

KierLink

The magazine for the Kier Fellowship Trust | Issue 43 | Autumn/Winter 2022



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*Queen Elizabeth II:
the end of an era and start of a new*

Chairman's matters and Administrator's report



Neil Meixner

I am delighted to report that Mark Pengelly, Kier Group Managing Director Infrastructure, has agreed to join the Board of The Fellowship Trust. Mark has been with Kier since university and having progressed from engineer to Managing Director in the London regional business is a perfect fit. His role will be to further the links between Kier Group and The Fellowship, ensuring the continued co-operation between the regional businesses, our representatives and members.



Brendan O'Boyle

As we write this end of year message, we have a new King and Prime Minister, so once again the UK is in for some changes in direction, hopefully for the better. However energy price rises and uncertainty over what will happen in Ukraine have stoked a further period of turbulence. Let's hope only short lived!

Closer to home we are still having huge problems with the website, particularly the calendar, which hopefully by the time you read this will have been resolved. In the meantime your area organisers and their committees are trying their best to keep you informed in more traditional ways.

Please do take part and support these great events.

Earlier this year Brian Hill retired as area organiser for the Rushden area after many years of sterling work.

Brian organised numerous events both locally and abroad each year for his members most of which he did on his own. He was committed to his members, always trying to provide a memorable experience for them and this he achieved by giving up a considerable amount of his free time.

Brian set standards for the Fellowship areas to follow and often gave advice to other area organisers who were planning similar events.

During his time as area organiser for Rushden he was supported by his wife Sandra who also gave her free time for Rushden area matters.

On behalf of the Trustees, we'd both like to thank Brian and Sandra for their extraordinary contribution to the Fellowship.

There is some great content in this edition of KierLink but we are always seeking interesting items for inclusion in future editions. If you have been on a memorable holiday or have celebrated a special event, please contact either member of the editorial team namely, Andrea McDaid (andrea.mcdaid@outlook.com) or Brendan O'Boyle (email address as below) and we will be pleased to assist you.



Interest in the Fellowship remains high with new members joining all 12 of our areas during the year. We currently have 1,356 members compared with 1,352 this time last year.

It is fantastic that so many people still want to keep up with their former colleagues. If you know of new retirees or leavers, why not see if they'd like to join the Fellowship. The application form is available at: <http://www.fellowship.kier.co.uk/joining-us/> or by contacting Brendan.

Please make sure that you notify us of any change of address either to your area organiser or Brendan so that our records can be updated. It is helpful to have any new telephone number and email as well to ensure that you continue to receive invitations to events and copies of the KierLink magazine.

If you require help or information with any matters relating to the Kier Group Fellowship Trust please contact:

brendan.o'boyle.ext@kier.co.uk

Neil Meixner & Brendan O'Boyle

Editor's note

Dear members,

I for one felt great sadness at the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II but do believe that King Charles will do a sterling job at taking over the responsibilities of his beloved mother.



Andrea McDaid (as Cleopatra)

Despite the ongoing changes and challenges we face/are facing, you have been able to get yourselves out there and have fun which is music to my ears!

The highlights of my year so far are:

- 1) Getting spoilt rotten on my birthday and spending quality time with family and friends.
- 2) Having our nephew/grandson Stephen stay with us for a week in August. We had great fun at the Dino and Animal Farm Park in Milton Keynes. You have to pre-book and you're only permitted two hours inside the complex. It was well worth it as on leaving Stephen said: "That's the best two hours of my life!"
- 3) A special friend turned 50 in August. The party fancy dress theme was Kings and Queens. There were several Cleopatra's, Queen Bee's and Burger Kings! My outfit's pictured above but it's not me in person - she's much more photogenic!

Look after yourselves, keep warm, enjoy the forthcoming festive season and keep planning events for the following year.

My very best wishes to you all.

Best wishes, Andrea

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Long live the King!

Copy deadline for issue 44 2023:



To be advised by Administrator

Email andrea.mcdaid@outlook.com

Message from the Chief Executive

Hello and welcome to the Autumn 2022 edition of KierLink. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the year-to-date.

Firstly, I'd like to pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her passing is a significant moment in our country's history, and this was reflected in the tributes we saw during the National Mourning Period and the funeral. I want to express my sadness and gratitude for a monarch who dedicated over 70 years in the service of her country and the Commonwealth.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to a number of our teams who worked tirelessly to support the preparations and day of the funeral. Our people have continued to show that when the nation needs us, we are there and play a critical role in keeping the country moving.

In the summer, Birmingham hosted the Commonwealth Games and again our teams rose to the challenge and helped to keep the roads moving, making sure Birmingham's infrastructure was ready.

In September, you will have seen that we released our full-year results. For this financial year, we have delivered another strong set of results and that is down to the skill, hard work and commitment of our people.

Our results were in line with market expectations and reflected our significantly enhanced resilience and strengthened financial position. This is despite external pressures which we have been successful in mitigating.

