



Fellowship matters – report from our chairman Dick Side

I am just beginning to realise the truth in the old adage that when you are newly retired you soon begin to wonder how you ever found time to go to work and so, with the time pressures you will all understand and for ease of reference, I find myself using the notes I prepared for the overview of the Fellowship Trust I delivered at the annual Tempsford Luncheon on 5 July.

My first message is one of thanks to all the organisers and their supporters, the Trust directors and Kier staff who are making the Trust work successfully and to the Kier directors for their unwavering support, particularly in these difficult economical times.

Overall the Trust is in good shape with over 1,120 members and 11 active areas with enthusiastic organisers staging over 70 events across the country ranging from pub lunches and theatre shows to gala dinners and full scale trips abroad. The only real blot on the landscape is, not surprisingly, the reduced earning capacity of our investments that we rely on to help fund the Trust's activity. Having said that, the market value of our investments in unit trusts and investment trusts has held up relatively well at approximately 80% of the acquisition costs. The dividends for these investments have also held up well, averaging 5% over the last 12 months which I believe is a credit to the past and present trustee directors who have been managing our investments. The current forecasts are understandably for these dividend levels to fall and with interest rates set to remain low for some time, we will have to reduce our expenditure to make ends meet. However, it is our intention to at least maintain our current levels of activity and

keep any costs to a minimum. I know you will all appreciate that it is not in the long-term interests of the Trust for us to erode our capital base and make it increasingly difficult to help fund future area activities.

I mention these things so that you can appreciate that your area organisers are facing new challenges in providing value for money when organising events and I would ask you to give them as much help and encouragement as possible. One of the best ways you can do this is by attending as many functions as you are able to, the general rule being that the more that attend the less the cost per person. The success of the Fellowship is almost entirely dependent on the efforts of the area organisers who are the main movers when it comes to staging successful events and they deserve all the support and thanks that we can give them in recognition of the many hours they put in to organising events big and small across the country. If asked, most of them are able to say that they are well supported by Fellowship members who help organise Fellowship events and without exception they receive much appreciated support from their local Kier offices but I know also that there are a number of areas in which a few more willing hands could help lighten the load significantly.

I hope that you will all be doing your best to get to a Fellowship function in the not-too-distant future and that all of you who attended the Tempsford Luncheon enjoyed the event as much as my wife and I did and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Editor's note

Sombre words from our chairman Dick Side about our finance. However, provided all members support, as far as possible, events arranged by their area organisers the Fellowship will continue to thrive.

Please send in any details of members' sports, pastimes and hobbies for possible inclusion in future editions of KierLink.

Last date for copy for the April 2010 edition is 28 February 2010. Please send your contribution to:

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

THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT SAY TO A POLICEMAN

- 1 I can't reach my licence unless you hold my beer.
- 2 Sorry officer, I didn't realise my radar detector wasn't plugged in.
- 3 Aren't you the guy from the Village People?
- 4 Hey, you must have been doing at least 125 mph to keep up with me. Well done!
- 5 I thought you had to be in relatively good physical condition to be a police officer?
- 6 You're not going to check the boot, are you?
- 7 I pay your salary!
- 8 Great officer! That's terrific. The last officer only gave me a warning too!
- 9 I was trying to keep up with the traffic. Yes, I know there are no other cars around. That's how far ahead of me they are.

