

Fellowship matters

A report from the Trust chairman John Stamford

As we enter our ninth year of the Fellowship Trust, I feel it is an opportune time to look back as well as looking forward.

When we started the Kier Group Fellowship Trust eight years ago, it was like setting out on a journey - we knew broadly what we wanted to achieve but we had no route map. During that time we have established 12 areas which enjoy varying degrees of activity, and our annual luncheon and golf days which bring all these areas together. We also maintain contact with all our members through KierLink, which has now expanded to eight pages.

On the financial front, I am pleased to report that we are almost back to where we started, having suffered major losses on our investments at one stage. Membership is now around 1035, which is also encouraging.

I asked my colleagues at a recent meeting where they saw the Fellowship Trust being in five years' time? The answer is that you - the members - will decide the future. We hope that you will support the events in your area and if possible be willing to take responsibility for organising such events.

John Stamford

Editor's note

As our chairman has mentioned, we are entering our ninth year of the Fellowship Trust and I would like to set a challenge to our readers - how can we celebrate our future tenth anniversary?

All reasonable suggestions will be given due consideration. These can be sent to your area organiser or direct to me at the address below.

For now, please keep up the good work in supporting your regional area, feeding ideas to your hardworking area organisers and, most important of all, enjoy the Fellowship.

Roger Almond, Editor, KierLink, Cottage Garden, 2 Orchard Road South, March, Cambridgeshire PE15 9DE.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 26 August 2005.

A place in the sun by Steve Tyson

Having been retired for over a year, after 19 years with Kier Group, I read an article recently about retiring abroad and thought you may be interested to hear about life in Cyprus.

Most of the 25,000 ex pats on Cyprus live in the west of the island around Paphos as it is slightly cooler in summer (30-35 degrees C) and milder in winter. It can rain in January and February but they say the sun shines for 340 days each year. About the size of Wales situated in the Eastern Mediterranean sea, the island is steeped in history, but also has strong connections with the UK. There are sovereign bases at Episkopi and Akrotiri, the law is based on the British legal system and they even drive on the same side of the road - well some of the time!

Five minutes from the sea with mountains behind us, we find the cost of living at our villa is far cheaper than in the UK. Medical facilities are also up to EU standards and there is no waiting. Although food is cheaper, there is not necessarily the choice but with wine from £1 a bottle and gin and whiskey £5 a bottle - we can put up with that!

Diamond celebration



Mr & Mrs Gordon Holt celebrate 60 years of marriage.

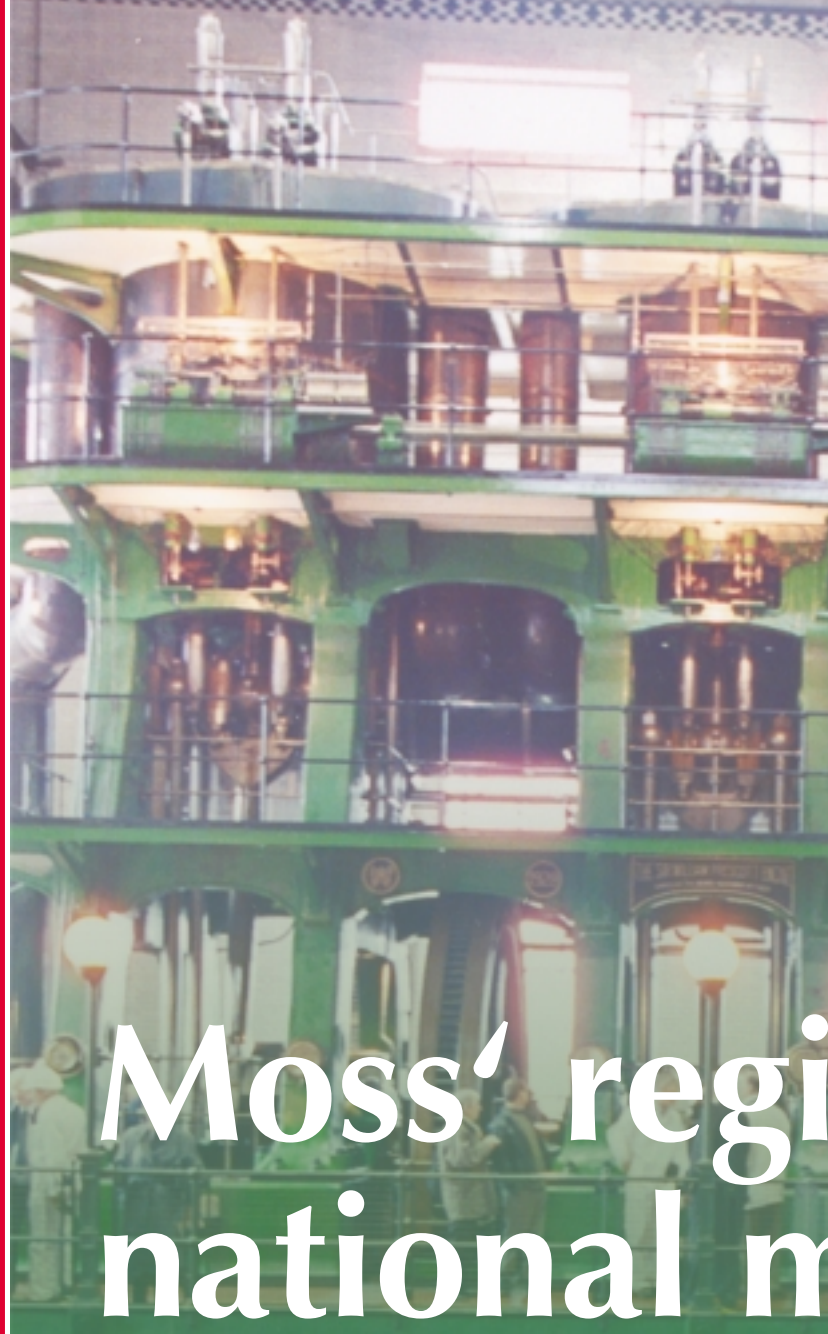
Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Gordon Holt who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in November 2004. In addition to the many cards they received from family and friends was a very 'special delivery' - a photograph and personally signed card from Her Majesty The Queen.

