

KierLink

The magazine for the Kier Fellowship Trust | Issue 33 | Autumn/Winter 2016



WALLIS (AND LONGLEY)
AT WAR –
PAGE 20

WHERE ARE THEY
NOW? –
PAGE 24

KIER FORMS NEW CHARITY
PARTNERSHIP –
PAGE 27



Your **new-look** KierLink



Viv Chesterfield
Editor

PLEASE NOTE
THE NEW
KIERLINK EMAIL
ADDRESS.

*All future
correspondence
should be sent to
our new address:*

Email kierlinkmag@gmail.com

Hello everyone!

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness... welcome to autumn! And a very warm welcome to your autumn (and winter) edition of KierLink which I hope you read with interest. Your contributions and feedback are always gratefully received, particularly anything out of the ordinary to complement our regular features.

Autumn is one of the best times of the year to enjoy a pleasant walk while the weather is still mild but not too hot. I'm determined to get into my walking boots more often now I'm not working full time. That's why I was really pleased to learn that several of our areas have laid on some glorious walks which not only take in some stunning scenery, but great pubs too! The miles pass much quicker when you're chatting with friends and of course it's great exercise for those non-golfers amongst us! If you fancy a walk in like-minded company, your area organiser might have one planned and if not, they would welcome any suggestions for walks or offers of help to arrange one.

Our company feature for this issue is Wallis (and Longley) at War. Wallis was affectionately known as the jewel in the Kier crown... not least because it was the proud holder of the Royal Warrant – a privilege bestowed on a select few. Read about the Wallis and Longley war effort inside.

As ever, we're keen to find out how Kier is faring and chief executive Haydn Mursell reports on the Group's progress. Remember, you can catch up with Kier's latest news at any time by visiting www.kier.co.uk.

Wishing you all the very best for the festive season and beyond.

Viv Chesterfield

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Chairman's Fellowship matters

Great News! The Kier Group Fellowship Trust continues to grow with membership at just over 1,300 – a new high. In the last year the areas held a total of 98 events with 2,859 attendances.

Many thanks to all the area organisers and their teams and of course all of you who participated in the events. If you feel able and inclined to offer help to your area organiser I would be very grateful and I'm sure they would too.

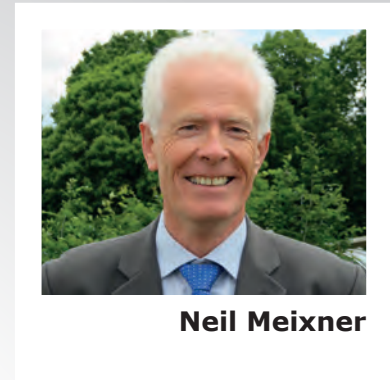
Chris and I attended the Garden Party which as usual was excellent and well attended. On behalf of the Trust I would like to thank Francesca Campbell and Viv Chesterfield for all their hard work, John Stamford for MC for the day and particularly Kier Group. The Kier Group Board once again showed its commitment to the Trust both with moral and financial support for the 19th time of asking! I was amazed that so many had been to the first one and indeed how many had attended every one!

I would like to welcome Peter Young to the Board of the Kier Group Fellowship Trust and to thank Alan Smith, who's

retiring, for his work on our behalf as our coordinator with Kier Group plc. I know Peter will be a great advocate of the Trust and I look forward to working closely with him.

I wish you all the best for the future and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the year to come.

Neil Meixner



Neil Meixner

Roger Almond: It is with much sadness that we report the death of Roger Almond, former business development manager for Kier Eastern, editor of KierLink and friend of many, following an illness borne with courage and dignity. His trademark humour never left him and I am sure there are many, including his former colleagues in the Eastern Region, who will miss him. Our condolences go to Roger's wife Celia and family. Both Roger and Celia were very supportive of the Fellowship Trust and it is hoped that Celia will continue to be involved.

COVER PHOTO:
A SAMPLE OF THE STUNNING GARDENS AT THE SHUTTLEWORTH COLLECTION IN BEDFORDSHIRE, VISITED IN AUGUST BY THE LOUGHTON AND WITHAM AREA. IT'S A GREAT DAY OUT AND COMES HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SEE PAGE 13 FOR A REPORT OF THE EVENT.



Copy deadline for Spring/Summer 2017 issue:

**MONDAY
23 JANUARY 2017**



Brendan O'Boyle

Our nineteenth annual garden party was held at Tempsford Hall on 26 June 2016 with 237 members in attendance as well as main board members Haydn Mursell and Bev Dew. On a beautiful day weather-wise the event was enjoyed by all. It was nice to meet some members who had attended all 19 garden parties and we look forward to next year's event to see how many members can achieve all 20.

Brian Hill of Rushden area won the Chairman's award for area organiser of the year for the third year running with 14 events and nearly seven hundred attendees.

The most improved area was won by Robin Butler for the Cheltenham area who held nine events during the year with a thirty five percent increase in attendees.

Information about the Trust can be found on the Kier website under the heading Corporate Responsibility.

The website includes a calendar of future events nationwide and a 'read more' tab giving further information about the events. With a wide range of events planned for the year ahead we hope we have something to interest all our members – especially those who have joined recently. Previous editions of our Fellowship magazine KierLink are also available on the website for new members to read.

We are aware that some past employees of the company may not have received an invitation to join the Trust; if you know of someone in this position please encourage them to join by visiting the membership page on the website.

Members wishing to join or re-join the Kier Plus Benefits Scheme should be aware that the Rewards Team at the Rushden service centre are unable to register them direct. Members will need to contact either their Area Organiser or me with their full name, date of birth, email address and National Insurance number so that Trust records are updated first. This information is then passed to the Rewards Team on a monthly basis for loading on the system.

Administrator's report



Brian Hill (left) was awarded Area Organiser of the Year for the third year in succession.

May I remind members to advise us of any change of address or circumstances so that they can continue to receive invitations to events and copies of the Trust magazine. Please send any changes to your Area Organiser or direct to me.

If you require help or information with any matters relating to the Fellowship please contact me by e-mail or at the address shown below.

Kier Group Fellowship Trust

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Brendan O'Boyle

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Message from the Group Chief Executive



It's good to know that so many KierLink readers maintain a keen interest in the business and I am pleased to update you on recent progress at Kier.

The biggest news of the summer so far is, of course, the referendum result and the decision for the UK to leave the European Union (EU). The EU referendum result has created some uncertainty; however, there has been no significant impact to date for Kier. The acquisitions of May Gurney and Mouchel significantly increased the level of visible long-term earnings for our Construction and Services divisions. The Property division has a healthy £1bn plus pipeline, while in Residential we have a mixed tenure pipeline of

more than £600m and a strong private housing business.

We will continue to monitor the position closely but I believe our breadth of activities and strong order books give us great resilience.

During the year, we commenced a portfolio review within our businesses, analysing the parts of Kier that do not meet the Group's strict financial hurdles and/or do not provide a long-term strategic fit with the Group's core businesses. As part of the review we are reviewing Mouchel Consulting and a possible sale of that business.

In addition, in light of the challenging trading conditions in the Caribbean, activities in the region are winding down.