With thanks to W & C French Ltd
News Sheet, volume iii, no. 4,
March/April 1959

Welcome to our new members

NAME	TOWN	AREA	WORKED FOR
Gordon Geach	Basingstoke	KBSE	Kier Building Services Engineers
Paul Gilbert	Colme, Huntingdon	Tempsford	KES
John Coulter	Huntingdon	Tempsford	Kier Build
Roger Watts	Rushden	Rushden	Kier Marriott
George Stubbs	Hoddesdon	South East	Kier Building Management
William James	Wetherby	Kier North East	Kier Moss (London, Liverpool and Manchester), Kier North East, Kier Ltd, Kier Construction
Ian Tidey	St Neots	Loughton	Kier London
Kenneth Faille	Ickenham	Southern	Bellwinch Homes
John Yates	Buckhurst Hill	Kier London	Kier Group, Kier London, Kier Southern, Kier Eastern
Barrie Adlington	Tamworth	TBA	J.L. Kier, Kier, Kier International
Anthony Roberts	West Kirby	Kier North West	Kier North West
Mark Viney	Romsey	TBA	Kier Build
Audrey Glover	Swansea	Tempsford	W & C French, Kier Build
Ian Urquhart	Ashford	South East	Wallis Bromley
Joy Morris	Swindon	Kier Moss	Kier Moss, Newbury
Paul Coslett	Plymouth	Plymouth	Kier Ltd, French Kier Construction, Kier International, Kier Western
Cyril Gilbert	Thrapston	Rushden	Kier Marriott
Walter Williams	Hadleigh	Witham	Kier Eastern
John Munday	Marbella, Spain	Loughton	W&C French, French Kier, Kier International
Jack Loughton	Dursley	Plymouth	Kier Western

Dear all

Many years ago I worked for W & C French - the best firm I ever worked for. I worked a lot at Gatwick, concreting (pavement quality) the runways and taxiways. In those days it was a honour to wear a French's donkey jacket. I also spent a short time on the M23 - George Crane was the general foreman with Charlie Brown as his sidekick.

Joe O'Grady was the muck shifting foreman and the biggest motor scraper going at the time was the Wabco 333. She could self load over 30 yards, had teeth instead of a cutting edge and an elevator to load - you could hear the roar of the engines a long way off!

Brian Gibbons was site agent for the Gatwick link to tie the airport to the M23. The main base was in Smallfield with living accommodation and a very good canteen. A few more names I remember are Hugh Filleio, foreman, Billy Winks, and Brian Sheppard, contract boss. I think I am right in saying that at its peak French's had approximately 1,200 men on site.

Other names that come to light are Malcolm Breniman, contract boss, Martin Barlock, agent and of course not forgetting Andrew Grant, Roger Hodey, Mick Stacey, fitter foreman, and Bill Holdel. I wonder how many of these people are still around?

Then came the merger with Kier and now the company has gone from strength to strength. I see plenty of Kier vans here in Brighton. More names I recall are John Young who was site agent on the car park at Gatwick, Peter Letreter, site engineer, and I believe we employed one of the first female civil engineers in the UK.

Yours truly, Peter Willenden

The Kier Group Fellowship Annual Luncheon, held on Sunday 5 July, was again very well attended. The weather defied the forecasters and apart from one light shower, held good all afternoon. And a very pleasant one it was too with good food, wine and entertainment but most of all plenty of laughter and conversation as old friends and colleagues from Kier's past descended on Tempsford for an afternoon of fun and reflection.



Trust chairman Dick Side made his first address since taking up his new position in which he thanked the Kier directors for their unwavering support of the Trust and in particular for providing the facilities for the day's event. This was followed by an upbeat report on the performance of the area organisations and Dick expressed, on behalf of the organisers, thanks for the support given by directors and staff of the local offices.

A presentation was made to former Trust chairman John Stamford by Kier Group chief executive John Dodds in recognition of his contribution as trustee chairman to the successful development and growth of the Trust from its inception in 1998 and John's wife Deirdre was presented with a bouquet.



A prizegiving followed and Terry Delany received 'best improved' for the number and quality of events organised for the Kier Southern area, with support from Maple Cross. Frank Furlong, representing the Kier Marriott area, received 'best performing area' in recognition of the number of high quality events staged annually, closely supported by the Rushden office. Paul Coslett from the Plymouth area was identified as the member who had travelled the furthest to attend the luncheon.

Trustee director responsible for organising the day's events was John Hebblethwaite, whose inimitable style of joke telling rounded off the formalities and the prize draw was once again very successful, raising £902 for the Trust.

WHAT IS AN AGENT?

(TO BE READ WITH A BACKGROUND OF SOFT MUSIC)

"Agents come in various shapes and sizes; tall, small, fat, thin, hairy, bald and – sometimes – handsome."

Wives love them, other agents distrust them, clerks of works are suspicious of them, surveyors bore them, directors suffer them, architects tolerate them, and barmen fear them.

They are polite, rude, good humoured or bad tempered in proportion to the amount of red ink in the cost book.