Weightlifting World Champion

Neil Bleay submitted the following article about his father, former French Kier Anglia md David Bleay.

On 3 October 2004, my Dad became the international all round weightlifting association World Champion in the masters 70+, 90kg class. The competition included six different weight lifts spread over two hectic days at the Bass Museum in Burton-on-Trent. In becoming world champion, Dad claimed three world records in the front squat, snatch and a particularly impressive 65kg lift in the pull over and press. The total weight for all the lifts ensured also that he became the best all round 70+ lifter in the competition, to add to his world crown.

Winning the competition was the culmination of a lifetime of weightlifting experience and three recent months hard training. Dad's achievement serves as a beacon to others at what can be possible following two hip replacements and a heart attack, and we are very proud of him.



Moss' regional national m

Ray Plassard joined William Moss in January 1955 as a trainee surveyor at the Cricklewood office and retired in March 2003 from Kier London's Loughton office.

He writes: "In 1976 I visited a water treatment works at Kempton Park where I saw two extraordinarily large steam pumping engines, capable of pumping up to 38,000,000 gallons of water per day to the reservoir at Cricklewood, North London. Installed in 1928 measuring 48ft wide by 62ft high and weighing over 800 tons, they were the largest in Britain, if not the world.

I was also interested to read that the magnificent building housing them was constructed by William Moss & Sons Ltd taking two years to construct at a cost of £165,000.

The steam engines were taken out of service in 1980 and the installation remained derelict and deteriorating for some 12 years until English Heritage



Registered National Monument

visited the site to see if the building should be listed. They were so impressed by what they saw that they designated it a Registered National Monument (No 153), the highest classification a building can have, equal in status to Stonehenge or the Tower of London. Well done Moss!

Arising from this registration, a Charitable Trust and Volunteer Society were set up aiming to restore the engines to working order and open the building to the public as a museum. After seven years of hard work by a team of highly skilled volunteer engineers, one of the engines is back in steam and it was my good fortune to attend its public inauguration last October. Not only was it a pleasure to see the engine operational again but I had a great sense of pride in having been associated with the company who constructed the excellent building."

Details of the museum opening and steaming dates can be obtained by telephoning 01932 765328 or visiting the website www.kemptonsteam.org

60 years on - lest we forget

If there is sufficient interest, we hope to organise a coach trip to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II event which will be held in London on 10 July 2005. Please register your interest with your area organisers.

We would also like to hear from any Fellowship members who have personal memories of working or being involved with Kier projects before and during World War II (1939 – 1945). These could include the many airfield construction contracts, the Mulberry Harbour units for the D-Day landings or the air raid on the Port of St. Nazaire.

How was your journey to work?

Bob Bagley recalls a journey he made while working for the company.

