

## Fellowship matters

### A report from the Trust chairman John Stamford

Firstly many congratulations to Fellowship director Dick Side on his appointment to the Kier Group board.

Turning now to the fifth annual luncheon - what were my lasting memories? There were the two families who travelled over 300 miles to be with us (both actually claimed the same distance of 310 miles and came from different parts of the country). There was the member with 57.5 years service and the oldest member at 94 years of age - such are the quality of Kier people who make up the Fellowship.

Announcing that Rushden had won the chairman's award for the second year running, I said that in order to give all organisers an equal opportunity, this year's award will be for the group which makes the most progress or has been most imaginative in organising an event (razor wire hurdling - perhaps?)

John Hebblethwaite, another Fellowship director, has organised the annual Tempsford luncheon and the Tempsford golf days since their inception but both events are really 'group' functions because you are all invited to them.

Since we have had a number of retirements from Tempsford Hall in the last few years we need a more locally focused group to cater for these people and I am pleased to announce that John Skull has accepted my invitation to become area organiser for Tempsford Hall. John will be approaching other members to assist him.

The final piece of the jigsaw in the Fellowship structure is Plymouth and I am delighted to advise you that Steve Tyson will be starting a Plymouth group for former employees in that area. I wish him every success.

May I wish all areas an interesting and enjoyable year.

**John Stamford - email [jsassoc@kbnnet.co.uk](mailto:jsassoc@kbnnet.co.uk)**

## Editor's note

Our membership is still growing and hopefully contributions from all regions will increase in proportion! Please forward any items to your regional organisers or direct to me.

Once again, a warm thank you to all the hardworking area organisers for their continued efforts.

In addition, don't forget the suggestion of a readers' letters section subject of your choice. Please address to:

Roger Almond  
Cottage Garden  
2 Orchard Road South  
March  
Cambs PE15 9DE

**Area organisers - please note copy deadline for next issue is 31st August 2003.**

## Around the regions

### MAIDSTONE & BROMLEY

Sensibly, this area has been in hibernation during the winter months and their area organiser has been out of the country for five weeks from the beginning of January, but they are about to start making plans for the spring and summer.

Possible excursions include revisiting the Hop Farm at Paddock Wood, a popular venue with members.

Alan Munday

### NEWPORT & BRISTOL

With Jim Parker sidelined following his recent knee operation, Alan Reed has been making hay while the sun shines by winning the second golf day of the season held at Lansdown golf club in September. A fun day out (with golf not taken too seriously) was enjoyed by nine members followed by a super meal.



*Pictured (l-r) Alan Reed, Derek Painter, Brian Hazel, Bill McColl, David Orr, Glyn Morris, John Hurst, Jim Parker (note the stick), Ken Saunders and Tom Walters.*

Twenty-five members and guests left Cardiff in October for our annual four-day coach trip bound this year for Bergen Op Zoom in Holland. The trip included excursions to the cosmopolitan city of Amsterdam with all its wonderful sights (purely educational of course) and the historic towns of Breda and Tilburg, which boast some of the finest churches and gabled houses in Holland.

Ideas for this year's venue are

welcome as are, of course, new and old members who have not been able to join us. You will find a relaxed and friendly atmosphere awaits.

The first of this year's functions took place in February when 27 members attended our second visit to the Wicker Room at Dewstow Golf Club. Once again we enjoyed a superb meal and it was great to see old friends again after the winter break.

Future events include the Kier Western dinner/dance at the Imperial Hotel, Torquay in April, golf days in May and September, a day trip in June and the 'highlight of the year' in October.

A warm welcome to new members Brian Hunt and his wife Pamela.

David Orr

#### LOUGHTON & WITHAM

A party of 40 attended the Tempsford luncheon where we enjoyed an excellent meal and caught up with old comrades from other areas.

We were joined by Kier London md Peter Everard and his wife Pam and also welcomed newcomer Derek Gurner of French Kier Products fame.