An agent is a businessman with dirt on his shoes, a diplomat in a donkey jacket, an office worker in rubber boots. An agent has the drawing ability of Picasso, writes letters Chinese fashion and when demonstrating a point has the acting ability of Donald Duck.

His mode of speech varies from the refined accents of a cloistered university to the most robust expletives known in public works.

An agent has never been in a job that lost money, where any mistakes were made, or the staff were as bad, as it is in this one.

Nobody else has built so many bridges across the Thames, laid more runways or done so much blanketing (railway tracks). Nobody else can lay bricks, mix concrete or erect shuttering like he can.

An agent is an authority on women, good food, ITV, concrete mixers, politics and golf.

He doesn't much care for trade unions, subbing, surveyors, head office workers, the personnel department, leaving the job early, filing letters, clean drawings or bonus systems.

He likes new cars, football, blonde typists, tea, Air Ministry contracts, nights out, punctuality, progress charts and Christmas. He swears at you when the job is going well and is a tower of strength when things go wrong.

And after you come back into the office tired and cold, congratulating yourself on a fine piece of setting out, there is no one like an agent for shattering your complacency with his "Well we shall certainly have to get down to some work tomorrow!"

Boston Spa: Revie Morris

Membership has increased slightly and now stands at 47.

The only event since the last edition of KierLink was a lunch at The Owl, Hambleton, which was attended by 29 members and guests – our best result to date. The event was organised by Fiona Steed, who has proved an invaluable asset to our team of two.

We are currently organising another lunch in September and a Christmas lunch later in the year.

Tempsford Hall: John Skull

Our membership currently stands at 227.

The monthly lunches restarted in March and each event attracted between twelve and eighteen members and partners. The venues included The Wheatsheaf in Tempsford, the Eaton Oak in St Neots, The Anchor Inn in Great Barford, The Danish Camp in Willington, The Crown in Northill and The Crown in Eaton Socon. The venues to the end of the year are The Green Man in Stanford, The Cock in Broom, The Kings Arms in Sandy and the December lunch which will be held at The Anchor in Little Paxton.

The Summer Garden Party, on Sunday 5 July 2009, was a great success. The numbers were down a little from last year but the eighty-one members and partners from our area thoroughly enjoyed the event.

The opportunity to join a group of people for a Suez trip was only taken up by one of our members. Perhaps we will be able to get Gerry to give us a report for the next edition.

The events for next year will include the regular lunches on the second Tuesday of each month and the golf day which is being planned for 9 September 2010 at Bishop's Stortford Golf Club. Details of the probable Garden Party are yet to be finalised. Full details of these events will be circulated in the New Year and may include some other opportunities which could be carried out with other parties.

Wisbech: Sonia Webb & Andrew Pallant

Ivor Pollington is still progressing with the compilation of the DVD, together with a certain amount of frustration because as soon as he thinks that he is near the end, he is given another batch of photographs; many, I hasten to add, from our old 'rivals' from the 'Kier days'.

Since our last issue, several events have taken place – trips to Cadbury World, the Derby Dales and Hoveton Hall. Gastronomic trips were organised and enjoyed at The Crown Lodge, Outwell, a Chinese meal at the Oriental Palace, Kings Lynn, and The Lamb and Flag Inn at Welney. There was a good turnout at the Tempsford Hall Garden Party and, as usual, a coachload went to and enjoyed the End of the Pier Show at Cromer – despite an invasion of ladybirds!

A pie and pint is regularly consumed at the local Wetherspoons pub by a select group of pensioners at which a variety of topics are aired. The most recent and illuminating was about the acquisition and subsequent

disposal of scrap metal from sites – for the benefit of 'welfare funds' of course!

Loughton/Witham: Geoff Brown, John Simson, John Spay, Irene Dupree

Hampton Court Flower Show: On 10 July Loughton and Witham members took a trip to visit the Hampton Court Flower Show. The weather on the day was lovely and members were able to enjoy the various displays which included, not only flowers, but also fashion displays, a children's scarecrow competition and enough retail outlets to satisfy the most ardent shopper.

This year's show celebrated 500 years since the accession to the throne of Henry VIII, and featured gardens designed for each of his six wives. They were all present, appropriately attired, played by actresses who spoke lucidly of their time with Henry.