"It was early January 1966 and I was chauffeured from Buckhurst Hill to Heathrow en route for The Seychelles. I was travelling on the BOAC evening flight to Nairobi, where I was to be met by a member of staff from our local office. The check-in went smoothly but when I got to the departure gate, I was told that I had the wrong boarding pass. Mine was for New York not Nairobi - not a good start for a first time traveller!

On arrival at Nairobi there was no-one to meet me. I telephoned the office who said they weren't expecting me until the next day, but sent Geoff Harker over. (I met up with Geoff again at the 2003 annual lunch). I was later taken back to the airport to catch my flight to Mombassa. I had been given details of my hotel and a contact in Mombassa for my onward journey. I should explain that there was no airport in Seychelles at this time, and passage to the islands normally meant a two and a half day sea trip. W&C French (Overseas) was involved with the construction of a satellite tracking station for the Americans who occasionally gave permission for us to fly senior staff on their Albatross flying boat.

That evening, from my hotel in Mombassa, I telephoned my contact only to be told that he knew nothing about me. I was told to be at the airport first thing in the morning and he would radio Seychelles to check that all was in order. In the morning I was cleared to travel and travelled by cargo plane devoid of any sound or heat insulation with metal chairs for seats. We flew very low over the Indian Ocean and on approaching Mahe I was treated to the most spectacular view of the islands. We landed in the sea, causing waves to rush by the windows, and finally came to rest on a slipway. The journey, which would take 12 hours today, had taken 48 hours!"

Around the regions

Maple Cross

Thirty three members and their partners attended the late summer luncheon at St. Michael's Manor, St Albans and the long service luncheon, hosted by Kier Southern at the same venue, attracted 17 members. The annual luncheon at Tempsford (pictured) was once again well attended and provided a good opportunity for members to meet up with old friends.



In January, we joined up with the Rolling Stones club at Edgwarebury Hotel, Elstree for a New Year supper where Don Robinson was presented with a digital camera for all his hard work as Fellowship area organiser since its inception. John Manning was welcomed as a first time visitor.

A spring luncheon is planned for 15 April at St. Michael's Manor hotel, St. Albans and a ramble on 17 May followed by lunch at a local pub.

New Year greetings were received from Eric Davies, Ernest Woods and Bob Baker who wish to be remembered to all their old colleagues.

We are saddened to report the sudden death of Alf Tunks on 16 January 2005. Alf joined William Moss in 1926 at the age of 13. He worked on a number of contracts before becoming yard foreman at Staples Corner. He finally retired in 1978 and despite being blind for most of his retirement, could always be relied upon to share a cheery story or joke. He died in hospital two days before his 92nd birthday and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Congratulations to Jim Connor who completed the Great North Run in a time of two hours and 40 minutes and raised £1400 for charity. He thoroughly enjoyed the run and suffered no blisters or strained muscles.

An amusing story which I thought would be of interest to all our golfers.

A man and his wife were very keen golfers and went to the club regularly together. The man was an excellent ad golfer but unfortunately his wife wasn't and she got fed up with him always winning cups. On one occasion when she went to the club alone, she passed a trophy shop on the way home and decided to go in and buy one. The only one she liked had two greyhounds on it but the shopkeeper said they could be removed. When her husband came home the cup was sitting in pride of place on the sideboard and she said to him "Look what I won today." She couldn't understand why her husband was so amused until she read the inscription - awarded to the fastest bitch on the course.

Terry Delany



Jim Connor.

Rushden

The weather was glorious for our trip to Waddesdon Manor in July where we all enjoyed the house and gardens, a picnic lunch and cream teas. In September we visited the Chelsea Hospital for a light, entertaining concert by The Band of the Welsh Guards. A mystery trip, also in September, included a 1940s style lunch at the Portland Hotel, Buxton. Everyone joined in the singing and dancing and then walked off the lunch around Matlock. Forty six members enjoyed an evening with a difference in October - Ferret Racing - where £800 was raised for charity.



Those who went to The Lord Mayor's Show in November agreed it was the best parade so far despite the cold weather. Four members also attended the Remembrance Service at The Royal Albert Hall and another mystery trip ended at Rochester's Dickensian market where a full coach load enjoyed carols and snow around the church square.

Two members celebrated their birthdays in style on the trip to Prague in November a sightseeing tour of the city took in the castle and cathedral as well as the old town. Social activities included a folk evening and sing-song competition and some members also managed to squeeze in a boat trip before returning to the airport for the flight home.