Our order book has increased to £9.8bn – this is a 27% increase on the last financial year. We have made an adjusted operating profit of £121m – this is up from £100m last year and represents a 20% increase. I am also pleased to say that we reported a net cash position of £3m.

Our order book reflects a large number of contract wins, and we continue to focus on winning work through our long-standing client relationships & regionally based operations.

Recently, we have been awarded a number of key contracts in our target sectors. This includes being appointed for the £65m Oxford Railway Station Development Plan by Network Rail. The team will be

enhancing the facilities of the current station and creating a fifth platform which will significantly improve the capacity of the station, accessibility and provide a safer passenger experience.

We have also been appointed for the full contract for the brand-new £400m jail in East Yorkshire, based next to HMP Full Sutton. The prison is set to open in 2025 and will provide over 1,400 modern places to get more offenders into jobs and away from crime.

The prison will also be built with sustainability in mind, be a boost for the local economy through new job opportunities and at least 50 construction roles will be earmarked for ex-offenders.

In the highways sector we have recently mobilised two new services contracts across North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. Three hundred colleagues will work across the two contracts for an initial seven-year term with the option to extend for up to 14 years.

The Group has undergone a transformation, rationalisation and recapitalisation and we are delivering well against our medium-term plan.

This is thanks to our talented and dedicated teams and over the course of the year, we have continued to look at ways to provide them with support, career development opportunities and new policies.

Looking ahead, with a new prime minister in post, we are well positioned to continue to benefit from UK Government future spending and its intention to accelerate infrastructure schemes outlined in its 'Plan for Growth'.

Our people continue to work hard towards our goals and I'm confident in our strategy as we move forwards.

*Thank you
for your
continued
support.*



Andrew Davies

A warm welcome to the following new members

Name	City/town	Area	Worked for	Years of service
Wendy Bailey	Fixton, Lancashire	Rushden	Kier Group	10
Stewart Bass	Ely, Cambridgeshire	Waterbeach	Kier Eastern	11
Rob Brown	Kettering, Northants	Maple Cross	Kier Southern	19
Valerie Brown	Northampton, Northants	Rushden	Kier Highways	2
Jeffery Bye	Berkeley, Gloucestershire	Central	Kier Western	23
John Callaghan	Bromley, Kent	Maidstone	Kier South East	23
Michael Cawood	Sheffield, Yorkshire	Leeds	Kier North Maintenance	52
Richard Charman	Hinckley, Leicestershire	Rushden	Kier Central/Midlands	23
Nishta Daby	Richmond, Greater London	Loughton/Witham	Kier International	12
John Devereux	Burgess Hill, West Sussex	Solent	Kier Southern	18
Claire Dyer	Hastings, East Sussex	Maidstone	Kier Rail	4
Andrew Ellis	Liverpool, Lancashire	Liverpool	Kier Northern	18
Stuart French	Chelmsford, Essex	Loughton/Witham	Kier London	44
Ian Futcher	Salisbury, Wiltshire	Solent	Kier Partnership Homes	11
Candace Gerrie	Bishopton, Renfrewshire	Tempsford	Kier Scotland	14
Martin Good	Basildon, Essex	Loughton/Witham	Kier Eastern	47
Caroline Hawker	St. Neots, Cambs	Rushden	Kier Group	14
Catherine Henderson	Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire	Tempsford	Kier Scotland	19
Chris Higham	St. Neots, Cambs	Tempsford	Kier Group	37
Stephen Hunter	Redcar, North Yorkshire	Leeds	Kier Construction	5
Peter Jefferies	Swindon, Wiltshire	Bristol	Kier Western	21
Helen Johnson	Nr Gamlingay, Cambs	Tempsford	Kier Property	21
Paul Kenworthy	Ipswich, Suffolk	Loughton/Witham	Kier Eastern	16
David Kinghorn	Grimsby, Lincolnshire	Tempsford	Kier Construction	25
Colin Low	Corby Glen, Lincolnshire	Tempsford	Kier Construction	14
Alan Mays	Buckhurst Hill, Essex	Loughton/Witham	Kier International	14
Sarah McKee	Pontshill, Herefordshire	Central	May Gurney	15
Sheryl Moore	Chester, Cheshire	Liverpool	Kier Construction	5
Alastair Mullen	Totnes, Devon	Devon/Cornwall	Kier Western	17
Kerry Sharpe	Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire	Central	Kier Build West & Wales	32
Andrew Sopp	Goring By Sea, West Sussex	Solent	Kier Southern	22
Juan Sosa Hernandez	Buckfastleigh, Devon	Central	Kier Highways	12
Andrew Storey	Sevenoaks, Kent	Maidstone	Kier Property	5
Nicholas Timms	Ipswich, Suffolk	Loughton/Witham	Kier Eastern	1
Gavin Turner	Bolton, Lancashire	Liverpool/Manchester	Kier Northern	18
Philip Turner	Bath, Somerset	Bristol	Kier Western	35
Sandra Wadhams	Rochester, Kent	Maidstone	Kier Facilities	8
Richard Wildish	Canterbury, Kent	Maidstone	Kier Infrastructure	12
Ross Willerton	Hemel Hempstead, Herts	Maple Cross	Kier Southern	21