We've integrated two sizeable acquisitions in the last two years,

and we want to simplify the Group's portfolio. This is well under way and will enable us to focus on the core businesses that will drive future growth. The acquisition of Mouchel has strengthened our Highways offering, and made Kier the number one UK Highways maintenance provider.

We are currently busy preparing for our preliminary results announcement which will be available to view on kier.co.uk from 22 September.

"Thank you for your continued interest in Kier."

Haydn Mursell

A warm welcome to the following new members

Name	City/town	Area	Worked for	Years of service
Neil Adams	Biggleswade	Tempsford	Kier Group Services	12
Ajith Asmarasinghe	Bexleyheath	Maidstone	Kier Construction Southern	11
Colin Baker	Brighton	Maidstone	Longley/Wallis/Southern	15
Adrian Bird	St. Neots	Tempsford	Kier Group	19
Julie Boyes	Plymouth	Plymouth	Kier Western & Wales	27
Linda Bradley	South Harrow	Maple Cross	KC Southern	12
Diane Bubbear	Upper Caldecote, Beds	Tempsford	Kier Construction	10
Sharon Clark	Biggleswade	Tempsford	Kier Group	27
June Collins	Dunstable	Maple Cross	Kier Southern	13
Sarah Crossley	Aylesford	Maidstone	Wallis	26
Joanne Dobson	Gloucester	Cheltenham	Kier Construction Central	16
Phil Durigan	Marlow, Bucks	Maple Cross/Solent	Kier Construction Southern	40
Helen Evans	St. Neots	Tempsford	Kier Services	15
Malcolm Fitzjohn	Higham, Kent	Loughton/Witham	Kier SE/London	12.5
Robert Fleming	Havant	Solent	Kier Southern	29
Tony Gammage	Hitchin	Tempsford	Kier Const Major Projects	17
Amanda Gray	Caine, Wilts	Newport/Bristol	Western & Wales	2
Anthony Hill	Walton on Thames	Solent	Kier Services	8
John Hills	Maldon	Loughton/Witham	W & C French	9

Name	City/town	Area	Worked for	Years of service
Gerry Hooper	London	Loughton/Witham	Kier Southern/London	34
Frederick Humphreys	Leeds	Boston Spa	Kier Plant	14
David Jenkins	Liverpool	Liverpool	Kier Construction Northern	29
Mark Jude	Wisbech	Waterbeach/Wisbech	Kier Eastern	42
Anthony Large	Cirencester	Cheltenham	Kier Construction	18
Sally Mack	Hitchin	Tempsford	Kier Group Services	8.5
Barry Mallot	Kings Lynn	Waterbeach/Wisbech	Kier Construction Eastern	28
Guy Marshall	Cambridge	Tempsford	Kier Group Services	17
James McClelland	Swinton, S Yorks	Boston Spa	Kier Const and Overseas	47
Tony Mingoia	Staines	Maple Cross	Kier Southern & London	32
Paul O'Neill	St. Neots	Tempsford	Kier Construction	30
Michael Passingham	Bath	Newport/Bristol	Kier Const Western & Wales	11
Kantilal Patel	Harrow Weald	Solent/Maple Cross	Kier Facilities Services	17
Catherine Stanlick	Royston	Tempsford	Prop, Infrastructure & O/s	15.5
Mark Tipping	Gamlingay, Beds	Tempsford	Homes/Kier Living	19
Frank Usher	Stow, Lincs	Boston Spa	Utilities	5
Elizabeth Usher	St Neots	Tempsford	Kier Group Services	8
Nick Wright	Kings Lynn	Waterbeach/Wisbech	Kier Eastern	15
Susan Harvey	Lichfield	Cheltenham	KPH/Kier Living	4.5

Around the regions

Boston Spa

March 2016: Lunch at the Milford Lodge



Our lunch at the Milford Lodge (always a firm favourite) was attended by 25, all of whom had a really enjoyable time. We took the opportunity to hold a raffle with the proceeds going to charity. We're back at the Milford Lodge on 18 September for a repeat performance as it is always such an enjoyable event.

Katherine Leadley

Bristol and Newport

Our enhanced series of events commenced with lunch in the opulent surroundings of Tortworth Court on the edge of the Cotswolds. We were

joined by Kier Director David Snell and several 25-year colleagues. It was good to catch up on the current business. Afterwards some of the 31 attendees enjoyed the extensive gardens and arboretum.

A site visit to the fast track modular hotel, mostly prefabricated off-site in China and being assembled at Bristol Airport, was much enjoyed by those able to attend – we happened to pick a peak holiday week for members.

At the end of May we met for a guided walk around the historic Cathedral City of Gloucester, dividing into two groups to visit sights ranging from Roman times to the Cathedral, the Beatrix Potter shop and the finest and largest timber frame urban building in Britain, built in the 16th Century and now largely hidden away in the narrow Maverdine Lane. The informative morning was rounded off with a



Gloucester

happy and convivial meal at the friendly 'Comfy Pew'. Our treasurer then had the settling up to carry out.

June saw 20 of us afloat from Upton-on-Severn on a cruise up the River Severn to Worcester. The weather remained dry. After some difficulty by the crew negotiating the lock at Worcester and mooring, we had less time than we would have liked to view the city but some of us managed to see the tomb of King John (died 1216) in the Cathedral and other sights prior to the return trip.

Our successful summer activities culminated in 26 visiting the new Royal Mint's visitor experience. After an airport-style security check our private tour included a video introduction and explanation by our informative guide, Cheryl, on the intricacies of striking 90



Tortworth Court



Upton-on-Severn cruise

million coins every week, an amazing 100 tonnes/day! There were sadly no free samples but we were able to view, through armoured glass, part of the works and stillages each containing £240,000 of pound coins. The tour included excellent exhibits including a 'magic table' showing the history of the Royal Mint in London and time to peruse showcases of coins from many countries and periods together with a set of Olympic Medals.

Golf days in September will be followed by our autumn meal in October.

David Priddis



Royal Mint

Cheltenham

3 March 2016: St Christopher's Church

Twenty-four members met at St. Christopher's Church, Warden Hill, Cheltenham to view the Church's stained glass windows by Tom Denny. After a talk about the windows, followed by coffee and cake we were treated to a bell ringing demonstration by Reg Hitchings and friends. After visiting the church we all met at The Norwood Arms, Leckhampton for lunch. The Norwood Arms is close to the site of the old offices of Moss. The old building has now been demolished and a new housing development has taken its place.

After a good lunch some members of the party drove up to Leckhampton Hill and walked to view the 'Devil's Chimney' a local landmark. The weather was perfect and the views from the hill amazing.

5 May 2016: A walk in the Woods

Twenty-one members met again at Wytham Woods near Oxford for a guided walk through the woodland. The woods belong to Oxford University and we were given an interesting insight into some of the research work being done there. We had lunch afterwards at The Trout Inn, the pub that was used in the many episodes of Morse, and were blessed with wonderful weather all day.