Ken Stoneman

#### BOSTON SPA

The main event since our last meeting was a Christmas dinner dance held at the Owl Hotel, Hambleton, attended by 20 members and their partners. We all had a great time although some suffered for excesses the following morning!

Revie Morris

#### WISBECH

In September a party departed from Wisbech depot for Cromer to see a matinee performance of the 'End of the Pier Show'. Ample time was given to indulge ourselves in succulent Cromer crabs and a glass or two of Adnams Ale, both of which are well known local delicacies. The show was enjoyed by all and well up to its usual high standards.

Our Christmas lunch was held in

December at the White Lion Hotel, Wisbech where approximately 40 sat down to an enjoyable meal coupled with good conversation, all helped by the usual generosity of French Kier Anglia who paid for the liquid refreshments. It was good to see some new faces among the gathering, in particular former md David Bleay and his wife Maureen.

Grateful thanks to Sonia Battle who does a lot of hard work in helping to organise these events.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Bill Gower who spent all of his working life with the company and retired as a senior site agent. Bill will be remembered with respect and affection by all those who worked with him.

Andrew Pallant

#### KIER SOUTHERN

A small party of members and partners enjoyed a weekend break at the end of October at Warner's Hotel, Sinah Warren, Hayling Island, which is being extended and partly refurbished by Henry Jones.



*Kier Southern visit to Hayling Island.*

The annual lunch at Tempsford was supported by 30 members and, as usual, the prize for the oldest attendee was won by Eddy Lane.

A New Year's dinner organised by the Rolling Stones Club was held in January at The Bedford Arms hotel, Chenies. A successful evening was enjoyed by 22 members.

Arrangements are in hand for our spring luncheon which is being held at St. Michaels Manor

Hotel, St. Albans on 14th April.

Congratulations to Alf Tunks on his 90th Birthday. Best wishes also to recent visitors to hospital including Ray Griffin, Peter Hunter and Eddy Lane.

Don Robinson

#### NORTH WEST

We had our autumn lunch in October at our usual venue of the Suites Hotel which was attended by 22 members. Since we do not organise anything during the summer months, there was a lot of catching up to do.

Our Christmas lunch in December was once again at the Suites Hotel where, after a friendly drink and chat at the bar, we were served with a feast of seasonal fare.

Our first function for 2003 was our annual reunion dinner in February where we were joined by current employees with over 25 years' continuous service. A very pleasant evening was had by all with a chance to renew old friendships.

One of our members had a shock when he found out that an apprentice he took on what seems like just a few years ago, now has 25 years' service under his belt!

John Neil

#### RUSHDEN

2003 got off to a good start with our New Year trip to Wigan. We had a wonderful time at Wigan pier museum re-enacting being back at school with a lot of disruptive pupils in our class and an all too real air raid, followed by singing at the old time music hall. A truly great weekend.

We've also had a trip to Peterborough greyhound racing where there were some winners and some losers!

A full coach will be going on the annual visit to the Mountbatten Festival of Music at the Royal Albert Hall in April and a return trip to see 'We Will Rock You' is planned for those who didn't get to go last year.

A four-day trip to Brussels

promises to provide a hectic weekend at Easter and further trips are planned to see the Trooping of the Colour rehearsal in May and Windsor Castle in June.

A family day to the seaside at Clacton will take place in July and a visit to Shrewsbury Flower Show in August. For the more adventurous members a Mediterranean cruise will hopefully take place in October.  
Frank Furlong



*Pictured: Rushden members enjoyed a brewery visit.*

## LOUGHBOROUGH

Twenty two years ago Norman Weil, William Moss Loughborough office manager retired. Four years later, his colleague Peter Everett also retired and the two met up for lunch.

Apart from working together, they both served in North Africa and Italy during the 1939-45 war and had plenty to reminisce about.

They were soon joined at their regular meetings by other retired Moss employees including Ted Malcolm, Fred Clarke, Jim Steadman and Reg Bidgood.

