!
  - My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle!
  - An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished!
  - Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have!
  - The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention!
  - I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way!
  - A truck backed through my windscreen into my wife's face!
  - I thought my window was down, but found it was up when I put my head through it!
- To be continued...

Reproduced from "The Pod", the official journal of the AXA UK Group Pensioners Federation.

## Obituaries

E A Harden	Bedford	19 November 2001
P D O'Shea	Barry, Glamorgan	28 December 2001
K P Faulkner	Birchington, Kent	29 December 2001
K C Richardson	Hornchurch, Essex	29 December 2001
W B Lugg	Tonyrefail, Glamorgan	30 December 2001
P R T Trinder	Alicante, Spain	3 January 2002
J G Cassidy	Liverpool	7 January 2002
W Page	Blunham, Beds	9 January 2002
M P Evans	Bromley, Kent	24 January 2002
Mrs E J Cooper	Whitwick, Leics	14 February 2002
J P Slee	Mundesley, Norfolk	18 April 2002
A R Goring	Taunton, Somerset	27 April 2002
D M May	Rushden, Northants	9 May 2002
R H Stevenson	Leckhampton, Cheltenham	24 May 2002
C A Chittick	Wirral, Merseyside	5 June 2002
A Silcock	Sawbridgeworth, Herts	8 June 2002
Mrs M F Bass	Leigh on Sea, Essex	16 June 2002
P Carroll	Sale, Cheshire	25 June 2002
J E Parkin	Bishops Stortford, Herts	26 June 2002
R J Beaumont	Welwyn Garden City, Herts	8 July 2002
H P Prangley	Godalming, Surrey	18 July 2002
D M Bridgland	Hailsham, East Sussex	5 August 2002
G R Fish	Rochester, Kent	14 August 2002
Mrs G M Pearce	Maidstone, Kent	27 August 2002
Mrs K D George	Rushden, Northants	5 September 2002

## Fellowship ties Tempford Group annual golf day results


Members wishing to purchase Fellowship ties at the subsidised price of £5 each should contact Brendan O'Boyle or Hilary Edmunds.

Ties will also be available at the Tempford lunch on 1st December 2002.

## Diary dates

Kier Group Fellowship Trust annual luncheon - Tempford Hall 1st December 2002.

Copy deadline for next issue - 28th February 2003.



Overall winner  
*Geoff Coombes*  
Runner up  
*Rodney Palmer*  
Front nine  
*Bob Bagley*  
Back nine  
*Ted Staples*  
Ladies prize  
*Francis Bagley*  
Previous champions award  
*Gerry Bangs*