16 June 2016: Stanway House

Twenty-seven members met for lunch at The Mount Inn, Stanton, Worcestershire, before visiting Stanway House, a lovely old country house boasting an amazing fountain which is the highest gravity-fed fountain in the world. The day started with an excellent lunch and then a walk to Stanway House. Everyone enjoyed the views from the Mount and the beautiful village of Stanton. The weather was a challenge but we managed to dodge most of the showers.



7 July 2016: Oxford City Tour

Fifteen members met in Oxford, again for lunch in an amazing old Pub right in the centre of the City. The pub boasted many famous customers to include Bill Clinton and many more. After lunch we met our very knowledgeable guide who led us through the City to some amazing historical College buildings and kept up a most interesting commentary all the way round. We finished up with a cup of tea in the Bodleian Library and were blessed all afternoon with perfect weather.

Sheila Heath

Devon and Cornwall



A number of the Devon and Cornwall Fellowship members who were based at the Plymouth office were invited to the 'farewell bash' held in the Martin Street car park on Thursday 1 September.

Some of those attending had up to 50 years' service with the company so it was with mixed feelings knowing that the old place is to be pulled down at last.

A lovely evening was enjoyed catching up with friends and colleagues made perfect by the weather (raining the next day!).

Our thanks go to the management and staff at the Plymouth office for inviting us and for making us all so welcome.

Shirley Riddle

Liverpool

23 June: Lunch at Houghwood Golf Club

The Liverpool Branch of the Kier Fellowship had its first outing following the March Reunion Dinner at the Liner Hotel.

A luncheon was held at the Houghwood Golf Club Restaurant on Referendum Day so it is likely to be remembered.

The day was glorious so drinks were taken on the external viewing area overlooking the South Lancashire Plain.

Twenty-two persons attended and David Jenkins was welcomed to the Fellowship as a new retiree and Bob Adams was welcomed as he is now construction director who attends the luncheons.

Bob welcomed all to the luncheon and suggested to keep the peace that the Referendum be outlawed from conversation and this was generally welcomed! He then gave apologies from Fellowship members who could not join us and thanked me for organising the event.

The food and drink was once again excellent and enjoyed by all.

The referendum-free luncheon, which lasted for three hours, was greatly enjoyed by everyone and was a welcome respite!

Sharon Jenkins



Autumn Lunch arranged for Wednesday 5 October at Houghwood Golf Club and Xmas Lunch to be held on Wednesday 7 December at The Liner Hotel, Liverpool.

Loughton and Witham

Brooklands Motor Museum



9 March 2016: Brooklands Motor Museum

Brooklands is unique. The world's first purpose-built motor circuit, constructed at Weybridge, Surrey by wealthy landowner Hugh Locke King in 1907. More than a great sporting arena, Brooklands is the birthplace of British motorsport and aviation, the home of Concorde and the site of many engineering and technological achievements throughout eight decades of the 20th century.

The Museum displays a wide range of Brooklands-related motoring and aviation exhibits ranging from giant racing cars such as the 24-litre Napier-Railton to a unique collection of Vickers/BAC-built aircraft including the Second World War Wellington Bomber, Viking, Varsity, Viscount, VC10 and, of course, Concorde. Also on site is the London Bus Museum housing the largest privately owned collection of London buses in the world. All this, together with an extensive collection of motorcycles, and bicycles, made this a very enjoyable day and well worth going again.

Bill Skinner

6 April 2016: Illegal London – Scotland Yard and the Black Museum

Our journey to Trafalgar Square only took one hour – which is something of a record – and 44 of our members came to discover the history of the police in London, from the 'Charlies' of Restoration London to the Bow Street Runners, the River Police and the coming of Scotland Yard.

The 'Charlies' were called such after Charles II who created them to protect the City. Later on in the City of London the Bow Street Runners were the police.

Peel's Metropolitan Police Act in 1829 created the first properly organised police force whilst the River Police are the oldest force and still based in the original headquarters.

We began by walking into St. James' Park to see the National Police Memorial and saw the book of dedication which is open showing the names and details of the most recent police officers to sadly lose their lives. We continued across Horse Guards Parade and Whitehall to Great Scotland Yard, the first headquarters of the police, which is now being converted into luxury apartments. We then walked to New Scotland Yard which is shortly to be vacated as a further move is being planned to a new location to be known as just Scotland Yard.

We then took the coach to the London Museum to see the Scotland Yard Black Museum exhibition, the first time it has been open to the public. It was very impressive with real life case files detailing the crime, the weapons and the police investigation. Notorious crimes including those of Dr. Crippen to the Kray twins were on display showing the advance in detection techniques which was both macabre and fascinating.

Everyone really enjoyed an unforgettable day and as always there was not enough time in the exhibition!

John Spray

21 April 2016: Spring Buffet

Our Spring Buffet was held this year at our usual venue, the Metropolitan Police Sports Centre, after a year away, due to circumstances that were beyond our control. The return was appreciated by all ninety members present who enjoyed a superb buffet together with a drink or two whilst reminiscing with tales of yesteryear.

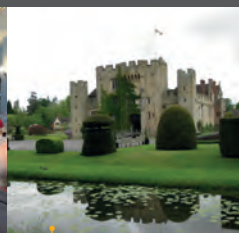




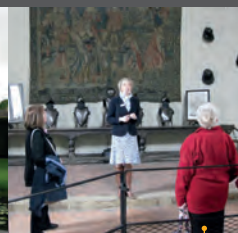
→ **The Black Museum** ←



→ **Spring Buffet** ←



→ **Penshurst Place and Hever Castle** ←



→ **Tenterden Railway** ←

Also in attendance was past Chairman of the Trust Dick Side and his wife Liz, our new Chairman Neil Meixner and his wife Christine and past Chairman of the Group Colin Busby and his wife Marisa and last, but not least, Harold Thompson a Trustee of the Fellowship Trust. Neil gave an interesting speech outlining to the members the history of the Trust and its future goals.

The afternoon concluded with a raffle that raised £135 which this year will go towards the printing costs of producing our twice yearly newsletter. It was enjoyed by all with many members saying they were already looking forward to next year's event.

Geoff Brown

4 May 16: Area Golf Day at Top Meadow

We were again lucky with the weather for our area golf day which this year was held at Top Meadow Golf Club in North Ockenden. Fifteen members and guests from other areas took part on a surprisingly hilly course and some outstanding scores were achieved together with some more modest totals! After our three course meal and deliberations of our scorer, Colin Busby, the prizes were presented to our winners.

The outstanding overall winner was Paul Goddard, the front nine was won by Neil Meixner and the back nine was won by Ian Tidey. The longest drive was also won by Paul Goddard and the nearest the pin was won by Gary Barnes. An enjoyable day for all – suggestions for next year's venue would be appreciated.

John Simson

18 May 2016: Penshurst Place and Hever Castle

The old English proverb "Ne'er cast a clout till May be out" was never more true than when 19 of our members visited Penshurst Place and Hever Castle in May this year. Umbrellas and raincoats were definitely the order for the day.

Penshurst Place is a country estate and manor house, completed in 1341 for Sir John de Pulteney, and remains substantially in its original state today.

Used as a hunting lodge by Henry VIII whilst courting Anne Boleyn at nearby Hever Castle, it was eventually given to Sir William Sydney by Henry's son Edward VI in 1552, and has remained in the Sydney family until the present day.