Against the backdrop of Hampton Court Palace the show provided a pleasant day out and was well received by all.

BBC Proms: Thirty members enjoyed a visit to the BBC Proms on 4 August and for many it was their first time. The concert featured the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under the direction of Thierry Fischer, and Isabella Fawst gave an excellent solo performance on the violin. This was followed by a piece written by Swiss composer Heinz Hollinger, supposedly based on sound effects (definitely an acquired taste!) and excerpts from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet which were well received by all. The whole experience was thoroughly enjoyable in the wonderful auditorium of the Royal Albert Hall.

Waddesdon Manor: On Wednesday 17 June 16 members enjoyed a visit to Waddesdon Manor near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Waddesdon Manor was built between 1874 and 1889 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to display his outstanding collection of art treasures and to entertain the fashionable world. Fascinated by the history and culture of France, he commissioned a French architect, Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur, to build him a renaissance style chateau based on those in the Loire Valley, and employed the French garden designer Elie Laine to lay out the grounds. We had a couple of hours to wander around the wonderful gardens, prior to our appointed time for entry into the house, which was also very interesting. A good day was had by all.

Bluebell Railway: Forty-four members gathered at Chigwell for our trip to the Bluebell Railway near Uckfield, Sussex. It was a tense start when we arrived at the train with only minutes to spare after a two and a half hour coach journey. From then on it went well and the weather was excellent. The Bluebell Railway is run by enthusiastic volunteers and passes through lovely countryside for a return journey of one and a half hours. We followed this with a fish and chip lunch before going to Sheffield Park Gardens.

The Gardens were very colourful with azaleas and rhododendrons in full bloom. The redwood trees towered above us, looking very regal. The trip was enjoyed by all.

Kier London office trip: Following the completion of the new Kier London offices at Langston Road, Debden, 21 members went to visit the new site.

Over coffee and biscuits in the boardroom we were welcomed by former managing director Peter Everard, who gave a short talk on the construction of the office, while on a screen a DVD played showing pictures taken at various stages of the construction. Peter had also laid out a number of large photographs of various other projects that Kier London is currently involved in.

We were joined by two other directors (John Abbot and Mark Pengelly, now managing director) who then took us round the various floors and departments. Although some of the members had been retired for some years they still found some faces they remembered.

Everyone was amazed at the difference between the old offices in Loughton High Road and, in particular, the sophisticated equipment that was now being used in the everyday running of the company.

We would like to thank Peter and his staff for taking the time to show us around their new prestigious offices of which they should be truly proud.

Tower of London and St Katherine Dock: On 9 May 33 members travelled to see the Tower of London and St Katherine Dock, which proved to be both an interesting and, for some, 'foot weary' event.

Our guide was Geoffrey Marshall, who walked and talked us through the day. He had a wealth of stories and anecdotes, with all sorts of facts and dates about the Tower and also about the history of St Katherine Dock and the decline of the docklands generally.

Quite a number of our group walked from St Katherine Dock passing by Millar's Wharf (now expensive flats) towards Wapping and Tobacco Wharf. We then retraced our steps back to the Tower in time for a welcome seat and drink in the afternoon sunshine before returning home.

Annual Spring Luncheon: The annual spring luncheon was held at the Metropolitan Police Sports Ground in Chigwell and 123 members and special guests made the journey to see friends and ex colleagues on 23 April.

During an excellent buffet, members discussed their various activities, holidays and pastimes. It was good to see some new members attend this year and also to welcome our guests Colin Busby and his wife Marisa, Dick Side and his wife Liz, trustee Harold Thompson and Indi Muttucumaru who, as a director, was representing Kier London.

After a welcome from John Simson, our new chairman Dick Side introduced himself to those who had not yet met him and he outlined the way forward for the Trust in these challenging financial times. Dick also assured us of Kier's commitment to the Fellowship and, importantly, to the pension fund.