Obituaries

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

Brian Albin	02/06/2022
Eileen Amor	21/03/2022
Anthony Ashburner	25/05/2022
Leslie Barber	24/03/2022
Stephen Bartlett	24/01/2022
Robert Basson	20/03/2022
Brian Bewers	26/02/2022
David Bleay	12/07/2022
Peter Bonar	18/11/2021
Ernest Boswell	14/05/2022
Margaret Brooks	07/03/2022
John Bryce	22/05/2022
Leonard Burton	07/07/2022
Thomas Callander	26/01/2022
Janet Carr	13/03/2022
Thomas Castle	13/01/2022
Doris Clark	02/07/2022
Leslie Corney	22/04/2022
David Dalton	13/04/2022
Frederick Divall	08/03/2022
Anne Eggleton	02/07/2022
Derek Evans	21/07/2022
Valeria Feltwell	02/02/2022
S Fothergill	07/05/2022
Joan Freer	08/05/2022
Tony Gammage	30/06/2022
Kitty Gardner	19/07/2022
Joyce Gillies	18/05/2022
Jean Golder	14/03/2022
Dawn Halford	09/04/2022
John Harris	12/02/2022
Kenneth Harris	22/02/2022
James Henshall	12/03/2022
Philip Henstock	02/05/2022
Beverley Hickling	06/03/2022

Anthony Ince	19/01/2022
Violet Jarman	07/05/2022
George Jeffrey	21/01/2022
Ian Kenward	12/02/2022
Joan King	21/05/2022
Clive Kurn	10/05/2022
Alan Liddle	15/06/2022
Daphne Lilley	16/02/2022
Lionel Mann	04/04/2022
Jacynth Mason	16/05/2022
Robert Meakin	01/04/2022
Jean Mountstevens	28/04/2022
Terry Munro	18/08/2022
Joan Penney	08/07/2022
Richard Phillips	18/06/2022
Michael Phipps	06/07/2022
Micheal Quinn	06/05/2022
James Raw	23/05/2022
Anne Reilly	29/03/2022
William Robinson	14/03/2022
Maud Stoneman	25/07/2022
Sydney Stuart	07/07/2022
Trevor Symonds	18/06/2022
Jozsef Varga	07/06/2022
Glenys Wheelhouse	16/02/2022
Judith White	10/04/2022
George Wilcox	05/02/2022
Roger Wood	24/03/2022
PD Woods (date corrected)	11/03/2021
Martyn Wright	19/02/2022
Peter Zeal	08/05/2022

A trip to Crete...

or how we swapped the Orient Express for the birthplace of the Greek God Zeus: **by John Abbott**



It was supposed to be a special holiday. We had talked about it for a number of years and following a combination of a life assurance policy maturing and the travel industry beginning to start up following the Covid lockdown, we booked it for beginning of May.

We were to fly to Venice, spend ten days cruising the Mediterranean, visiting Croatia, Albania, Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica followed by three nights in a hotel on Lake Garda before we transferred to Verona to travel back to London on the Orient Express.

What could be better? What could possibly go wrong?

So, after Christmas, in the dark days of January, we started to get a little excited and went online to look at the itinerary and start to plan which excursions we might like to sign up for at the various stops along the way.

Much to our surprise and disappointment, the Itinerary had now changed. The flight was to go to Verona and we would be bussed from there to Venice. The cruise was now 12 nights followed by what appeared to be a coach trip calling at Florence (one night), Lake Garda (one night) and Verona (one night) before getting onto the Orient Express.

We explained to the tour company that we were not very happy about this, especially as they hadn't told us. We had wanted a coach tour of Italy at the end of our special holiday as we had booked originally.

After a few weeks of wrangling, the company refunded our money in full. We searched the internet and booked ourselves a two-week break in Crete. This turned out, like so many things that we choose at the last minute, to be one of the best holidays that we have had.

The hotel was delightful, our room was super, the people were exceptionally friendly and just so pleased to see us after two very difficult years for them during the pandemic.



As independent travellers we had to sort our own excursions out and so, with the help of the hotel manager, we hired ourselves a little Mini convertible (Carol refused to have a scooter!) for a few days and braved the Cretan traffic.



We were recommended to drive up into the mountains so we drove up onto the Lasithi plateau to find the birthplace of the Greek God Zeus.

Zeus was reputedly born in the Dictaeon Cave on Mount Aegaeon. We found the car park fairly easily, eventually found a space in amongst the coaches and began to climb up what seemed at the time like hundreds of steps up to the mouth of the cave.

The views over the plateau were stunning.

We then descended 'hundreds' more steps to the bottom of the cave. If we were honest, it was pretty damp and dark and humid, and you would have thought that the Great God Zeus of Greek Mythology would have chosen a somewhat grander birthplace, but the cave formations were fascinating.