Our guide Nicky provided a fascinating insight into the family's connection with Royalty, including Lady Jane Grey who became Queen for just nine days, and Queen Elizabeth I. Indeed Elizabeth often visited the house and is depicted in a number of the beautiful paintings on display.

Following lunch, we re-boarded the coach for the short journey to Hever Castle. This was the family home of Anne Boleyn, which later came into the possession of Henry's fourth wife Anne of Cleves as part of the annulment of her marriage to Henry. The gardens were magnificent, with an explosion of rhododendron bushes and wisteria in full bloom.

Unfortunately, due to the weather conditions, we did not fully explore the gardens at either of the venues, but nonetheless it proved to be a most enjoyable and informative day in the Kent countryside.

Trevor Franklin

8 June 2016: Tenterden and the Kent & East Sussex Railway

Sixty-three members travelled to Tenterden in two coaches arriving in time to explore the very pleasant High Street and find coffee before returning to the station to visit the museum and join our steam train for a leisurely journey to Bodium. During the journey we enjoyed a well prepared meal of fish and chips whilst watching the attractive countryside pass by on a warm and sunny day. After the engine had uncoupled and re-joined our train at the other end



Tempsford Garden Party

Ascot Races

Shuttleworth Collection

we travelled back to Tenterden and joined our coaches for our return to Chigwell. A very successful and memorable day enjoyed by all.

Theresa Walstow

26 June 2016: Tempsford Garden Party

The day was chilly when we first arrived, but warmed up nicely to enable us to enjoy our Pimms before lunch when 240 members from around the country sat down around very attractively decorated tables to enjoy our lunch. It was good to see our forty-odd members who made the journey to Tempsford and catch up with the latest news from other areas.

Lunch was followed by an address by Haydn Mursell, Group Chief Executive, who gave us his view on how 'Brexit' might affect the Kier Group and of course his assurance regarding his commitment to the pension fund!

The raffle raised over a thousand pounds towards the Fellowship funds and some excellent prizes were won including a TV, a Kindle, a Roberts radio and several bottles of spirits and champagne. Everyone enjoyed another successful Garden Party.

John Simson

22 July 2016: Ascot Races

Forty-seven members gathered at the Met Police Sports Club to board a coach to take us to Ascot for the day. Although the weather was not very good as we left, it soon cleared up and became a very pleasant day indeed.

Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding, the planned tour of Ascot behind the scenes did not take place which was regrettable for those that had not been before. We all enjoyed a lunch before the racing began in the afternoon. Several members left with more money than they came with.

It was noticeable that our members watched the racing from different vantage points around the grounds and the stand while some spent time in the coffee shop or drinking something a little stronger to aid their selection of the winners. All in all it was a very enjoyable day and everyone said that they were looking forward to repeating a similar event next year.

Geoff Brown

3 August 2016: Shuttleworth Collection

We travelled by coach to the Shuttleworth estate and small airfield where the collection of cars and aircraft is housed. The area was once a private estate whose grounds were originally set out by Capability Brown.

After a coffee break we split into two groups, each with a guide, to tour the gardens. All the guides are volunteers, as are those who maintain/rebuild the cars and planes, most of which are still flown/driven at least once a year.

The gardens are quite spectacular, with amazing views along landscaped glades and pathways with interesting follies, statues, streams and ponds. The layout was cleverly designed so that you would see the same place twice, but it would look quite different viewed from a different aspect.

After an enjoyable lunch the groups then went on their tours around the collection of vintage cars, planes and motorbikes which are housed in six large hangars. Many of the ancient planes and cars have been virtually rebuilt by the volunteers. The guide was very knowledgeable and made it a very interesting tour.

The tours finished the afternoon with some light refreshments before boarding the coach back. A lot of walking, but a very interesting and worthwhile day.

Maidstone

18 March 2016: visit to Brick Lane Music Hall

A group of 30 went to see 'The Irish Music Hall Show' with a three course lunch held on Friday 18 March. All attendees thoroughly enjoyed their meal and the show. This is always a successful outing with our members and a great time to relax with friends and colleagues.

20 July 2016: lunch at West Malling Golf Club

Our group of 57 enjoyed a delightful lunch at the Golf Club Restaurant. The food was excellent (a good indication of this was to see all plates returned to the kitchen, clear of left-overs!) Our room was set with tables laid with light yellow 'fluffy' napkins and upon entering the dining room, we were pleased with the room setting, the sunny atmosphere and of course, the spectacular views over the Golf Course. It was very reasonably priced food too and we hope to be able to return to this delightful venue again soon. Highly recommended.

*A big 'thank-you'
from MacMillan*

I was pleased to receive a thank-you letter from the Kier Foundation on behalf of Macmillan for our donation raised during our coach trip to the Albert Hall last November and at our Christmas lunch at the Hadlow Manor Hotel. It's such a worthwhile cause and thanks go to all who helped raise the sum of £407.80.

Anne Ransley

Maple Cross

Valentines Luncheon

On Thursday 18 February, 36 members attended our first event of the New Year with a superb luncheon at Freddie's Restaurant in St Albans. This is becoming a regular venue for our



luncheons as the proprietor is always on hand to cater for all our particular whims and needs (not to say that we are a difficult bunch!)

War of the Worlds Theatre Trip

On Saturday 9 April, 15 members and 4 members of the Maple Cross Sports and Social Club met at The Dominion Theatre in London's West End for a matinee showing of The War of the Worlds. The show had a number of stars including David Essex, Jimmy Nail, Michael Praed and Daniel Beddingfield. This resulted in a spectacular performance including a lot of pyrotechnics. We followed this with a meal next door in the Café Rouge where we celebrated Mr Duncan Mort's birthday before returning home.

St George's Day Luncheon

On Thursday 28 March, Terry Delany and his wife Pam hosted a luncheon at Shendish Manor Hotel and Golf Club for 31 members to celebrate St George's Day. The meal was of excellent quality as always at this venue and was enjoyed by all, with a number of members requesting to return in the future.

Windsor Evening Racing

On a glorious Monday evening in May, 16 members gathered at the entrance to Windsor Racecourse in lovely sunshine



to take part in a Fish and Chip Race Night with seven flat races to watch and cheer on. After deciding to upgrade to the main lawn area as we entered we had an excellent view of the course adjacent to the finish line. The weather slightly turned and we had a heavy shower, but this did not deter our members from putting their hands in their pockets and disposing of some loose change (in some cases £10 notes!) on each race. Some of the betting odds with the tictac men were very interesting -240 to 1! One member found herself having a lucky (colours) day with securing four wins in a row, two seconds and another win. I hasten to add that she bought the Champagne on the way home.

Tempsford Summer Garden Party

On Sunday 26 June 39 members travelled up the A1 and M1 to attend a fabulous sunny day at Tempsford. We were able to fill four tables and renew a number of old acquaintances over Pimms and beers before the excellent meal and then dance the afternoon away in a marvellous marquee. A good speech was made by Hadyn Mursell (Kier's Chief Executive) all about Kier and the surprise exit out of Europe (Brexit vote three days before).

