

Fellowship matters

A report from the Trust chairman John Stamford

Hopefully I will have a smile on my face when we meet for our annual lunch in the marquee at Tempsford Hall on 27 November because for the first time in four years, I am able to report that our investments are back to where they started, having been minus £45,000 at one stage.

It was always a tough call as to whether our investments should be widely spread in unit trusts or whether we should have all our eggs in one basket. The Trust Board decided that we should go for the unit trust spread type of investment.

During what I would call the 'four dark years' we have continued to run and increase the number of area activities by some very modest spending of capital, but our objective is fellowship and not banking.

Such is the advance in technology that our Kier Group Fellowship Trust website (which can be found at www.kier.co.uk) had its highest number of hits in July. The website lists the area organisers and activities. If you wish to join in an event, then the organiser is only a phone call away.

The annual Golf Day was held on a hot and humid day at St. Neots Golf Club. Not only was it an excellent social occasion but the numbers attending were slightly up on last year, so that is good news.

Some former Kier employees continue to ask about how they can become Fellowship members. If you know of anybody who falls into this category, all they have to do is apply by contacting Hilary Edmunds or Brendan O'Boyle at Kier Southern's Maple Cross office, tel: 01923 721277.

John Stamford

Editor's note

I continue to be impressed by the range of activities arranged by the regional organisers. Their task is not an easy one and members' support of the various events is the best form of encouragement they can have.

This edition includes a further review of '60 years on' and the personal memories already provided by members are much appreciated. Please put pen to paper for possible inclusion in the April 2006 issue.

As any editor knows, 'copy' for publication is all important and readers are very welcome to submit items either via their area organisers or direct to me:

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

Copy deadline for the next issue is 28 February 2006.

diary dates

Kier Group Fellowship Trust Annual Luncheon – to be held in a marquee in the grounds of Tempsford Hall on Sunday 27 November 2005.

60 years on

How was your journey to work?

Alf Gudgion recalls his first day at W&C French. "About 6.00am one December day in 1941 I set off from Barking to the Delta Metal Company site in Greenwich, located at what is now the Dome site. I was going to work with Toot Norman and my father Ted Gudgion. The transport was on a trolley bus to Poplar then a bus through Blackwall tunnel to get us to Greenwich for a 7.30am start.

There had been a heavy air raid overnight and the skyline was aglow from the fires all around but the all-clear had sounded and all was well until we got to Upton Park where the trolley bus wires were down due to bomb damage. Everyone helped clear the road and the trolley bus crept along on its batteries until it could be reconnected to a live section of the overhead wires.

This sort of thing happened several times before we got to the tunnel. There was a long wait for a bus which had negotiated bomb debris and rescue ARP vehicles, but eventually we got to Greenwich. I then had my first visit to a working man's coffee shop for a large cup of tea and 'two of dripping'. It was nearly mid-day when we finally got on site and Toot said that we must get off home early as we didn't want to be late twice in one day!"

Thank you to John Wolsey of Great Clacton for sending in his fascinating wartime memories. Unfortunately we don't have the space to publish them in KierLink, but a copy is available from the editor for anyone wishing to read them.

Commemorative Event of Reflection and Reminiscence, London 2005



On Sunday 10 July, Fred Hayo of Rushden and Peter Everett of Loughborough were honoured VIP guests of Kier Group, attending the celebrations in London commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

After a superb lunch of salmon and gooseberry shortbread hosted by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, Fred and Peter attended the commemorative event on Horse Guards Parade. Here they were entertained by performers recreating the music of the wartime years.

A wonderful day was climaxed by a flypast of World War II aircraft and the dropping of one million poppies from a Lancaster bomber along The Mall.

A full account of Fred and Peter's 'Day to Remember' can be read on the Kier Group Fellowship Trust pages of the website www.kier.co.uk

Around the regions

Boston Spa

All remains constant at Boston Spa, with membership still at 36 as reported in last issue. Sunday luncheon in March at the Hungry Fox at Beal was a great success, attended by 22 members & guests and September's meal at the same venue rivalled it for numbers. **Revie Morris**

Plymouth

The Devon and Cornwall Association lunch was held at a different location from the previous meeting, and this was perhaps the reason for a 25% increase in attendance, including a 200% rise in lady retirees! The atmosphere was certainly better, and the mood reflected that. The event was attended by Kier Western md Peter Young. Perhaps an increase in Cornish pasties will see an even larger turn-out from the Cornwall half at future events! **Steve Tyson**

Bristol/ Newport

We appear to have spent a fair amount of the past year at various Golf Clubs, with the February luncheon at Dewstow Golf Club extremely well attended, and giving us the chance to welcome several new members.

The group had two golf days over the summer, at Dewstow and Lansdown Golf Clubs. Well attended though they were, we're always keen to welcome new players.