In December, an unexpected trip to Thursford Xmas Spectacular exceeded all expectations, and a shopping trip to London was followed by a carol service at the Guards Chapel. Lunch was taken in the Albert Public House where June Holland is pictured with Chelsea Pensioners who were having their Christmas lunch.

Even a fire alarm evacuation at 3.30am on New Year's Day didn't stop everyone enjoying the New Year break in Doncaster. A visit to York's steam museum and The Shambles was included as well as late night New Year's Eve celebrations. In February we returned to the Royal Albert Hall for the Mountbatten Festival of Music. The evening included tributes to the Battle of Trafalgar and Glenn Miller.

Frank Furlong

Plymouth

Ten Devon & Cornwall members, including several new faces met for an enjoyable lunch in a Plymouth Bistro in November. Two of the attendees had clocked up almost 100 years' Group service between them. A similar lunch is planned again when we hope to attract even more members.

Steve Tyson

Cheltenham

The 25-year service dinner was re-introduced in October after a ten year break and the 18 members who attended thoroughly enjoyed an excellent evening.

A Christmas lunch was also enjoyed by 26 members and friends at the Cotswold Hills Golf Club. Last minute anxieties for the organisers regarding the catering arrangements thankfully proved unfounded and everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal.

Len Gayler

North West

The autumn lunch, held at our usual venue - the Suites Hotel, Knowsley - was attended by 28 members and a record number of 34 attended the Christmas Fayre luncheon. Forthcoming events include the 41st Annual Reunion Dinner and Spring luncheon.

I was wondering how many other readers, like me, are intrigued to learn more about 'the wonders of vinegar'. Week in week out I see big adverts in the papers praising the power of this weak acid solution. They make it sound like a miracle cure for all ills. The latest claim is that you can lose weight with vinegar. Obviously the ad doesn't tell you how - you have to shell out almost 12 quid for that! The mind boggles - do you rub it into your skin? Or do you drink it? Anyway, vinegar, it seems, will clean the brass, relieve headaches, lift painful calluses, fade age spots (get me a gallon), sooth sunburn and cure hiccups. So now I'm saving up to buy the book, and am confident that when you next see me, I'll be my former sylph-like self!

Norman England

Newport/Bristol

Ten members teed off at Llansdown Golf Club in September - our second golf day of 2004.



The fantastic scenery of the Rhine and Mosel valleys in Germany provided an ideal setting for our five day excursion in October. Our package also included trips to the wine town of Rudesheim, medieval Boppard and former capital city Bonn.

Another trip is planned for this year as well as a dinner dance in April, an outing in May and two more golf days.

David Orr

Boston Spa

Sunday luncheon on 5 September was enjoyed by 16 members and their partners and another has been arranged for March. This event will be held at the Hungry Fox at Beal as The Owl is being refurbished, this was in non way due to our last visit!

Revie Morris

Wisbech

Elme Hall Hotel was the setting for the Wisbech Christmas meal in December attended by 51 members and their partners and Kier Eastern representatives. The event was a great success and will be repeated this year.

Arrangements are currently in hand for a visit to Holkham Country Fair on 16 July and the 'Seaside Special' at Cromer Pavilion on 10 August.

Brian Painter/Sonia Webb

Tempsford

Tempsford members enjoyed trips to Milton Keynes theatre to see 'Fame' and 'Thoroughly Modern Millie', and it is hoped that a good number will be going to see 'Jesus Christ Superstar' in July. Also in July, we will be joining forces with Kier Sports & Social Club for a trip to Hampton Court Flower Show - sure to be a favourite for all our keen gardeners.

The lunch-time sessions at a selection of local watering holes are also due to restart in the Spring.

John Skull

Loughton & Witham

A record 60 members attended the annual luncheon at Tempsford in November and thoroughly enjoyed the dinner, entertainment and raffle. We would like to send our best wishes to all Fellowship members for 2005.

Ken Stoneman

Best wishes to Ken Stoneman who, having spent Christmas in hospital having two new knees, is now learning to walk again. Editor

Maidstone & Bromley

The annual spring luncheon at the Hop Farm Country Park at Paddock Wood held in March continues to be a favourite both for the venue and the time of year. Preceded by drinks and attended by 72 members and partners and six representatives from the company, the luncheon provides an excellent opportunity to meet up with old friends and colleagues.