Norman Elliott



Rushden

Since the last KierLink magazine the group has been as busy as usual covering many aspects of life and travelling many miles.

In February we supported the annual ferret race night in aid of Mencap charity and helped to raise over £900. On Saturday 9 April 2016, 40 members made their annual pilgrimage to the Royal Albert Hall in London for the Mountbatten Festival of Music – pageantry and music for all tastes by the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines – as always a sell-out and enjoyed by all.



Above: Mountbatten festival of music.

The following weekend a group of 10 travelled to Potters Leisure Resort in Norfolk (see full report). Early May saw a coachload of 42 travel to Reims in France to sample the culture and Champagne of the area. The weather was warm and sunny making for an excellent four days. On Sunday, 5 June 2016 a full coach of 46 members made the long journey to North Wales to visit to gardens and ride on the Ffestinog Steam Railway – all very British with sunshine throughout. On the last Sunday in June 72 members on two coaches made the short journey to Tempsford Hall for our Annual Group Garden Party – always very popular and enjoyed by one and all.





Above: Ffestinog steam railway.

On Tuesday 12 July 2016, 42 members spent the day at home with the Chelsea Pensioners including lunch in their club, a guided tour of the grounds and building before finishing with a cream tea in the Orangery. Saturday 23 July 2016 was gloriously sunny and we chose to visit old Harwich and the Beth Chatto gardens. What a lovely day which included a visit to the Red Lion at East Bergholt – before and after the garden tour. 41 members attended.

On Sunday 14 August 2016 we had our annual mystery trip – another long day – a scenic tour to Portsmouth with a boat trip around the harbour viewing many Navy ships and buildings of historic importance. Unfortunately we picked a poor weekend and only 30 made the trip.

The first week in September is very busy as we have sponsored tickets for the European senior Masters Golf at Woburn golf club followed by a trip to Leeds Castle and Canterbury in Kent.

Brian Hill

Potters Resort, Hopton-on-Sea

On Friday 15 April a group of ten left Rushden and headed off to Potters Resort, Hopton-on-Sea for a four-day break. We stopped en route for the obligatory egg and bacon butty to set us up until the evening meal. Friday evening we were entertained by the Potters Theatre Company presenting 'Cool Britannia' which ranged from songs from the swinging sixties right up to today and was followed by 'Frankie's Guys'.

Saturday morning we set off on a brisk walk through the village and onwards to the beach to walk off our hearty breakfast before we tackled lunch. In the afternoon we played a game of bowls (where some were more professional than others) and ended the afternoon with a swim. The evening entertainment was again excellent with the company presenting 'Theatreland'.

On Sunday we had an attempt at ten pin bowling and then laughed our way through a game of crazy golf. Sunday evening we saw Brian Conley who was very entertaining with his multi-talented act.

On Monday morning we left Hopton-on-Sea, drove down the coast and spent a lovely couple of hours at Southwold before making our way back home.

Diane Candy



LOOKING AHEAD THE RUSHDEN CALENDAR IS FILLING UP RAPIDLY. HERE'S HOW IT'S CURRENTLY LOOKING:

Date/s	Event
Monday 10 – Saturday 15 October	Dubrovnik (6 days and 5 nights)
Wednesday 9 November	Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall
Saturday 12 November	London Lord Mayor's Show/Christmas Shopping
Thursday 1 December	Christmas Lunch at John White's Golf Club
Sunday 11 December	London lunch/Guards Chapel Carol Service
Friday 30 December	Monday 2 January 2017: New Year break to Papendrecht in Holland
Saturday 25 February 2017	Mediaeval Banquet at Coombe Abbey
Saturday 25 March 2017	Mountbatten Festival of Music at the Royal Albert Hall

Solent

The Royal Armouries

Despite a recent spell of wet weather our visit to Fort Nelson, the home of the Royal Armouries, was blessed with sunshine as we crunched our way through the frosted ground of the car park in February.

Fort Nelson was one of five forts built on the top of Portsdown Hill which overlooks the Solent and Portsmouth Dockyard. It is a six-sided fort surrounded by a deep ditch and built of brick, masonry and earth in the late 1860s to prevent a French attack. It was not fully armed until the late 1890s by which time the fear of a French invasion had subsided and it was therefore redundant. In its time it was, together with four neighbouring forts, one of the biggest defences built in Britain and cost a fortune to build.



Fort Nelson now houses the Royal Armouries national collection of artillery comprising guns and canons dating



from 1450 up to the present day. Ironically it has never fired a gun in action even when it was manned in WW2.

Our party of 11 members opted for the guided tour which should have lasted for about 50 minutes but was nearly twice as long. The very informative tour took us around the 19-acre site and also in the underground tunnels which were colder than the outside temperature. We emerged in time for the daily firing of a canon.

If any of you are in the area I can heartily recommend a visit and it's free!

Peter Wallbank

The Seaside by Steam

On 14 July four intrepid travellers arranged to meet at Norton Station on the Swanage Railway in Dorset to join the 10:40 train to Swanage hauled by a Southern Region 2-6-0 (mogul) U Class steam locomotive

No. 31806. Unfortunately, two of the party were delayed in traffic so followed on, travelling on the diesel railcar service. On arriving in Swanage we were met with a glorious sunny day giving wonderful views over the Dorset coast and across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. After a brisk walk up towards Peverils Point looking down over Swanage harbour and beach, we retreated to seek refreshment in the town followed by a walk along the promenade.



Our return was timed to catch the 15:20 steam train back to Norton. Swanage Railway is mainly run by a large team of volunteers who take great pride in the appearance of their locomotives, rolling stock and stations and they run on time! Nostalgia was the theme of the day with the smell and sounds of the trains and authentic appearance of the stations making the day a success.

Derek Ward





Above: Swanage harbour and beach.

Summer Barbecue

On Tuesday 14 June 29 Kier Solent members and partners (pictured right) attended the third annual summer barbecue in the beautiful surroundings of Royal Victoria Country Park, situated on Southampton water. Despite a poor advance weather forecast and the threat of rain showers throughout the afternoon, no one was deterred and attended in high spirits! Old friends caught up and shared food expertly cooked by the day's chefs, Tony and Gary. The BBQ area turned out to be a hotspot for visiting dogs who stopped by in the hope of a spare sausage/burger.

We look forward to the 2017 event (and hopefully some guaranteed sunshine)!

Gary Mackie

18

Golf Day at Hayling Island

This year the weather was much kinder to us as, once again, we played this par 3 nine-hole course. The day was warm with sunny spells and the course was dry. Unfortunately last year's winner, Richard Filer, was unable to defend his title due to a shoulder injury (likely story!) The outcome was very close with me just beating the nearest, who was Ian Burrell, by just one stroke!

After the game we all congregated in the nearby pub which is within easy walking distance – the Inn on the Beach – where we enjoyed a light lunch with liquid refreshment. The view from the restaurant is second to none with panoramic views over the sea and the beach for everyone to enjoy.



Above (l-r): John Gains and his wife Anne, Ian Burrell, Peter Wallbank, Linda Anderson and Graham Baker.

The event is now a firm fixture on the calendar and will be held on a yearly basis.

