

## Fellowship matters

A report from the Trust chairman John Stamford

With this year's major national events behind us, we are able to look back and say that the Kier Group Fellowship Trust is alive and well after ten years in operation.

Our membership is now at an all time record high and the June function at Tempsford (reported separately) was a splendid and memorable occasion. Our national golf day was hosted by the Maple Cross area this year at Aldenham Park Golf Club in Watford and, in spite of having a thunderstorm in the hour before the tournament, the sun shone on the righteous and we had a very successful and enjoyable day.

Deirdre and I have been pleased to be invited to a number of the

events held by the areas and have been pleased to see the enthusiasm and the comradeship which the Fellowship provides. I frequently ask the question 'would all this have happened if there had been no Fellowship?'

With uncertain stock markets and the UK recession, once again we find ourselves battling to preserve our capital and at the same time provide sufficient income to run the Fellowship. Difficult tasks – but we, as always, do our best. As I have said on many occasions we are a Fellowship not a building society, but we just have to be prudent on the way we run our activities.

## Editor's note

I was pleased to hear that several regional areas are producing a local newsletter, which is much appreciated by the readers.

This issue of Kierlink contains what is possibly a rare pastime, lace making. Should we have a competition for the most unusual pastimes?

Please do not forget that any Fellowship member can be included in the now many regional events; you only need to contact the event organisers.

Looking forward to hearing about your hobbies and pastimes to include in future copies of your magazine.

Last date for copy for next issue is 28 February 2009. Please send your contributions to:

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## A warm welcome to our new members

Name	Town	Area	Worked for
Roy Bond	Earls Barton	Northants	Marriott Construction
Marilyn Gould	Kingswood	Bristol	Kier Western
Clive Shenton	Leigh on Sea	Essex	Kier London
Christina Cockings	Eaton Socon	Cambridgeshire	Tempsford Hall
Tony Dunster	Chalfont St Peter	Buckinghamshire	Tempsford Hall
Peter Ricketts	Harlow	Essex	Kier London
Michael Cunningham	Epping	Essex	Kier London
Keith Hicks	Benfleet	Essex	Kier London
Linda Hicks	Benfleet	Essex	Kier London
Michael Brogan	Willesborough	Kent	Kier South East
David Glanvill	Harwich	Essex	Kier South East
Jim Morrison	Wheathampstead	Hertfordshire	Kier Southern
Marilyn Perks	Hollywood	Birmingham	Moss Construction

## Tempsford Hall garden party

This year's Tempsford Hall garden party was a splendid affair and is the eleventh since the Trust was formed in 1998. It was a wonderful opportunity for friends and colleagues to renew acquaintances and to make new friends.

We were fortunate to have the use of the executive marquee after all the Kier corporate events, attractively decorated in a black and white theme with touches of yellow which added to the sense of occasion.

Once again guests had the benefit of an excellent three course meal, with dancing afterwards to the music of the Terry Stewart Trio.

John Dodds gave a brief introduction on the state of the company and in particular the pension fund, which he knew would be of interest to members.



**John Stamford presenting John Simson with a bottle of champagne for the Chairman's Award for most improved area.**

Duncan Mort presented his special prize, a bag of golf balls, to Ken Rudd, who left more balls to be found than anyone else.

Next year's event will be sponsored by the Rushden area.



## Golf day

The Kier Group Fellowship Trust annual golf day was held on Thursday 7 August, sponsored by Don Robinson and Terry Delaney, at Aldenham Park Golf Course, Hertfordshire.

Thirty-two players and three supporters turned up in time for bacon butties and coffee before taking part in an 18-hole Stableford competition. Before the event could start a heavy downpour looked as if it might put a damper on the day but the sun came out and stayed with us. Everyone enjoyed the day.

After a very good four-course dinner, prizes were awarded to the players who were a little bit more successful than others.