It is with sadness that we report the death of Edward Cornish, OBE on 14th July 2004. Ted joined Wallis in 1947 as a surveyor and chief estimator. In 1964 he was appointed chairman and managing director and became non-executive chairman in 1976 until his retirement in 1978. In spite of being unable to attend any recent functions, Ted showed a keen interest in the activities of the Fellowship Trust and had a remarkable ability to remember people and the jobs they held on various contracts. Those of us who had the pleasure of working with him always found him a fair boss and I am sure you would wish to join with me in remembering a true 'Wallis' man.

Alan Munday

Memory lane...

Norman England kindly sent in these two photos.

Nick Moss is pictured in the light suit in the centre of a group of William Moss & Sons board members (on Len Gayler's right). Do you recognise the others?



Does anyone remember this ex Liverpool director knocking the ball down the fairway at a Moss event?

Readers' letters

(01473) 780262

Chemston,
Main Road,
Chelmsford,
Ipswich. IP9 1EX
Sfx.

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Does anyone remember the name of an engineer who designed the concrete beam arrangement used to distribute the hot water entering the top of the hyperbolic cooling towers? He was a Czechoslovakian who came over here just before the war and was introduced by Mr. Westergard.

Mr. Westergard was a Danish engineer and in charge of all estimating - a very clever engineer.

B.A.Jillings

Correction: Memories of a 1923 vintage employee - page 8 - issue nine. Please note the last paragraph should have read Mrs Gordon (who was W&C French's canteen supervisor) - not my wife. Apologies for the misunderstanding.

Web site update

Calling all computer users who have access to the internet - visit

www.kier.co.uk/about/trust.asp

to find out all you need to know about the Kier Group Fellowship Trust and how it can benefit you.

Diary dates

Kier Group Fellowship Trust annual golf day

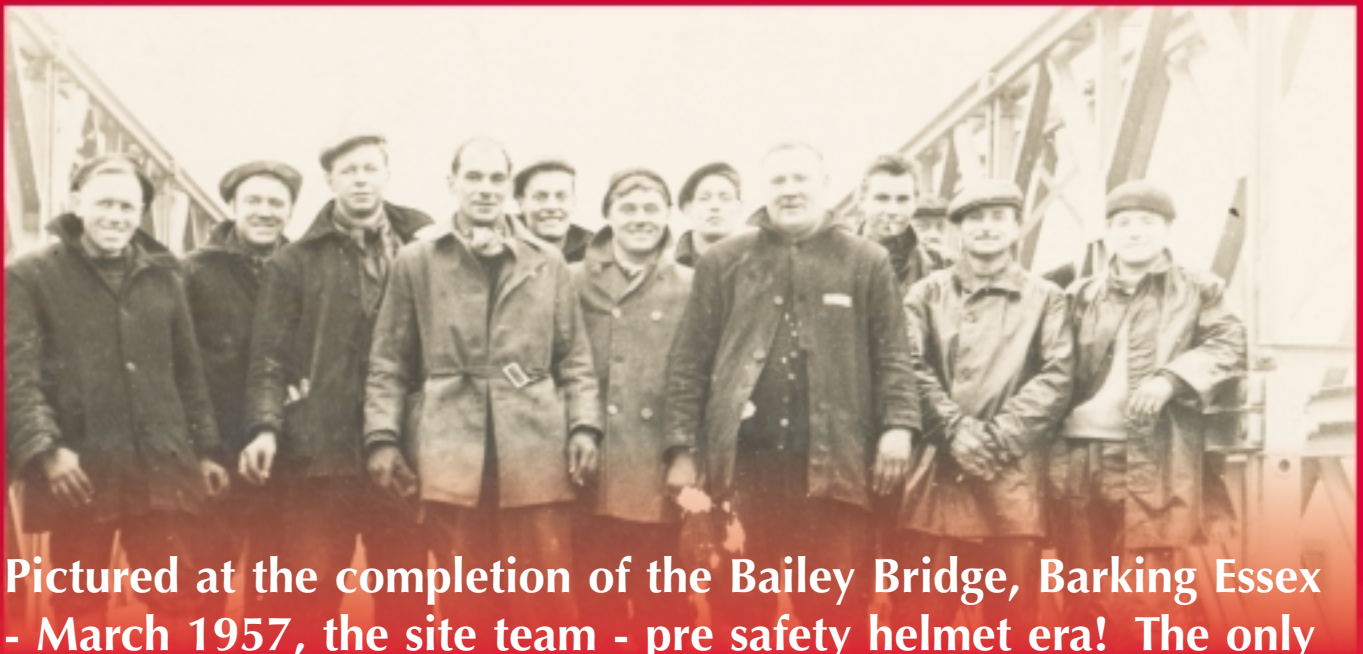
St. Neots Golf Club: **Thursday 11 August 2005**

Kier Group Fellowship Trust annual luncheon

Tempsford Hall Marquee: **Sunday 27 November 2005**

Ties!