Future events:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 7 October | • Theatre trip – Oliver! |
| 20 November | • Blenheim Palace & the Christmas market |
| 26 November | • Christmas lunch with magician and entertainment |
| 9 December | • Thursford Christmas Show |

Cheltenham: Hugh Sweet

Lacock Abbey: On 18 June a party of 23 visited Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire for our summer outing. By the standards of this summer the weather was good if not tropical and we were able to enjoy exploring the picturesque village, noted as the set of innumerable films including two Harry Potters and The Other Boleyn Girl. Unfortunately we went on one of the few days of the year when there was no film crew to employ us as country yokels in some forthcoming TV drama. We were also able to explore the Victorian woodlands and botanical gardens, as well as a visit to the fascinating Fox Talbot Museum of Photography.

Future events include a theatre outing to the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham on 18 November to see 'Last of the Summer Wine', and the annual Christmas lunch at the Cotswold Hills Golf Club on 11 December.

Rushden: Brian Hill & Frank Furlong

As usual, since our last report we have been extremely active. At the end of March we had a mystery trip which took us to Llangollen, Snowdonia, Betws-y-Coed and Llandudno – a long but enjoyable day for the 44 members that travelled.

Our April trip was blessed with good weather – we went to 'Heaven with the Gates Open' at Exbury Gardens on the banks of the River Solent with a ride on the steam railway around the gardens.

Always popular is our annual visit to Horseguards in London. The rehearsal of Trooping the Colour was followed by a picnic in St James' Park – the pomp and pageantry never fails to make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up.



Horseguards, London.

The following weekend 31 members travelled north to Liverpool where we stopped in the John Lennon Airport Hotel and cruised the Manchester Ship Canal to Salford Quays for over six hours – not the best of days as it was wet and miserable but a very informative commentary tried to keep us interested. The next day we had a guided tour of the city of Liverpool visiting many nostalgic venues including Anfield and Penny Lane. We also visited Trentham Gardens in Stoke-on-Trent.

Our annual pilgrimage to Tempsford took place in July when 39 members travelled down for the Garden Party. As usual the red wine flowed and the marquee became noisier.



Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent.

Sunday 19 July saw 37 members make the journey to Suffolk to visit HMS Ganges, Constable Country, Flatford Mill and Jimmy's Farm with his little piggies. An enjoyable day was made all the more interesting by having a knowledgeable Blue Badge guide on board.

August arrived and we made our usual trip to Shrewsbury for the delights of the Flower Show.



Shrewsbury Flower Show.

Our trips up to the end of the year include another mystery trip, London for the Lord Mayor's Show, Christmas shopping in Birmingham Bullring, Thursford Christmas Spectacular and London's Guards Chapel for the carol service.

This New Year we are travelling further afield to Germany – Aachen. To date over 30 members have booked so we are expecting an exciting four days of celebrating and drinking.

Next Easter we have a group wishing to take a seven-day break to Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast. Are you interested?

Looking ahead to October 2010 a provisional booking has been made for a 14-day trip to New Zealand.

Future dates:

Sunday 13 September 2009

- Mystery trip

Saturday 14 November 2009

- London Lord Mayor's Show

Saturday 21 November

- Birmingham Christmas shopping

Sunday 6 December

- Thursford Christmas Spectacular

Sunday 13 December

- London's Guards Chapel carols

Wednesday 30 December

- New Year break – Aachen, Germany

Wednesday 14 April 2010

- Sorrento/Amalfi Coast

Maple Cross: Terry Delany

Spring Luncheon: On 27 March 29 members came together for a spring luncheon held at St Michael's Manor, St Albans. Pre-lunch drinks were enjoyed in the hotel lounge before the group sat down to an excellent three-course lunch with plenty of wine. The members were then able to enjoy the hotel and garden facilities. We were very pleased to welcome Dick Side, and Duncan and Christine Mort to the event.

Gala Dinner Dance: Kier Southern held a Gala Dinner Dance on 25 April and 26 fellowship members joined directors and staff in the celebrations – held at the Hilton Avisford Park Hotel, Arundel. After the reception, and during the four-course meal, there was a quiz to be completed (unfortunately a number of pop questions ensured that we were not likely to figure in the prizegiving). After the excellent meal a number of members enjoyed the music and many even made it to the dance floor. Our sincere thanks go to our hosts for giving us an enjoyable evening.