Do you recognise the backdrop in our photograph? Familiar? In the unlikely event that you DON'T know – it's the location for the 'Hovis' advert!

Trust members attended Kier Western's spring ball held at the Marriott Royal Hotel in Bristol.

A day trip out in Dorset proved delightful, and a five day tour of the Isle of Man is taking place in September – we'll update you on that next issue!

Memory lane

How many of these fine young men about to defend the Marie Davey Cup do you recognise?

David Orr



Tempsford Hall

Local members have spent time boosting the fortunes of nearby hostelries, including lunches at The Wheatsheaf PH Tempsford, The Danish Camp, Willington, The White Horse in Eaton Socon, and The Cock Inn at Gamlingay (pictured).



In July several members, combined with Kier Sports & Social Club, attended Hampton Court flower display.

We've had a number of organised theatre trips to Milton Keynes, to see Jesus Christ Superstar, Loveshack, Magic of the Dance and the Rat Pack. Such was the success that we've made an advance booking for Mary Poppins at The Prince Edward Theatre in London for 4 March 2006.

St. Neots Golf Course provided a challenging course near the Ouse in August, and the 28°C sunshine changed all our natural hues. With a 32-strong turnout this was a glorious event, played competitively and enthusiastically.
John Skull

Maple Cross

The annual spring luncheon was held in April at St. Michael's Manor Hotel, with 31 members and partners in attendance, including first-timers Bob Farmer, Charles Walsby and Ray Griffin, as well as Eddie Lane (94) and his wife Phyllis (95).

Tring Reservoirs were the venue for a leisurely ramble and local pub lunch.

On the 10 May 24 members and partners attended a cruise on the Grand Union Canal from Pitstone to Marsworth, polishing off luncheon first, then cream tea on the return trip.

Other trips included the Rat Pack in London, and the golf day at St. Neots. A group of stalwarts even made a trip down to Fareham, Hants to meet for lunch with some South Coast members.

Congratulations from us all to Harold and Dorothy Bromwich whose golden wedding anniversary came on 10 September 2005.

"Out of the mouths of babes"

Stephen (aged 7) "Our school has four houses: Cavell, Nightingale, Nelson and Churchill. I'm in Churchill and I don't want to be in that house."

"Very distinguished names" said his father, "What do you know about them?"

"Well" said Stephen. "Nurse Cavell was shot by Germans – I've seen her memorial in Norwich. Florence Nightingale nursed soldiers during the war. Nelson, well that's Nelson Mandela and Churchill, that's the dog on television and that is why I don't want to be in that house." **Terry Delaney**

Loughton & Witham

On Friday 15 July a party of 24 set off from Southend Pier aboard the historic Balmoral passenger ship.

The ship sailed up river past the Millennium Dome and under Tower Bridge, which was raised to let us through. The sun shone constantly, and the deck so well subscribed that one of our party was heard to utter "The last time I saw a deck as crowded as this I was being evacuated from Dunkirk!" Our thanks go to Bob Bagley for organising this superb event. **Ken Stoneman**



Cheltenham

Highclere Castle provided a magnificent location for a members' day trip, included among which were recently retired Moss directors Barry Laenen and Keith Marrant, along with their wives, Janet and Jo respectively. By popular demand the venue for the coming Christmas bash on 16 December remains unchanged – the Cotswold Hills Golf Club. **Len Gayler**

North West

The annual reunion dinner was held this year where we were joined by current employees with over 25 years' continuous service; a record 42 members attended including Trust chairman John Stamford and his wife Deirdre, as well as Larry Wilkinson, managing director of Kier North West who presented long service awards to current employees Elizabeth Chambers (pictured) and Joe Lyons. The spring lunch at our usual haunt had a good turnout of 30 members; and I've just time to pass on a tip from Wigan:

"There's nothing better as a pick-me-up than a glass of whiskey containing an Uncle Joe's mint ball. The mint ball should be put in the whiskey in the morning, left all day and drunk last thing at night when the sweet has totally dissolved." It would be interesting to hear the results of your experiments! **Norman England**



Rushden

Our trip to Scotland in April was, as expected, very well attended, with 46 in tow. Trossachs National Park and Loch Lomond were awe-inspiring, and the summer-like weather ideal.



A trip to the Chelsea Flower Show in late May was tame by comparison, but nonetheless exhausting for all concerned!

Only two days later we were back in London to see the rehearsal of trooping the colour, and as with all previous and subsequent outings the weather was on our side.

With a children's outing to Great Yarmouth in June, castles on the beach were all the rage.

July 10th was the day of the World War II Commemoration Parade, a spectacular and unforgettable show. Fred Hayo (92) and Peter Everett (83) were the veterans representing Marriott at Buckingham Palace. They'll not forget their day with the Queen in a hurry!

July 31st saw us on bad behaviour as we were caned in school at the Black Country Living Museum, but it was some consolation to receive the best fish and chips ever.