Other things that we enjoyed during our break? Walks to the nearby villages of Koutouloufari and Hersonissos, many of which included a nice meal and, of course, some local wine...



... and just sitting by the pool reading or on our balcony doing a bit of painting.



Around the regions

Bristol/Newport

We had not held any meetings since having had to cancel our planned lunch in March 2020. A number of our members are now quite elderly or were diagnosed as 'clinically extremely vulnerable' to Covid. Our caution was rewarded by the loss of only a single member during the pandemic.



We met in a chilly April at the Wildlife and Wetlands Slimbridge reserve. In the event, only nine members were able to attend but it was good that some of our newer Newport members were able to come. We plan to hold a lunch in November.

David Priddis

Central

Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Back in 2012 I was lucky enough to be a Games Maker at the Olympic Games held in London and I thought that it would be my volunteering swansong. However, little did I realise I would hear the news in 2018 that Birmingham,

the city of my birth and where I was raised, was to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Being a proud Brummie, I felt duty bound to apply to be a volunteer when the opportunity arose. Following the application and interview process I found out in February this year that I had been selected and so my journey began.

I was chosen to work in the Venue Transport Team at Arena Birmingham (generally known to us Brummies as the NIA) which would be where all of the gymnastics events would be held. After attending role specific and venue specific training my shifts started a week before the Games began on 21 July.

Our team comprised four paid staff and 18 volunteers but unfortunately Covid raised its ugly head and some of the volunteers were unable to complete their allocated shifts. The role involved liaising with controllers from the bus company who had been awarded the contract. This involved ensuring that athletes, coaches, dignitaries and media personnel were greeted from their particular mode of transport and safely escorted into/out of the venue.

During the first week the work was very much centred on the gymnasts who were able to train at the venue prior to competition. We began to get to know many of the competitors and their coaches as they arrived and departed the venue.

Things got off to a fairly sticky start. The bus company had recruited approximately 4,000 drivers from around the UK but had

not appeared to have conducted sufficient trial runs. Many of the drivers were unfamiliar with the city centre location. Fortunately matters improved and by the time the competition began most buses were arriving/departing on time.



Jake Jarman and I

Once competition started Team England were dominant in the Artistic Gymnastic events with the men's team winning seven of the eight gold medals available and the women's team winning three gold medals. The star of the show has to be Jake Jarman whose performances belied his inexperience in major competition. Jake went on to win four gold medals which included the 'Men's all round individual title'.

I was fortunate enough to have had a couple of conversations with Jake and even managed to grab a photograph with him after winning this title. What an unassuming, polite and pleasant young man he proved to be. I will now be following his progress and hopefully Jake will go on to be a world star in the near future.



Jake displaying his gold medal

Plenty of dignitaries visited the venue whilst I was on shift and although the security arrangements meant that we were not so closely involved with these I was around to see the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge (William & Kate), the Earl & Countess of Wessex (Edward & Sophie), The Governor General of Australia, Sports Ministers from several nations, a delegation of observers from the 2024 Paris Olympic Organising Committee plus many others.

Many new things have emerged as a consequence of Birmingham hosting the games. Clearly much effort was made in brightening up the city with lots of colour. The spectacular Opening Ceremony featured the Raging Bull structure which is now attracting thousands of visitors as a new tourist attraction – it stands proudly in Centenary Square. The Games were the largest and most inclusive spectator attended international multi-sport event since the pandemic with approximately 1.5m tickets sold and more people attending the free festival sites around the region.

We Brummies are a self-deprecating lot. The image of the city was often painted as grey and grimy but hopefully this image can now be dispelled. I think that we can stand proud and shout aloud after showcasing the city on the world stage. As a proud Brummie myself, and in the screamed-out words of Ozzy Osbourne at the Closing Ceremony: "BIRMINGHAM FOREVER!"

Paul Tucker



The raging bull

Members on tour



Members at Oaksey Golf Club

Central members have been returning to our normal round of social events after the gradual release from Covid lockdowns. In April we met at The Beckford Inn near Evesham. We enjoyed lunch and the opportunity to catch up with old friends/colleagues. We resolved to take our events this year to further flung parts of our area to enable those rarely able to join in to attend a more local venue. Our next gathering was at The Crown, Ampney Crucis in the south Cotswolds.

In September, we held a golf day at Oaksey Golf Club, south of Cirencester. A happy mix of golfing abilities enjoyed an opportunity to meet old friends and search for golf balls under the trees.

A lunch is planned for October at the Queens Arms in an area of outstanding natural beauty known as 'The Valley of the Racehorse' near Lambourn. Our year will again finish with a pre-Christmas lunch party at the Lilleybrook Golf Club in Cheltenham on 8 December.

Robin Butler

Loughton/Witham

Christmas lunch: 09/12/21

We welcomed 72 members and their guests to the Mulberry Suite at Mulberry House for our Christmas lunch. Unfortunately, a few members were not able to join us on the day, but it was great to see our two newest members, Tina and Martin together with their partners (pictured below).