The winners on the day were:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Brian Painter</b>       | <b>Winner (41)</b>         |
| <b>Geoff Lindsey Smith</b> | <b>Runner-up (35)</b>      |
| <b>John Swan</b>           | <b>Third (34)</b>          |
| <b>Frances Bagley</b>      | <b>Ladies' winner (31)</b> |
| <b>John Martin</b>         | <b>Best front nine</b>     |
| <b>Gerry Bangs</b>         | <b>Nearest the pin</b>     |
| <b>Wendy Bromwich</b>      | <b>Longest drive</b>       |



## “Oh, I could never do that, it looks far too complicated.”

This was exactly what I had always thought until one day, about 25 years ago, I found an evening class for bobbin lace. At the time I did not have the slightest idea what making lace involved but I had always enjoyed handicrafts so, along I went to the class.

We were told what equipment we would need and in those days we were expected to make our own lace pillow out of hardboard and stuffed with wood shavings and sawdust. A very heavy thing to be carrying to and from the classes. Nowadays polystyrene ones can be bought which of course are very lightweight.

The lace I learned to make was torchon, and I have generally stuck with this as it is the easiest, in my opinion. The pattern, or pricking, is pinned to the pillow and has dots to indicate where to place the pins and lines to show the type of stitch for the different areas. Bobbins are wound in pairs and hung on pins to start the work. Two pairs are used at any one time and a stitch is made and a pin inserted and then another stitch is made (covering the pin). Once the basic stitches have been mastered, simple bookmarks and edgings can be made. With practise and experience more complicated designs can be attempted. One of our teachers told us that when we can undo lace as fast as we can make it we have become lace makers. I'm nearly there!

Fashions and opinions change over the years; when I started lace was expected to be white and made with very fine thread. A real challenge to a beginner. Now lace is made in any colour you can imagine and

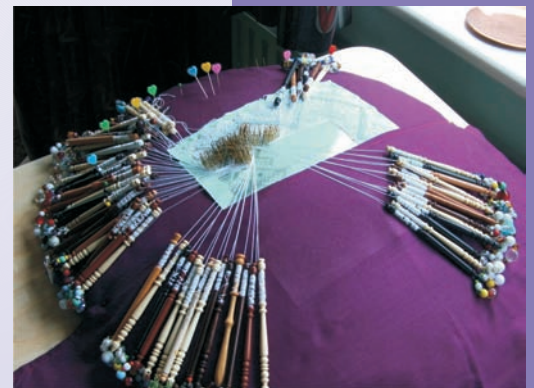


with any thickness of yarn. I have seen photographs of large wall hangings and very modern designs. The bobbins used can be very cheap plastic, moderately priced wood or expensive intricately designed ones in ebony and sometimes antique ivory ones can be found. The beads on the bottom are for weight only and not, as indicated on the Antiques Roadshow, for showing the position of certain threads. This statement caused quite a few letters to be sent to the Lace Guild, a couple of which were printed in their magazine. Shame on you BBC!

Lace making is not for the impatient. I can make a simple bookmark in an evening but edging a tablecloth takes me nearly a year.

If you think this hobby would interest you, do try to find a class as we should not let these crafts die out. You will meet some very nice people as well; I have been attending a variety of evening classes with my now good friend who I first met at that first lace making class 25 years ago.

Christine Perkins is a retired secretary, previously from Wallis Joinery.



## Boston Spa: Revie Morris

Membership remains unchanged at 43.

We held a Sunday lunch at our usual venue, The Owl Hotel at Hambleton, on 16 March. This was attended by 27 members and guests, which equalled our best.

A similar event has been arranged for 21 September and indications are that this will be equally well attended.

## Tempsford Hall: John Skull

Since the last issue of Kierlink, local members have continued to enjoy the monthly lunch dates at local hostelryes: The Eaton Oak in Eaton Ford, The Anchor at Tempsford, The Danish Camp in Willington and The Crown at Northill.

The photo shows some of our local members who enjoyed our first visit to The Crown. The proprietress, whose father was a professional photographer, very kindly took this picture to include all who were present. Notable absentees were Jackie Turner and June Garner, who we hope to see again next time.

A few of us went to see High School Musical at the Milton Keynes theatre. It was an excellent show but we should have taken a few of our grandchildren with us!