Fellowship ties at £5 each can be purchased from Brendan O'Boyle or Hilary Edmunds at Kier Southern, tel: 01923 721277.



Pictured at the completion of the Bailey Bridge, Barking Essex - March 1957, the site team - pre safety helmet era! The only ones identified to date are (l-r) 4th Dave Young, 5th Harry Jones (son), 6th Harry Jones (father). Can anyone identify the others?

Conditions of service (in Grandfather's day)

Who still says they were the good old days?

Below is a copy of the office rules issued in 1852 by a firm of Ship Chandlers in Sydney, Australia which indicates how much times have changed.

Rules for Clerical Staff

1. Godliness, Cleanliness and Punctuality are the necessities of a good business.
2. On the recommendation of the Governor of this Colony this firm has reduced the hours of work and the Clerical Staff will now only have to be present between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays. The Sabbath is for Worship, but should any man-of-war or other vessel require victualling the Clerical Staff will work on the Sabbath.
3. Daily Prayers will be held each morning in the Main Office. The Clerical Staff will be present.
4. Clothing must be of a sober nature. The Clerical Staff will not disport themselves in raiment of bright colours, nor will they wear hose, unless in good repair.
5. Overshoes and top-coats may not be worn in the Office, but Neck Scarves and Headwear may be worn in inclement weather.
6. A stove is provided for the benefit of the Clerical Staff. Coal and wood must be kept in the locker. It is recommended that each member of the Clerical Staff bring 4 pounds of coal each day during cold weather.
7. No member of the Clerical Staff may leave the room without permission from Mr. Fuller. The calls of nature are permitted, and the Clerical Staff may use the garden below the second gate. This area must be kept in good order.
8. No talking is allowed during business hours.
9. The craving for tobacco, wines or spirits is a human weakness and, as such, is forbidden to all members of the Clerical Staff.
10. Now that the hours of business have been drastically reduced, the partaking of food is allowed between 11.30 a.m. and noon, but work will not, on any account, cease.
11. Members of the Clerical Staff will provide their own pens. A new sharpener is available on application to Mr. Fuller.
12. Mr. Fuller will nominate a Senior Clerk to be responsible for the cleanliness of the Main Office and the Private Office, and all boys and Juniors will report to him 40 minutes before prayers and will remain after closing hours for similar work. Brushes, brooms, scrubbers and soap are provided by the Owners.
13. The new increased weekly wages are as here-under detailed :

Junior Boys (to 11 years)	..	..	..	1.4d.
Boys (to 14 years)	..	..	..	2.1d.
Juniors	..	..	..	4.8d.
Junior Clerks	..	..	..	8.7d.
Clerks	..	..	..	10.9d.
Senior Clerks	..	..	..	21.0d.

The Owners hereby recognise the generosity of the new Labour Laws, but will expect a great rise in output of work to compensate for these near Utopian conditions."

Congratulations to Tempsford area organiser John Skull who won the chairman's award at the Fellowship Trust Annual Luncheon at Tempsford in November for correctly estimating the number of attendees. Unfortunately we don't have a photograph of the presentation as John was busy taking photos of everyone else that day!



Obituaries

- Kristina Tecza
6 September 2004
- Margaret May
27 September 2004
- Judith Thorpe
30 September 2004
- John James
24 October 2004
- Alan Grey
18 November 2004
- Michael Bull
27 November 2004
- Andrew McGuinniety
29 November 2004
- Irene Vassar
1 December 2004
- Richard Talbot
19 December 2004
- Thomas Crilly
22 December 2004
- Colin Diver
30 December 2004
- Edith Cook
31 December 2004
- Sheila Fincham
2 January 2005
- Sheila Vann
5 January 2005
- Elsie Scott
12 January 2005
- Sheila Thomas
12 January 2005
- Alfred Tunks
16 January 2005
- Spencer Zeal
20 January 2005
- Stanley Ryder
23 January 2005
- John Sparks
27 January 2005
- Robert Clarke
28 January 2005
- Bert Howard
29 January 2005
- Florence Thorn
31 January 2005
- Terence Sampson
3 February 2005
- Kathleen Gibson
5 February 2005
- Joyce Podd
7 February 2005
- Arthur Sheppard
TBC