Members were welcomed with a glass of fizz or fruit juice before sitting down to a two-course meal with wine followed by coffee or tea and mince pies.

Lunch with speaker: 24/02/2022

Sixty-nine members and their friends & partners came together at Mulberry House, Ongar for our 'Lunch with speaker' event.

We enjoyed a very pleasant meal together with most guests choosing either the chicken or sea bass options. After desert and tea or coffee, we settled back to listen to our speaker, Mr. Peter Regelous.

Peter, who worked under the stage name Peter King, gave an entertaining account of how, at the age of 40, he gave up his regular, professional employment to pursue a second career as an actor and entertainer.

Peter related how he left a job with Essex Police which he hated through serving his 'apprenticeship' working various South London venues, some less desirable than others and one in particular (known to one of our members) where they offered to 'fix' his elderly car so that he could claim on the insurance and buy a new one!



Speaker Mr. Peter Regelous



Listening intently

Peter went on to describe his time on light entertainment programmes on both BBC and ITV such as 'Noel's House Party', 'Keeping Up Appearances', 'Darling Buds of May', 'Allo, 'Allo,' 'Absolutely Fabulous' and 'The Generation Game'.

It was a very good afternoon enjoyed by all.

John Abbott

Spring lunch: 28/04/2022

We held our Spring buffet, on this occasion at Little Channels Golf Club Chelmsford. Numbers were a little disappointing compared to previous years but under the circumstances of Covid etc, and some people taking an early holiday we were lucky to get the 40 that paid.

On the day numbers were even lower as only 28 were able to attend. And those that did enjoyed a good afternoon and an excellent buffet so much so because there were fewer members present.



Area golf day: 25/05/2022

Our golf day was held once again at Abridge Golf Club. Only 10 players attended this year but all had an enjoyable day.

Abridge Golf Club was in superb condition and is a very attractive course. The weather at first was very cold and a cold wind increased the chill factor but it remained dry with only a few drops of rain.

The results were as follows:

- Overall first: Derek Adams
- Front nine: Derek Adams
- Back nine: Paul Goddard
- Nearest pin: Neil Meixner
- Longest drive: Derek Adams.



Paul Goddard: winner of the Back Nine



Derek receives the cup for Overall First from John Spray

We had a one course meal which was very well received. As always, a pint of beer and a good chat were the order of the day. That expression 'do you remember?' was often heard!

John Spray



Neil Meixner gets his Nearest the Pin award from John Spray

River Lea boat trip: 22/06/2022

Thirty-two members and partners met at Lea Valley Boat Centre for a three-hour meander down the River Lea. The weather was very kind to us being very warm and bright.

Members enjoyed a wonderful three-course lunch whilst taking in the various types of wildlife and the many detached properties bordering the river.

During the trip we went through two locks twice. What pleased the members most was the opportunity to have a lengthy chat with fellow members that they had not seen for some three years.

At the end of the trip all the members expressed their delight for the trip and the meal.

Apologies that there are no photographs from this event.

Geoff Brown

Maidstone

We held a belated Christmas lunch on Wednesday 13 March this year since many of our members were concerned about the COVID pandemic last December. However, as it's such a special occasion, I felt that we should re-arrange another date when everyone would feel a little less anxious. We enjoyed the meal and decided that we would use the same function room for our BBQ in the summer.

It was a lovely summers day for the BBQ on Wednesday 13 July, just as we ordered, but surprisingly it was too hot! Consequently, we enjoyed our delicious food

Maple Cross

Christmas lunch 2021

Our Christmas 2021 Luncheon was held at Shendish Manor Hotel, Hemel Hempstead, having missed 2020 due to Covid on 9 December 2021. On a lovely sunny day 49 members and guests gathered in a large private room and welcomed our Chairman Neil Meixner, James Armitage and Richard Banks to their first Maple Cross event.



The meal was good, but our drinks were slow due to Covid restrictions still in place, however it gave us time to talk and catch up on the gossip.

Valentine's Day lunch 2022

Another lovely sunny day between storm Dudley and Eunice saw 27 regular members return to St. Villa restaurant in St. Albans for an excellent meal. The starter and main course were well prepared and the chocolate brownie dessert was to die for! The coffee seemed to take forever to arrive. We realised that only the manager was left to make and serve the coffee then clear up by himself. Definitely signs of staffing issues brought about by Covid.

indoors! I must add 'a big thank you' to Michael and Lesley Clark for stepping in and making sure all went well.

We have decided to go back to the Cornwallis Suite for our Christmas celebration meal which has been arranged for Tuesday 20 December 2022, 12.00pm for 12.30pm at Thyme 2 Dine. I will write to everyone shortly with details of our menu.