There are proposals for the future which includes longer trips i.e. holidays to South Africa, Christmas on the Danube and a New England islands and mountains tour. Full details of these are available on request and other proposed events have been published. The list of events will have something for everyone but they will only take place with the members' support.

## Wisbech: Andrew Pallant

It was often said that I could not organise a 'booze-up in a brewery', so just to prove people wrong, a visit was organised to our local brewery – Elgoods, which turned out to be the most enjoyable occasion.



Elgoods brewery.

This family-run brewery has been established since 1877 and produces a variety of award-winning beers. We were shown the process of brewing from start to finish including sampling some of the products. After an excellent buffet lunch we had the opportunity to inspect the gardens which attract worldwide visitors. At the end of the visit we were all dispersed in a homeward direction with only one or two requiring pointing the right way!

The seaside special show on Cromer Pier was once again an outstanding success with a coach-load of contented customers calling for a return visit. We have managed to arrange a regular meal, meeting in various locations during the summer, and intend to continue this epicurean endeavour into the winter.

It is our intention to take part in the Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning on 26 September – in a pub! It so happens that we think we have a very good working relationship with the Red Lion pub in North Brink, opposite the Wisbech area office. Therefore, with the co-operation of managing director Graham Howe and contracts director Paul Greenly, Kier Eastern is going in-triplicate with the Kier Fellowship Trust and May Turner, the licensee, to sponsor this very worthwhile event.

## Loughton & Witham: Geoff Brown

**KING TUT EXHIBITION:** On 21 February, 26 members travelled by coach to the O2 arena to take in the King Tut exhibition. We had sufficient time prior to our visit to take in the former Millennium Dome and have a coffee in one of the many outlets. When we entered the exhibition we were given a short introduction before being



Local members lunching at The Crown, Northill.

allowed to stroll at our leisure through the many rooms of exhibits. All members were delighted with the day.

**NEWMARKET DAY:** On 9 July, 20 members had a day out in Newmarket, starting at 10am with a 90-minute tour of the National Stud. After coffee and a browse around the shop, we then proceeded to the July racecourse for an afternoon at the races. Despite the weather (it rained all day), all members had a very enjoyable day, even though their wallets were a little lighter than at the start of the day!

**SPRING BUFFET LUNCHEON:** On 24 April, 110 of our members and guests enjoyed meeting old friends over a buffet luncheon and a drink or two at the Metropolitan Police sports ground in Chigwell. We were pleased to see so many new faces among our regular attendees, and a number of stories were told during the course of the afternoon. We were delighted that John Stamford and his wife were able to attend, along with a few directors of Kier London who popped in for a few minutes during the afternoon.

## Cheltenham: Hugh Sweet

A day out at the Black Country Museum in Dudley gave 24 members a fascinating insight into life in this hotbed of industry in a bygone age. Due to the location we were able to include members from the Birmingham office of Moss Construction. As well as attractions such as a tour of an underground coal mine and a trip on the canal, the inner man and woman was fortified by delicacies such as faggots and mushy peas and Black Country mild or bitter. As far as we know, nobody was lost down the mine.

A theatre trip is planned for 11 November to see Alan Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular* at the Cheltenham Everyman Theatre, and our Christmas lunch will be held on 12 December at the Cotswold Hills Golf Club.

## Rushden: Brian Hill, Frank Furlong

Easter saw 26 members depart from Stansted airport for Tallin in Estonia. We arrived in sub-zero temperatures with heavy snow piled along the runway. Good walking shoes were essential with plenty of grip – one of our senior personnel decided he could walk on anything and was regularly on his derriere! After a day visiting this ancient city we transferred to Latvia and the modernised city of Riga where we spent three days. The weather improved dramatically and we enjoyed unbroken sunshine.

Our annual charity event in aid of the local Mencap – a ferret race night – was a great success raising £788.

The Sunday mystery trip in May took a full coach to Tunbridge Wells, followed by Brighton, and finally, the evening was spent in Windsor. A dry warm June Saturday morning in London saw over 30 members attend a rehearsal for the Trouping of the Colour on Horse Guards Parade – pomp and pageantry at its best, as only the British can do.