The group continued to grow with retired Marriott employees joining from 1985 onwards.

During the first meetings, lunches were held at various pubs in the area - mostly in quiet village locations providing delightful settings for interesting walks.

Regrettably, with the passing of time, the walks have had to be abandoned but the meetings, still monthly, are very lively affairs and, judging by the regular attendance of members, are enjoyed by all.

We shall all be delighted to see any ex-Moss employees who would like to join us. They will be assured of a warm welcome.

Ronald Freer

## Down memory lane



How many people do you recognise in this photo?

Where was it taken and what year? The aerial shot (right) should give you a big clue.

Thanks to John Starling for providing the photo - another clue! Please send your answers to the editor.



## Team of '71



Time to get the grey matter ticking over again! This time we feature the W&C French boys vs girls football team in 1971 at the Loughton Rugby Club in Buckhurst Hill. We've managed to name a good few thanks to Marisa Busby (middle row 3rd from left). They are (in no particular order) Rosemary Whiting, the late Carole Lee, Val Mann, Doris Scase, Pam Harmer, Joan Head and Ted Staples. Can you name any more?

If you spot yourself here, or anybody else we haven't named, drop a line to Roger Almond and we'll get them in print next time! And, if there's anybody out there with a particularly good memory, we'd like to know the result! (At the moment, the money's on the girls...)

## Senior moments

Avid listeners to Terry Wogan's BBC Radio 2 programme will know exactly what we mean when we ask if you'd like to share your 'senior moments' with fellow Kier Link readers.

These are just a couple of recent examples from Kier pensioners.

Attempting to send a fax message via a photocopier!

Failing to change the television channel using a mobile phone!

Can anyone better these? We promise not to publish any names!

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

I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident!

I told the Police I was not injured, but on removing my hat, found I had a fractured skull!

I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my Mother-in-law and headed over the embankment straight into the canal!

The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run, so I ran him over!

I was thrown from my car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows!

I saw a slow moving, sad faced old gentleman, as he bounced off the bonnet of my car!

The indirect cause of the accident was a little man, in a small car, with a big mouth!

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

## Obituaries

D E Sapsford	Gillingham, Kent	10th September 2002
P J N Waite	Buckhurst Hill, Essex	12th September 2002
K C Travers	Ilford, Essex	19th September 2002
H L Dallow	Catford, London	22nd September 2002
G Easton	Coventry	25th September 2002
D Tancock	Plymouth	5th October 2002
P G White	Bradfield	17th October 2002
A Gowlett	Hockley, Essex	19th October 2002
H York	Kettering	24th October 2002
G E Rye	Gosport	25th October 2002
G D Perks	Wombourne, Staffs	25th October 2002
E H Lamb	Basildon	25th October 2002
B A Howells	Tavistock	12th November 2002
D S Stewart	Falkirk	1st December 2002
J A Clyde	Northshields	2nd December 2002
W C O Ellis	Kings Lynn	3rd December 2002
V R Ellis	Totton, Hants	14th December 2002
E M Phillips	Caerphilly	19th December 2002
A T Warner	Hockley, Essex	30th December 2002
R Edwards	Loughborough	8th January 2003
M Stock	Liverpool	9th January 2003
F E Smith	Spalding	11th January 2003
M Drane	Harlow, Essex	23rd January 2003
E Waterson	Hull	27th January 2003
D C Goode	Birkdale	8th February 2003
J L Williams	Northampton	14th February 2003
S Albon	Chelmondiston, Suffolk	15th February 2003
W C Gower	Spondon, Derbyshire	17th February 2003
J Mierzwa	Thorpe le Soken	18th February 2003
F A Jenkins	Bedford	19th February 2003
H Shingler	Wisbech	23rd February 2003
J Connelly	New Eltham	25th February 2003
M Goring	Taunton, Somerset	6th March 2003