Anne Ransley



St. George's Day lunch 2022

Again, a lovely sunny day (this is becoming a norm for Maple Cross lunches) on Thursday 21 April 2022, saw 28 members and guests return to Shendish Manor Hotel for pre luncheon drinks on the terrace followed by a great three-course lunch that left everyone fully satisfied.



Windsor horse race evening

On Monday 27 June 2022, 18 members and guests arrived at Windsor Racecourse at 4.00pm for an evening of great horse racing and a band after. The weather was not the best, so warm coats were needed. We all enjoyed either a burger or fish-n-chip supper. A lot of visits were made to the tote desk or the Tic Tac bookmakers to relieve us all of our money, but very few returns were made to collect winnings. However, I'm sure we will all be back next year.



Norman Elliott

National Golf Day

St. Neots Golf Club

Twenty members were treated to a great day out on 1 September 2022 organised once again by club member Ian Tidey.

We enjoyed a traditional bacon roll with coffee/tea prior to play commencing at 11am from the first tee.

The course was in good condition despite all the hot weather we've had this summer. After the round we all gathered in a private room for a very tasty two-course meal consisting of chicken with all the trimmings and apple crumble with custard.

The meal was followed by prizes given as a combination of cash and Kier memorabilia. Of course, it was the memorabilia that everyone was after!

Winners and photos are as follows:



Gary Barnes: Most challenging score



Ian Lawson: Nearest the Pin



Colin Busby: Nearest the Pin in 2



Mike Palmer: Best Front 9-15 points



Jeff Kercher: Best Back 9-18 points



Mike Palmer: presenting the Fellowship Cup to Neil Meixner who had a score of 39 points

Congratulations to all the winners! By popular demand next year we will be returning in late August/early September so we hope to see as many members there as possible. Watch out for further details!

Neil Meixner

Solent

East Meon walk: February 2022

The planned walk was a circular route around the idyllic Hampshire village of East Meon and took in Butser Hill, which is the highest point in the South Downs National Park. I checked out the route a week before the event to ensure we didn't get lost on the day. That turned out to be a worthwhile investment as there were a couple of unclear directions, well to me anyway. The ground conditions were fair for the time of year and the paths/trails were undulating and steep at times.



Unfortunately, two couples couldn't make it on the day so six of us assembled in sunny conditions on the 16 February with an element of trepidation to enjoy an amble through the Hampshire countryside. The reason for our trepidation was that 'Storm Dudley' had passed through the area two days earlier.

With a temperature of 9°C we set off through the picturesque village of East Meon along typical village road names of Workhouse Lane, High Street and Church Street. We resisted the temptation to drop into Ye Olde George Inn and proceeded towards the oldest building in the village, All Saints' Church, which is Grade 1 listed dating back to Norman times. Shortly afterwards we passed a delightful back garden – home to a carpet of snowdrops.

The conditions along the footpath across the fields were a bit slippery but not too bad. This



turned boggy at the last of five field gates thanks to the herd of cows who had churned the ground up. Onwards along Halnaker Lane and up along a quiet wide woodland trail for nearly 3km then another steep climb uphill for 1km. The anticipated views across the South Downs didn't materialise as by this time grey skies had turned to low cloud and drizzle. From then on it was downhill all the way, well nearly. The steep descent through a field was as challenging as the climb up. We were grateful for the 'Last of the summer wine' photo opportunity.

We arrived back at our starting point having covered a distance of 8.5km (5.25 miles) with an elevation of 140m in just under a leisurely three hours.

Peter Wallbank



Those who partook in the walk (l-r): Graham Willoughby, Roger Osgood, Gary Mackie, Ellie Mackie and Rob Fleming with me behind the lens

Mottisfont House and Gardens visit: 14 July 2022

A small group of members met at Mottisfont House, a National Trust property north of Romsey in Hampshire on a warm Thursday morning.

Ancient trees, bubbling brooks and rolling lawns frame this 18th-century house with a medieval priory at its heart. Maud Russell made Mottisfont her home in the 1930s, bringing artists here to relax and create works inspired by Mottisfont's past, including an extraordinary drawing-room painted by Rex Whistler. Those artistic traditions are continued today, with a permanent 20th century art collection and major exhibitions in the top-floor gallery.



Outside, carpets of spring bulbs, a stunning walled rose garden, rich autumn leaves and a colourful winter garden make Mottisfont a feast for the senses all year round. The world-famous collection of old-fashioned roses flower once a year in June. Winding paths meander through stately trees with the sound of water never far away.

During the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII, the priory was dissolved and in 1536 the King gave Mottisfont to a favoured statesman, Sir William Sandys who turned it into a country home but, unusually, chose

not to demolish the existing priory. Sandys instead turned the church nave into the main body of the new mansion, building additional wings on either side. The 13th century cellarium remains present today.

In the 18th century, the old monastic cloisters and Tudor courtyard were demolished creating the modern appearance of the house's facade. It was at this time that the owners added 'Abbey' to the name of the house rather than the more historically correct 'Priory'.