During July we took a full coach of children and grandchildren to Skegness where a good time was had by all. Later in the month we went to the Dad's Army exhibition in Thetford followed by the gardens and miniature train rides at Bressingham.



**At the seaside with snow in Latvia.**

Mid-August saw 38 members visit the Shrewsbury Flower Show where the weather held good until mid-afternoon.

Rushden are looking forward to hosting the annual golf day next year.

In the next few months leading up to Christmas we have several events planned:

- Saturday 8 November – London Lord Mayor's show
- Saturday 15 November – Birmingham Christmas shopping
- Saturday 29 November – Marriott Christmas dinner and dance at the Leicester Marriott hotel
- Wednesday 10 December – Thursford Christmas spectacular.

## North West: Norman England

The annual reunion dinner was held in March at the Smiths Hotel where we were joined by current employees with over 25 years' continuous service. Also attending was divisional director David Jenkins who gave a review of the progress of the company.

In May a further luncheon was held at the Fairways Restaurant at Houghwood Golf Club which was enjoyed by 38 people and is fast proving to be the most popular venue.

A lunch in July was held at the Holland Hall Country Hotel and was enjoyed by all including our former managing director, Bob Baker.

A return to the Houghwood Golf Club was made in August and the excellent menu and panoramic views were enjoyed by all.

A further lunch at Holland Hall Country Hotel is planned for October and our Christmas celebrations will be held at the Smiths Hotel in December.

Pictured is a photograph extracted from French Kier News c1984/85 and forwarded by Barry Williams, one of two members from Kier amongst our predominantly Moss membership. Barry would like to be remembered to all his previous colleagues at Kier – unfortunately he no longer has the very suave moustache.



Barry Williams pictured far right.

## Maple Cross: Terry Delany

Thirty-seven members and their partners enjoyed a three-course lunch on 25 April at St Michael's Manor in St Albans on a lovely day, when the members were able to enjoy all the facilities of the hotel and gardens.

A number of members and partners enjoyed a relaxing four-day break at Warners' Nidd Hall in Harrogate on 2 June. The facilities, which were of a very high standard, included an indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, putting green and many more activities to keep us fully occupied all day, with first class entertainment in the evenings.

Twenty-one members and partners attended a luncheon on 11 June at the Lysses Hotel in Fareham and enjoyed a three-course meal with plenty of wine.

A warm welcome to the Fellowship to Jim Morrison and Beryl Davis. Jim retired in May having completed 35 years' service with the company and Beryl completed 20 years' service, also in May.

Congratulations to Clive and Jeanne Cavill who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 28 June with a Mediterranean cruise.



Clive and Jeanne on their wedding day.

Proposed social programme:

- Friday 10 October – Kier Southern long service award luncheon (Maple Cross office) at Aldenham
- Saturday 18 October – day trip to Boulogne
- Friday 31 October – Kier Southern long service award luncheon (Havant office) at Aldenham
- Friday 7 November – Winter warmer luncheon in Aldenham
- December – Christmas luncheon, venue to be advised.

## Devon & Cornwall: Shirley Riddle

On Tuesday 20 May, 14 members of the Devon and Cornwall branch of the Kier Western Fellowship Trust got together at a local (for some) hostelry for our late spring lunch. Of the 14 members in attendance, the long service 'clocked-up' by them ranged from 19 years to an incredible 50 years!

It was decided that because of the great geographical spread of the members across the region – two members at this lunch travelled almost an 80-mile round trip to attend – we should keep the format of lunch as this allows more people to attend. Venues will be voted for by the members in order that we all do a little bit of the travelling.

The lunch was a vibrant event and another was planned for September, together with our Christmas meal which last year was a great success.

Future events: second week in December – Christmas lunch at the Quality Hotel.



Members lunching.