Graham Baker



Tempsford

I am pleased to report that there is now a small organising committee involved in planning events for the Tempsford Area – I have been joined by John Busby, Stephen Jarvis and Ron Whitlock. This has enabled us to introduce a wider variety of events, starting in July with a talk by magistrates about their work in Bedfordshire. After a buffet lunch, 15 of us in small groups, ‘tried’ several hypothetical cases and experienced some of the difficulties faced in reaching decisions. In August, Ron led a small group on two short walks in Marston Forest Centre in Marston Moretaine, separated by lunch in their restaurant. The transformation from the Stewartby Brickworks is remarkable, with several hides from which to observe the local wildlife. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our first canal boat trip on the Grand Union Canal from Cosgrove, Milton Keynes on 13 September – 35 have booked.

From April to June, we had our monthly lunches. Our introduction to the Wheatsheaf, Perry was very successful (16 present); our return to the Danish Camp in May was attended by just seven members, and there were ten at the Five Bells, Henlow in June. The Tempsford Garden Party on 26 June was much enjoyed by our party of 55 members and partners.

Harold Thompson

Waterbeach/Wisbech/Norwich

The Waterbeach and Wisbech Fellowship has been through a period of change, particularly with the sad loss of active members who have passed away.

We are encouraged, however, by recent new members through retirement that their involvement and ideas for future activities will pick up and be more widespread across the area rather than being focused on just Wisbech and King’s Lynn.

On 30 March 2016 members attended a coffee morning at the new Waterbeach office, and were given a guided tour by Sonia Webb and me. Attendees were rightly impressed by the new company home compared with environments they remember back in the 70s and 80s. Some were treated to a BIM presentation using the new office model. They were still talking about that when we met approximately a month later!

Below: the new Waterbeach office.



Above: The Kings Head Hotel.

On 25 May 2016, 12 members met for lunch at The Kings Head Hotel, Great Bircham Norfolk. Although numbers were still relatively low, an excellent time was had by all. Members living more to the east of our region were particularly pleased with the location, not previously used.

On a less formal arrangement, up to eighteen retirees continue to meet up every other month for a simple steak and chips lunch at Wisbech Weatherspoons. Whilst the food and drink is important, the opportunity for banter with memories and the reconstruction of many past projects is key.

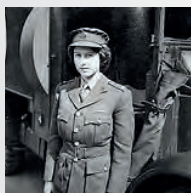
Similarly, regular gatherings continue at West Winch King’s Lynn Chinese restaurant.

Looking forwards, we are already finalising details for our planned Christmas lunch at the Crown Hotel, Outwell on 6 December, and we will shortly be in a position to advertise further events planned for the last quarter of 2016.

Mark Jude

Wallis (and Longley) AT WAR

In February 1945 Princess Elizabeth joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, as an Honorary Second Subaltern with the service number of 230873. She trained as a driver and mechanic, drove a military truck, and was promoted to Honorary Junior Commander five months later. She is the last surviving Head of State who served in uniform during the Second World War – in itself an amazing achievement.



In this article we build on the history of G E Wallis & Sons already published in KierLink and in the year marking the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II we review that company's own contribution to the war effort together with our sister company James Longley & Sons of Crawley both founded in the 1860s.

At the onset of the Second World War all theatres of production on the home front were adapted to meet the needs of the war effort. The construction industry was of strategic importance in this area particularly with the increasing urgency for the military to establish airfields, barracks and all the associated back-up facilities.

Wallis and Longley were deeply involved in the process, their material contribution going well beyond the obvious considerations mentioned above.

In practice this contribution had commenced a year or so before the outbreak of war as the country placed itself in readiness for the inevitable. During 1938-39 Wallis' aerodrome work included Eastchurch, Gravesend, Detling, West Malling in Kent and St Eval in Cornwall. Work at West Malling included the demolition and rebuilding of a public house in order to make way for a runway extension. Ancillary construction included radar towers and the joinery department even

manufactured two hundred butchers blocks for the increasing number of catering facilities required by the military. Retired Joinery Manager Harry Munn recalled an official from the Ministry inspecting every single item and once approved, a crown stamp was applied by hammer.

Once war started work in progress was often requisitioned. This was the case for an office building under construction by Wallis which was quickly taken over by the Air Ministry.

In the early months of the war there was a very real threat of invasion so a line of defence was rapidly constructed across Southern England called the GHQ line and this was made up of pill boxes and machine gun posts. Allegedly, operatives seconded from the Joinery works at Maidstone to erect these structures along the banks of the River Medway from Maidstone to Tonbridge, worked a 12-hour day, seven days a week and earned a massive £10 a week! Once completed these reinforced concrete structures were adorned with all manner of camouflage to hide their real purpose. Lyons tea signs were attached to the outside of some. Whether any unsuspecting German invaders would have been fooled into seeking a cream tea from one of these buildings we shall never know!

One of the largest single projects undertaken by Wallis was Ridgewell airfield in Essex. This involved the construction of over 500 buildings and

structures with 25 General Foremen supervising. Similar contracts followed at Bungay, Norfolk, Great Sampford, Essex and the U.S. bomb depot at Airsham Park Hall. In Mid-1940 the company set up a temporary branch office at Great Chesterford to administer these and other airfield contracts at Alconbury, Bourne and Bottisham.

Further afield military hospital work was carried out at Diddington, Hunts and Malvern in Worcs together with aerodrome work at Hurn in Hants.

Meanwhile over at James Longley & Sons a similar pattern was developing. During 1940-41 mobile gangs were set up to construct pill-boxes, gun sites, air raid shelters, aircraft obstructions and barricades at locations such as Biggin Hill and Gatwick. Two of the first radar or early warning stations were built at Poling and Rye both under difficult conditions while bombs were being dropped on the sites. Along with general railway maintenance work Longley also constructed large blocks adjacent to railway lines to prevent the Southern Rail network becoming a main tank route for invaders.

Longley constructed aerodromes locally at Merston and Tangmere and secured maintenance contracts at operational airfields at Andover, Middle Wallop, Thruxton and Chilbolton.

The diversity of production for the war effort was no better illustrated than by the joinery works at Wallis entering the



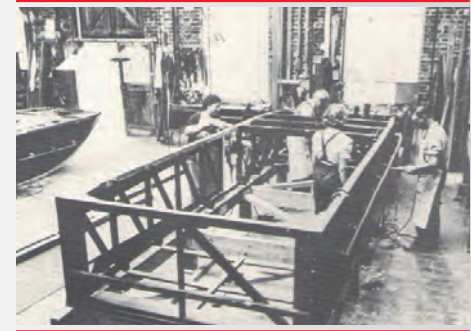
motor car industry. Well, not quite. They added to existing motor car chassis the necessary coachwork to convert them to estate cars (see the picture above taken in 1941 of a newly converted Ford V8). These vehicles were subsequently sent overseas for use by Spitfire service engineers. Approximately a hundred of these conversions were carried out.

Similarly, Mobile Food Flying Squad canteens were constructed on Bedford chassis (see photo below). A number of companies had the contract but Wallis built the first one which was presented to The Queen by Major Frank Wallis.