The arrival of Maud and Gilbert Russell in 1934 made Mottisfont the centre of a fashionable artistic and political circle. Maud was a wealthy patron of the arts, and she created a substantial country house where

she entertained artists and writers including Ben Nicholson and Ian Fleming. Rex Whistler created the illusion of Gothic architecture in her salon (now known as the Whistler Room).

During WWII, Mottisfont was commandeered as a hospital with 80 beds. Maud Russell gave the house and grounds to the National Trust in 1957 although continuing to live there until 1972.

Derek Ward

Tempsford

Our alternative venue for the November 2021 lunch turned out to be quite inspiring. The intended venue of The Three Tuns, Biddenham being problematic, Stephen had booked lunch at The Red Lion, Stevington which served delicious food in an attractive room and made us feel very welcome. As it happened there were only six of us, but we were all hungry after a pleasant walk in the Bedfordshire countryside around Stevington village. We walked in two groups setting off at different times – as it happened the groups did the circular route in opposite directions, and we didn't meet! Which of us I wonder can't map read?



Stevington in November

Lunch at The Red Lion

Christmas lunch was approached with not a little trepidation as it was about then that the Omicron variant of Coronavirus took hold. There were several cancellations within our group but 27 of us enjoyed a lovely three-course lunch of our chosen items from the menu whilst we exercised our brains in trying to identify the 20 British towns and cities in Viv's table quiz. Viv had been determined to set a quiz for which the answers could not be found by searching the internet via mobile phone, and we thought she had succeeded. However, one member was noticeably quiet during the meal, and we discovered that she had indeed found the quiz and the answers. We were so impressed by her, not only



Christmas lunch



Christmas lunch

persistent searching, but having succeeded in her self-control in not divulging any answers as she heard other people on her table producing the wrong answers. She was awarded a special prize. Was it a coincidence that the prize was a bag of humbugs?

We had a raffle in aid of Tibbs Dementia Foundation – a small, local charity. Little prizes had been donated by members of the committee and John Stamford, having won a box of six wine glasses, immediately auctioned them for the benefit of the charity. The combination of ticket sales and the auction raised £100 which Stephen forwarded to the charity.



John's raffle

Fellowship Chairman, Neil Meixner joined us and reported on his attendance at the Kier AGM. Following his discussion with Andrew Davies after the meeting, Neil said he had felt encouraged by what he heard.

2022 kicked off successfully on 8 February when a group of 11 met for lunch at The Barley Mow in Eaton Ford. Five of the group had enjoyed a leisurely morning walk in bright sunshine in The Pocket Park off Barford Road, St. Neots, and we were all ready for our lovely lunch. On 10 March, four walkers were joined by a further seven diners for lunch at The Eaton Oak. Although it had previously been very wet, the walkers were surprised to find that the footpaths in The



The Pocket Park walkers

Riverside Park, St. Neots, were surprisingly dry. Many thanks to Ron for organising these walks. We had seven for lunch at another popular venue – The Five Bells, Henlow, on 12 April, and eight for our return visit to the Cambridge Botanic Gardens on 12 May, followed by a delicious lunch at Brown's Brasserie in Cambridge. Many thanks to Stephen for organising this again.



Lovely grub!



Cambridge botanic gardens

Our visit to Duxford Museum and air show was a huge disappointment! As it happened, we chose the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration Day of 5 June because it was the preferred air show of those that fitted our calendar. As we know, it turned out to be (possibly) the worst weather of the summer and flying was cancelled. There was one flight taken by John and Lou Mouatt in the simulator but even that was disappointing as, although billed as a flight in a Spitfire (the show was commemorating D-Day) John said it was actually a Messerschmitt. However, the museum displays were

wonderful and John Stamford's knowledge of many of the aircraft helped the four of us to have an enjoyable day.



The simulator flight

Nine days later our group of 15 had a successful outing with lunch at The Wheatsheaf, Perry, where we can always be certain of lovely food and excellent service. Seven of us repeated a previous walk near Grafham Water, led by Ron again, but we found that the route was blocked by a huge tree that had fallen across the bridge over a creek making a detour necessary. Thankfully, Ron is a good map reader and we made it to The Wheatsheaf by the scheduled time.



Perry: our walking group

On 12 July, nine of us met for lunch at The Toby Carvery, in Bedford. We had concerns that it might be rather hot indoors, but we were in fact very comfortable and had plenty of conversation.

The 10 August proved to be a holiday time for several of our group, so we had just six for lunch at The Highwayman in Eaton Socon on a very hot day. The management seemed to have the temperature under control however we were greeted with a long list of items that were not available from their comprehensive menu. Nevertheless, we enjoyed a substantial lunch and jolly conversation.

We have events planned for each month in the remainder of 2022.