# TAKING YOU BACK...

## To all the kids who were born in the 1930s, 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s!

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can and didn't get tested for diabetes. Then after that trauma, our baby cribs were covered with brightly coloured lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. We shared a drink with four friends from one bottle and no one actually died from this. We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank cordial with sugar in it but we weren't overweight because we were always outside playing.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day, and we were ok. We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendos or Xboxes, no video games at all. No 99 channels on cable, no surround sound, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no internet or chat rooms... we had friends and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits. We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever. We were given sixshooters for our tenth birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and, although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.

## Quotes from exam scripts

- What is a turbine? ..... Something an Arab wears on his head.
- What is Britain's highest award for valour in war? ..... Nelson's Column.
- Who was it that didn't like the return of the prodigal son? ..... The fatted calf.
- What's a Hindu? ..... It lays eggs.
- Use the word 'judicious' in a sentence to show you understand its meaning. .... Hands that judicious can be as soft as your face...
- Name the four seasons. .... Salt, mustard, pepper, vinegar.
- What changes happen to your body as you age? ..... When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.
- What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on? ..... They'll insist you're well endowed if you're buying a house.
- What is a co-operative? ..... It's a kind of shop that is not as dear as places like Marks & Spencer.
- How important are elections to a democratic society? ..... Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.
- What is the first thing you would do to someone who has been involved in a car accident and is immobile? ..... Rape them in a blanket and give them a sweet cup of tea.
- What is artificial respiration commonly known as? ..... The kiss of death.
- What are steroids? ..... Things for keeping the carpet on the stairs.
- What is a common treatment for a badly bleeding nose? ..... Circumcision.

"Red, pink, orange and flamingo are the colours of the rectum."  
"I've said goodbye to my boyhood, now I'm looking forward to my adultery."  
"Monotony means being married to the same person for all your life."  
"I always know when it's time to get up when I hear my mother sharpening the toast."



## Obituaries

Finlay Mclay	24 January 2008
Joan Pride	30 January 2008
Tony Lineham	8 February 2008
Violet Palmer	27 February 2008
David Haines	29 February 2008
Eric Percy	5 March 2008
Sally Turner	8 March 2008
Rachel Hetherington	11 March 2008
Jennifer Dalgleish	26 March 2008
Beryl Scott	31 March 2008
Dorothy Nunn	10 April 2008
Brian Mills	11 April 2008
Peter Richardson	12 April 2008
Gordon Martin	13 April 2008
Keith Mumford	17 April 2008
Gunnar Jysum	20 April 2008
Marguerite Stephens	20 April 2008
Harry Powell	4 May 2008
Mary Bland	30 May 2008
Ivor Emery	6 June 2008
John Pond	10 June 2008
Valerie Peters	11 June 2008
Bridget Linnell	15 June 2008
Raymond Montgomery	18 June 2008
Cedric Alan Frettsome	10 July 2008
Patricia Cox	13 July 2008
Ronald Freeman	30 July 2008
Joseph Daley	4 August 2008
Catherine Asbury	5 August 2008
Joyce Hodd	14 August 2008

## Editor's note

It has been brought to my attention that the late Mr Edward Evans, whose death was recorded in the spring 2008 issue of KierLink, was known to his friends and colleagues as John Evans. I am pleased to clarify this important point.

## SECRET LIFE OF EVERY DAY ITEMS

Norman England, the north-west area organiser, sent in the following article from his local newspaper:

### TIME FOR A LAUGH...

You might not have known this, but a lot of non-living objects are actually male or female. Here are some examples:

#### FREEZER BAGS

Male because they hold everything in but you can see right through them.

#### TYRES

Male because they go bald easily and are often over-inflated.

#### SPONGES

Female because they are soft, squeezable and retain water.

#### TRAINS

Definitely male, because they always use the same old lines to pick people up.

#### HAMMERS

Male because in the last 5,000 years, they've hardly changed at all and are occasionally handy to have around.

#### EGG TIMERS

Female because, over time, all the weight shifts to the bottom.

**John Mead (76) married June Meazey at the Talbot Hotel Oundle, on Saturday 20 September 2008. Congratulations to the happy couple from all at Rushden.**