The joinery works also provided prefabricated sections for pontoons and Bailey bridges. The pontoons were constructed of waterproof plywood and tested in a large tank unit at Maidstone. They were submerged under pressure and tested to ministry satisfaction.

Over at Longley, joinery work included living huts for the Ministry of Supply, observation huts for the Home Guard, moulds for concrete tank obstructions, Nissen hut ends, black-out shutters, trench boards and staves for cleaning gun barrels.



They like Wallis were engaged in the manufacture of pontoons for Bailey bridges (see photo above).

To celebrate the production of the 1000th pontoon in December 1944 a party was held at the Railway Hotel with dancing to Dorothy Longley's Accordion Band (Dorothy being the wife of Norman Longley) She also played 1,000 concerts for soldiers during the Second World War.





As the younger men were called up for military service women had to be employed to make up the shortfall in labour.



The decision to take on female labour in August 1942 was justified; Norman Longley later said: 'in fact we could not have managed without them'.

Timber, like a lot of material, was in short supply so Wallis was awarded a contract in Surrey commercial docks where timber from bomb damaged buildings was sent, de-nailed and stored for re-use. Up to 170 operatives were employed on this site alone.

In early 1944 Wallis assisted in the construction of the Mulberry harbour in preparation for the D-Day landings. Parts of this amazing civil engineering structure can still be seen today at Arromanches in Normandy. What is also interesting to note is many of the people working on these wartime projects due to secrecy considerations didn't actually know or understand what their particular endeavours were to be used for until after the conflict had ended or the battle joined and reporting restrictions lifted.

Towards the end of the war and as the threat of bombing receded most resources were diverted to the repair of damaged premises – particularly houses.



During the War Major Frank Wallis was Chairman of the Works and Buildings Emergency Organisation which dealt with the emergency repair and demolition of buildings in 90 London boroughs following air raids. He was appointed OBE for his service to the WBEO.



By the end of the war both companies had worked long hours with limited materials and often under difficult conditions in order to accomplish their own victory and contribution to the overall war effort.

Tony North

Acknowledgements

- Various editions of Wallis News (former house magazine of G E Wallis & Sons Ltd)
- Longleys of Crawley: A Pictorial History 1983 – James Longley & Co Ltd
- A Century of Building: 1960 – G E Wallis & Sons Ltd
- Britain at War: Daily Mail Photograph Archive – 2002
- Pill Boxes by Henry Wills: 1985
- Pill Box image: The Battlefields that nearly were by Wm Foot 2006
- Harry Munn for his recollections and loan of photographs
- Geoffrey Taunton for his assistance with final edit.

Winter's on the way!

More sound advice from our gardening guru Warwick Stevens

As the saying goes, fail to prepare, prepare to fail! And that's true when getting your garden ready for the months ahead. If you want to ensure your garden's looking good all year round, it's worth picking up some of Warwick's tips. In this issue, he's focusing on things we should be doing in the garden in preparation for winter – and in readiness for spring.

Even in winter, it's time to start thinking forward to spring so plant your bulbs – daffodils, tulips, crocuses etc, for a lovely springtime show. You should also start preparing the soil for spring planting and attend to any pruning that needs to be done. Don't forget your roses and fruit trees in particular.



If you have a greenhouse, now's the time to remove any shades and paint to allow the sunshine in. Don't wait until the temperature dips too much! Remember the soft plants such as begonia and dahlia that need protecting from frost. Lift and store until spring. Pansies, daises and wallflowers are a great favourite in our gardens so be sure to plant these now amongst your borders. They are great for adding colour during the colder months.

Chances are you'll have been clearing leaves and the temptation is to take them to the tip but if you put them in a black plastic bag they will rot down nicely for spring mulching. To keep your garden looking lush during the winter months, think about planting some evergreens. Daphne, camellia, fatsia bay and holly are all good additions to a winter garden.

Email warwickstevens1942@gmail.com



Warwick Stevens

Most herbs i.e. mint, parsley, chervil and thyme can be cut down level with the ground and will sprout up in the spring. If you want them for later on, cover with a cold frame or cloche.

Give the lawn a cut and feed. It will appreciate the extra nutrients during the winter months. Make sure it stays clear of leaves and other debris.

Autumn raspberries should now be cut to the ground and given a feed of Gromore. Now's the time to plant overwintering spring onions, leeks, cabbage and get the ground ready for early planting of carrots and parsnips. Don't forget to cover your rhubarb with compost and make sure you don't compost the dead leaves as they are acidic – burn them or take them to the tip.

If you would like further information please contact me by email.

Warwick Stevens



David Heslett

Ever wondered what happened to... David Heslett

Former Kier International (KI) director David Heslett worked at Kier during the 1980s when international contracting was king (and accounted for around 50pc of Group turnover). David, along with colleagues Douglas Collier and later, Tony Glover, used their international contracting know-how to take advantage of exciting new overseas training opportunities. And if you're a former engineer with international contracting experience, there could be an opportunity for you too... David explains.

Where are they now?

The 1980s in particular were the years of extensive international work by the Kier Group with KI making up about 50% of the Group turnover.

Three of us from that era continue with international work but in a training & consultancy capacity, Douglas Collier, Tony Glover & myself through my company ECV Consultancy Ltd.

"I am very appreciative of the project opportunities that KI gave me from 1970 to 1987, which included managing our construction activities in Malawi and South Africa and then as UK-based director for many of our overseas projects, especially in Africa.

This experience gave me both insight and involvement with the international construction contracts produced by the Federation Internationale Des Ingenieurs-Conseils (FIDIC) and used worldwide. Hence later, when the Soviet Union collapsed, I became aware of the lack of knowledge of Western contracts throughout this vast area covering 42 countries.

I decided in 1993 to give up corporate life and establish a training and consultancy company for the international construction industry concentrating upon the use of the FIDIC Contracts. With former KI Director Douglas Collier, we formed ECV Consultancy Ltd and started business initially in St Petersburg in partnership with the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) with a long distance training project.

Building upon this start we expanded our contracts training to the EU Accession countries and started providing public courses in partnership with FIDIC in many of the capitals of Europe. To meet the increasing demand for our services, ex KI manager Tony Glover joined our team of experienced international engineers.

In 1999 FIDIC introduced new contracts which are being adopted worldwide and ECV created two-day training courses accredited by FIDIC. Since 2000 ECV has presented its courses in 86 countries involving over 30,000 professionals as well as extensive consultancy and advice work.

ECV would welcome any former Kier engineers with international experience to contact us if training and consultancy contracts work would be of interest on a self-employment basis."

David Heslett

Managing Director
ECV International Ltd

Web

www.ecvglobal.com and david.heslett@ecvglobal.com

Obituaries

Our thoughts are with the loved ones of those who have passed away.