Trip to Germany: On 30 April Maple Cross members set off on a four-day trip to Germany. After a ferry crossing from Dover to Calais we travelled through France and Belgium into Germany, where we bypassed Cologne and Bonn to arrive in Königswinter (our base for the trip) in time for dinner. We visited many places of interest including Bonn and a local wine cellar in Ahr Lintz Valley where they served an unusual combination of bread dipped in all the various wines. We also visited the local skittle alley (German style) which was enjoyed by all, even if it did become competitive at times!

The highlight of the trip was when we caught a boat which took us downriver to a collection point where we met up with 50-60 other boats. The flotilla then travelled to Bonn for an impressive fireworks display. The boats were lit up and villages on either side of the river presented their own firework displays.

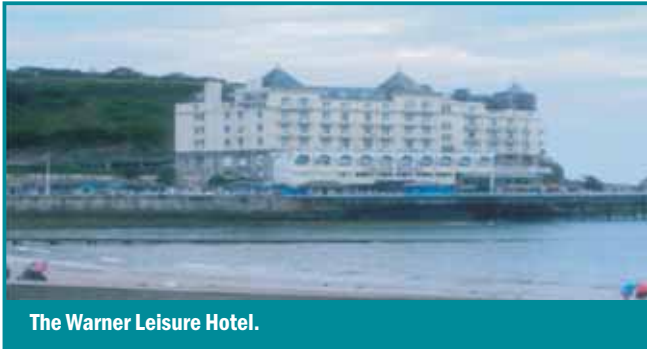
An excellent holiday was had by all and our thanks go to our organiser.



Trip to Germany.



Summer luncheon: A number of members travelled down to Fareham to join our south-coast members for a summer luncheon held at Lysses House Hotel on 19 June. As usual the weather was very kind to us and we were served an excellent three-course lunch which everyone enjoyed. We were pleased to welcome our new chairman Dick Side and a special welcome was also given to John Stafford who was attending his first function.



The Warner Leisure Hotel.

Bodelwyddan Castle: In June we travelled across to Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel in north Wales for a four-night break. They say it rains a lot in Wales but not for Fellowship members from the Maple Cross area – we enjoyed glorious sunny days and balmy evenings. The Warner Leisure Hotel was comfortable, the food was excellent and the staff were friendly and helpful. Its location was an excellent base from which to visit many different and interesting places such as Rhyl with its beautiful sands, Llandudno with its promenades and the Great and Little Ormes with their views and limestone headland.

The highlight of the trip was crossing the Menai Bridge in Anglesey to Red Wharf Bay. Walking across the bay we worked up an appetite for lunch which was had at a local restaurant specialising in fresh seafood, and after a couple of pints of local beer we made our way back to the hotel.

Tempsford Hall Garden Party: On 5 July 36 members attended the Tempsford Hall Garden Party. It was nice to meet and enjoy the company of our ex colleagues, especially Ernest Wood and his daughter Linda who had travelled down from Lincolnshire to be with us. The weather was fine, the food was great, the wine flowed and the company was first class, not to mention the Terry Stewart Trio who provided the music which was the type you can listen to.

Future events:

- 9 October • Maple Cross office long service lunch, Aldenham, Kier Southern
- 6 November • Havant office long service lunch, Fareham, Kier Southern
- 11 December • Christmas Lunch

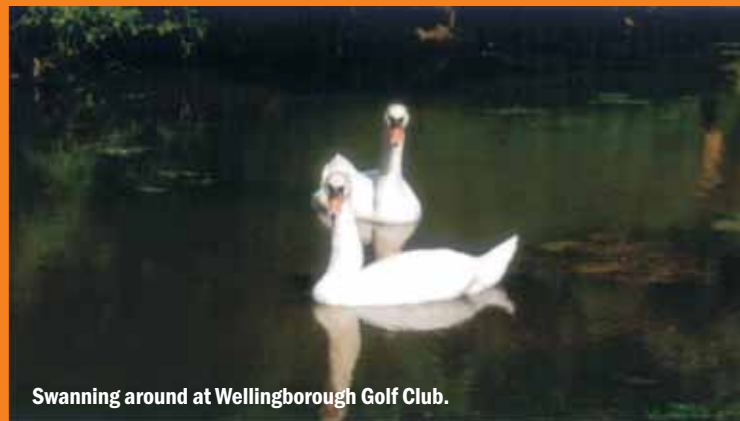
North West: Norman England

We have had a spring luncheon and a summer luncheon both held at the ever popular Fairways restaurant at Houghwood Golf Club – both were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Further lunches are planned for the autumn and at Christmas. At the next lunch two members (the Dynamic Duo) will entertain us on the banjo and the ukulele. Watch out Stavros Flatley!