August brought with it the opportunity for us to fill two coaches on the popular outing to the beautiful Longleat House and gardens. **Frank Furlong**

Maidstone & Bromley

Our annual lunch was held at The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood in late March, attended and greatly enjoyed by 81 of us. We had the company of a few current staff and board members too. Generously, Wallis contributed to the cost and provided a first class table magician who seemed to do the impossible right under our noses. Dot Comley followed him from table to table taking photographs of our astonished reactions. We assume this to be the reason for her movements, as despite his good looks she said she "hadn't noticed..."

This was Alan Munday's last event as Area Organiser, and we all thank him for his efforts. Bob Palmese has been appointed to the post, and he in turn has asked Alec Rhodes and Dave Jillians to join him as committee members. New ideas for future events are actively sought. **Bob Palmese**

Wisbech

For the third year running 30 members attended the ever-enjoyable Seaside Special Show at the Cromer Pavilion Theatre on the 10 August.

Arrangements are being made to hold our Christmas lunch mid-December in Wisbech – more details nearer the time.

Brian Painter and Reg Melloy attended the Fellowship Golf Day in August, and it was Brian himself who finally won.

Sonia Webb/Brian Painter

Readers' letters

Dear Roger,
 9th Aug 05
 When I read the two articles on the right hand side of page 3 of the issue 10 Kierlink I was reminded of my first journey to work far W & C. way back in 1941. I enclosed a short note of the event I have yet to write about some of the wartime contracts I worked on with Toot Norman, most of which, were basically to do with the war effort.

With regards
 Alf Judgson

(See Alf's recollection on page 2).

Dear Mr. Almond,
 10/5/05
 I worked for the Company for 30 years at Romford Office & always read your Newsletter hoping for news of my colleagues. A "mention" is very rare until now when I was very pleased to read the article on Mr. David Blease. I was joint secretary to Mr. David Culy & Mrs. Blease when I retired. I look back very happily to my years at Romford & hope to see a reference from my colleagues from time to time in your Newsletter.

Best wishes
 Yours sincerely
 Win Munnoch
 (MRS W. E. MUNNOCH)

Pounds, shillings and pence - can you add it up?

No.	Clue	£	s	d
1	A stone			
2	A bicycle			
3	A singer			
4	Part of a monkey's leg			
5	A man's name			
6	A kind of pig			
7	Sun, Moon and Pluto			
8	A leather worker			
9	50% of panties			
10	A royal head-dress			
11	Hammer repeatedly			
12	An unwell sea creature			
	Total	32	17	8.5

Answers: £14, penny-farthing, £10 (tenor), halfpenny (ape-knee), a shilling (Bob), guinea, three far-things, 6d (tanner), 10 shillings (half a knicker), 5 shillings (crown), £1 (pound), £6 (sick squid).

Memory lane...

Maurice Bailey of New Milton, Hampshire recognised the two photos sent in by Norman England (issue 10). He wrote in to say that the photo of the William Moss & Sons board members was taken at a farewell dinner organised for the retirement of Nicholas Moss.



Left to right (back row) Paul Hyde-Thomson, Tony Jackson, Maurice Bailey, Tom James, John Bower, Geoff Nail, and Ernest Woods; (front row) Bob Baker, Eric Cartwright, Nicholas Moss, Len Gayler, Mike Fletcher and John Lucas.

Maurice also recognised the golfer as Charles Hill who died some time ago. "When I transferred to the London Office in 1947, Charles was a senior surveyor who went to Costain for a few years before returning to Moss at Liverpool as general manager and later managing director."



In response to our request to identify those pictured at the completion of the Bailey Bridge at Barking, Essex in March 1957 (issue 10 people and places), we can now add several more names, thanks to Mrs P Moore, Mr Alf Gudgion and Mr Maurice Bailey.



(Left to right) 3rd James T Moore (ex Kier London), 4th Dave Young, 5th Harry Jones (son), 6th Harry Jones (father) 7th Charlie Ayres and 8th Ronnie Ayres.

Ties

A few Kier Fellowship ties are still available from Brendan O'Boyle or Hilary Edmunds at Kier Southern, tel: 01923 721277. A great Christmas present at only £5 each!

Obituaries

Leslie Elliott
February 2005

Peter Gowers
12 April 2005

Kenneth Linnell
4 May 2005

William Wager
22 May 2005

Arthur Wood
25 May 2005

Terence Mansergh
3 June 2005

Corry van den Heuvel
3 June 2005

Margery Langton
16 June 2005

Phineas Rowley
24 June 2005

Victor Baldwin
4 July 2005

Keith Eaton
7 July 2005

Peggy Phillips
22 July 2005

Barbara Hunter
31 July 2005

David Sheppard
31 July 2005

Joan Wood
5 August 2005

Betty Mills
7 August 2005

Graham Rousell
11 August 2005