Roger Almond	17/06/16
Eric Baker	08/06/15
Ken Brook	18/08/16
John Borham	08/03/16
Erika Bramley	31/01/16
Frederick Brown	17/07/16
Peter Bull	29/07/16
Anthony Bullock	12/03/16
Peter Burrows	23/04/16
Irene Cable	11/09/15
Donald Cannings	18/04/16
Thomas Carruthers	24/10/15
Richard Cass	10/01/16
Leslie Chapman-Tapp	15/01/16
Raymond Collins	10/03/16
William Coombes	23/05/16
Christina Dewey	20/06/16
Irene Dodson	26/05/16
Peter Foster	09/01/16
Merryn Gardner	02/04/16
Joan Gynn	24/03/16
Lionel Hart	26/04/16

Sidney Harvey	16/04/16
Ronald Hayward	12/04/16
Sheelah Hughes	21/12/15
Terence Hurley	27/03/16
Naden Jordan	25/02/16
Margaret Kelleher	27/01/16
Eleanor Kier	08/03/16
Ken Leyland	02/02/16
Gordon Mackenzie	03/01/16
Edward McGrady	08/06/16
Thomas Mitchell	29/03/16
Leonard Moss	18/02/16
John Myles	---/04/16
Diane Neath	18/02/16
John O'Farrell	13/02/16
Geoffrey Osborne	26/03/16
Peter Osborne	17/02/16
Shirley Painter	31/07/16
Maureen Peachey	18/08/16
Stephen Pole	16/05/16
Joseph Prentice	30/07/16
Richard Prendergast	24/01/16

Richard Putt	18/03/16
John Sawdon	24/02/16
Kathleen Sawkins	22/05/16
Paul Scoging	12/06/16
Thomas Shepley	27/06/16
Eric Skingsley	13/06/16
Godfrey Slater	24/01/16
John Snape	22/01/16
Reginald Stacey	10/06/16
Harold Tansey	14/03/16
Keith Thompson	07/05/16
Dennis Thorpe	03/05/16
Leonard Tozer	03/07/16
Joyce Walk	24/08/16
Robert Want	25/05/16
David Weaver	09/03/16
Mervyn Whiley	27/09/15
John Wolsey	19/05/16
Margaret Wheeler	21/04/16
Albert White	25/01/16
Agnes Young	12/07/16
Dorothy Zeal	02/07/16

The Trust's got talent! ●●●●●●●●●●

Harold Thompson takes us on a tour of Whichway Junction – all change!

It is a few years since I reported in KierLink on progress with my model railway layout. The project is now well advanced.

Previously, I referred to 'The Yonders'. This name was chosen because I could not find 'Yorkshire' names that seemed right for the area of the layout yet to be developed. At the eastern limit there is the seaside town of Whatby beside the Eck estuary; moving inland from Whatby I have a valley or Dale containing a school, then a branch-line station beyond which is a hillside, livestock farm and then an open-cast iron ore mine before the main line sweeps round and under the Cleveage Hills (the misspelling is intentional owing to the twin peaks of Raspberry Topping and Cook's Mount).

Looking at my 1960s' Ordnance Survey 1" map of the North York Moors I have chosen the corrupted Yorkshire place name of Gleasdale for the Dale. I had intended the iron ore quarry to be at Bilgedale and the station between them to be Littleholm. My apologies to those who are fond of the real place names of Glaisdale, Bilsdale and Lealholm but I have neither the space nor the skill to do justice to those exquisite locations. In the event, I have extended Gleasdale to include the station and put the quarry in Oredale. Internet research shows that iron ore mining in Yorkshire was not open-cast but tunnelled and ended



The last train leaves Whatby Town for Middleby.



Whatby Town shops and houses.



Gleasdale Village.



Gleasdale Station, Creamery and Woods.

about a hundred years ago so the plan involves a large measure of modeller's licence.

Whilst giving thought to these names, I looked at renaming my main station Whichway Junction. It contains an up line, a down line, a central passing loop and a bay platform – very much like I remember Middlesbrough station. Nearby is a marshalling yard and a Traction Maintenance Depot (loco servicing centre) – a bit like Thornaby. So the main station is now called Middleby.

That leaves just the terminus, currently referred to as Hatch End. So far I have not found a more suitable name. It is at the wrong end of the layout for Saltburn as it is inland; towns like Northallerton and Thirsk would be more or less correct geographically but those stations were not termini so I would be pleased to hear from anyone who can suggest a suitable name.

The pictures show the curved street of terraced houses and shops in Whatby (a mixture of cardboard kits and scratch-buildings in plastic); the village of Gleasdale, Gleasdale station with its adjacent creamery (all scratch-built but using kits for the trees and boundaries) and, in between, a wooded area I call Gleasdale Woods. The bridleway through the woods crosses the railway lines on its route to Eckerslake and beyond. You

may be able to see some people but there are many more to create.



0-6-0 Jinty returns empty milk wagons to Gleasdale Creamery...



...and whistles to warn of its approach to the Bridleway while a hiker points out the Fylingdales Early Warning Station to his friends.



Riders approach the bridleway from Gleasdale Woods.

Kier forms new charity partnership with Alzheimer's Society

Operated and managed by The Kier Foundation, Kier's new two-year charity partnership with the Alzheimer's Society was launched recently. The event was marked with a barbecue at Tempsford Hall where £1,000 was raised to kick-start the fundraising. Meanwhile, a series of events was held at Kier locations nationwide.

The Alzheimer's Society was one of the top five charities supported by Kier people in the last two years via employee support funding and was chosen after demonstrating they were the best fit for Kier and its employees.

Kier aims to help the charity provide care for today, and a cure for tomorrow. The company plans to fund a unique research project focusing on early onset dementia. In addition, a significant number of dementia support worker hours will be funded.



The Kier Foundation will work with the Alzheimer's Society to increase awareness of dementia across the business and provide easy access to information, advice and services.

"We'll encourage people to take part in their own fundraising challenges for the Society," says Kier Foundation Manager Francesca Campbell. "Employees can also become a dementia friend, which allows a greater understanding of living with dementia."

If you are interested in fund raising for the Alzheimer's Society or would like any more information, Francesca would be pleased to hear from you.

You can see a film made for the launch of the partnership here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOCod-EfXUQ>

National Golf Day 7 September

Newbury and Crookham Golf Course

The Kier Group Fellowship National Golf Day brought together 21 members from across the southern areas of our group.

It was good to see many new players at the event although we did miss some of our traditional attendees from the London and East Anglia areas.

The course was in magnificent condition and the competition fierce on a muggy but fine day.

Many thanks to Robin Butler and particularly John Stamford for organising an excellent day.

Whilst the experiment of holding the event near Newbury was successful in drawing new players from further west, during discussions on the day the Fellowship Board and Area Organisers will investigate holding a couple of golfing days across the areas by potentially holding one at a similar geographical area to this year and one in the traditional heartland near Tempsford and indeed St Neots has been proposed for the latter.

I do hope that we can generate enthusiasm for holding other events around the country so if you'd be

interested in participating or even organising an event please get in touch with me in the first instance.

Neil Meixner



All enjoyed a lovely meal afterwards with prizes won by Colin Busby (Longest Drive).



Gary Barnes (Nearest the Pin – off a tree some 30 yards behind the green).



Our Overall winner who received a voucher for £50 and the coveted Kier Fellowship Cup was Adrian Neech on 39 points beating Dennis Lawler by one point.

Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to all who took part.



Neil Meixner (Back Nine), John Blagg (Front Nine).