Kier Fellowship Golf Day



The Kier Fellowship Golf Day was held at Wellingborough Golf Club on Wednesday 19 August 2009. It was a glorious sunny day in a magnificent setting and the golf club's main building is grade I listed and, with its associated buildings, gardens and location, is a small stately home. Tempsford Hall was represented by 13 playing members, out of a total of 36 and two non-players. The event was sponsored by Rushden and co-ordinated by John Hebblethwaite.



Swanning around at Wellingborough Golf Club.

QUOTES:

Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you have got to start young.

FRED ASTER

Age is not a particularly interesting subject. Anyone can get old. All you have to do is live long enough.

GROUCHO MARX

Obituaries

Patrick McGill	28 February 2009
Eric Cake	6 March 2009
Jack Wilson	6 March 2009
Margaret Cornish	9 March 2009
Peter Pearce	10 March 2009
Linda Carrington	20 March 2009
Eric Mercer	20 March 2009
Joyce Blowers	25 March 2009
Douglas Brilliant	28 March 2009
Phyllis James	13 April 2009
Gerald Rance	24 April 2009
William Livermore	2 May 2009
Peter Goldsmith	3 May 2009
Sylvia Shirley	3 May 2009
Angela Wells	21 May 2009
Keith Cross	22 May 2009
Joan Waterhouse	26 May 2009
George Brewer	10 June 2009
Kenneth Steel	29 June 2009
Irene Haines	8 July 2009
Brenda Titcombe	8 July 2009
Joan Bell	19 July 2009
Albert Boniface	22 July 2009

Newport and Bristol ex area organiser, William (Bill) McColl, passed away on 14 May 2009. Bill worked in partnership with David Orr and played a valuable part in arranging events for Fellowship members in the south-west.

Senior moments

When we reach a 'certain age' you discover that you look at life slightly differently. For example:

- You remember today that yesterday was your wedding anniversary.
- You get winded playing chess.
- You finally reach the top of the ladder and find its leaning against the wrong wall.
- You burn the midnight oil after 9pm.
- You stop looking forward to your next birthday.
- You regret all those temptations you resisted.
- You just can't stand people who are intolerant.
- For women – you put your bra on backwards and it fits better.
- For men – you find that the little grey haired old lady you helped cross the road is your wife.
- You are 17 round the neck, 44 around the waist and 105 around the golf course.
- Police officers and doctors look as if they should still be in a school uniform.
- You start a sentence but forget what you.....

'Senior moments' are also a preoccupation with the hereafter. Wherever you are; in the bathroom, in the kitchen, in the hall or the bedroom, you are always asking yourself: "What am I here after?"

By Lloyd Jones
Submitted by Terry Delany

Dear Sir

I notice with sadness the name of Harrison (Harry) Preston recorded on the list of obituaries in the last edition. I remember Harry with affection, during our time together on the large railway contract, Barking Remodelling, in the late 50s. A typically blunt northerner who, when receiving a complaint from the railway RE (resident engineer) about his unswept office floor, duly got a large broom and cleaned it himself saying that on the contract rates, we could not afford to employ a cleaner for the RE. Needless to say, there were no further complaints.

Harry told the story of his wedding day which was to be a very posh do, as his bride was from good country stock. He, quite naturally, celebrated rather well with his friends on the eve of his wedding. On the morning of the great day, he prepared in a hazy and automatic manner to leave for the church and, on arrival, walked down the aisle to take his place, collecting many strange looks from the bride's side of the church. It was only when he had taken his seat that he realised that he was wearing his scruffy old donkey jacket over his morning dress!

What a character – what a loss.

Yours faithfully

A. N. Pallant

I wish to contact!

Fellowship members who may wish to contact former colleagues, please write to Brendan O'Boyle or Hilary Edmunds at Kier Southern, Maple Lodge Close, Maple Cross, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 9SN.

Letters will be forwarded accordingly.