Harold Thompson

THE GLAMOROUS SIDE OF BEING AN INTERNATIONAL ESTIMATOR BY JOHN MOUATT

EPISODE 4: HONG KONG (IN BRIEF)

THE PROJECT: CASTLE PEAK PUMPHOUSE, CULVERTS AND OUTFALL

On my very first visit to Hong Kong, I arrived in the morning and went straight to the Kier International offices in Dundas Street. They are conveniently situated between the Mong Kok and Yau Ma Tei MTR stations. I spent the day looking at the project documents and drawings which I was going to price – I think it was one of the Lamma Power Station packages?



The pumphouse construction: the reclaimed site with the CW project superimposed on it

At that time, the Gammon/Kier/Lilley (GKL) JV were currently working on two projects: 1) the construction of the MRT contracts for the line between Tsim Sha Tsui at the southern end of the Kowloon peninsula; 2) the Prince Edward MRT stations, which ran under the Nathan Road in a N/S direction. Whilst I was in the offices, I received an invite to go to a 'milestone'



Installation of piling and cofferdam utilising floating plant

celebratory dinner, which was being held that evening with all the GKL JV. It was to mark a significant civils completion 'programme milestone' on a section of the line.

The dinner was held in one of the many large Chinese restaurants in Kowloon and was a big affair attended by 50-60 JV staff. I was sat next to an elderly Chinese man called Maxi Cheung who was a really interesting character. I am still not sure what his role was in the JV but being a HKG Chinese he was very useful as an interlocuter between the KI 'Gweilos' and the HKG Chinese staff. I learnt a lot that evening about Maxi. He had served with the 'Chindits' in Burma during the war and had a very tough time of it.



A view of the plant working from the temporary decking. The range of cranes used was from 50-80T capacity and at times there were 5-6 cranes on the deck at one time!

It soon became apparent to Maxi that I couldn't use chopsticks at all, so he took upon himself the task of teaching me how to use these wonderful eating instruments properly! He then gave me the ultimate chopsticks test - I had to be proficient in receiving a very slippery 'peanut' (which he passed at outstretched arm's length from his chopstick to mine) without dropping it! Sounds easy? I can tell you that it's a lot harder to do than it sounds! It took me about ten attempts before I managed it successfully and, only then, was I allowed to get on with eating my Chinese meal!



Wirth B6 reverse circulation drilling rig forming piles for pumphouse

I will always be grateful to Maxi for his lesson because it has been really useful in dinners thereafter in far eastern countries. It enabled me to save 'face' plenty of times! I met Maxi several times on subsequent visits to Hong Kong and always enjoyed our catchups.



A full length 2.5m diameter permanent pile casing being installed, each 50-60m long (note: the 3.5m diameter temp casing in the ground)



The pumphouse nearing completion



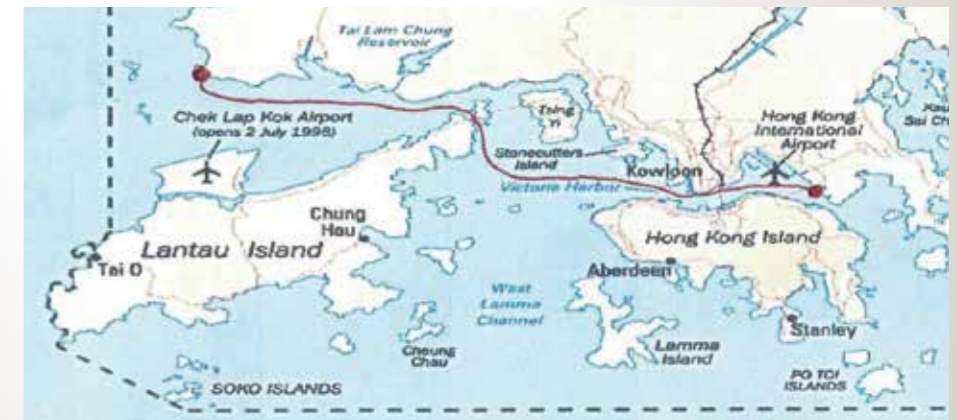
The four precast outfall units being encased in the Hung Hong dry dock



The 'Proteus' heavy lift dry dock barge lowering a single PC Culvert unit onto a barge for transportation to site



One of the large PC outfall culvert units being towed to site



Map of Hong Kong: units towed from the Old Hong to the Shekou area - the red line indicates the route taken



Whampoa shopping centre built in the Hung Hong dry dock, after the KGJV vacated the site

Events programme 2022/2023

Some members may not be aware that we're having problems with our website and are therefore unable to update anything at the moment. Neil Meixner is avidly trying to rectify this so please bear with us. Below are events for the regions.

Bristol/Newport	
EVENT	DATE
Lunch Location: The Old Barn Inn, Llanmartin, Nr. Newport Contact: David Priddis	25/11/2022

Central	
EVENT	DATE
Lunch Location: Queens Arms, near Lambourn	10/2022
Pre-Christmas lunch party Location: Lilleybrook Golf Club, Cheltenham	08/12/2022

Loughton/Witham	
EVENT	DATE
Christmas lunch Location: Little Channels	16/12/2022
Lunch with speaker	23/02/2023

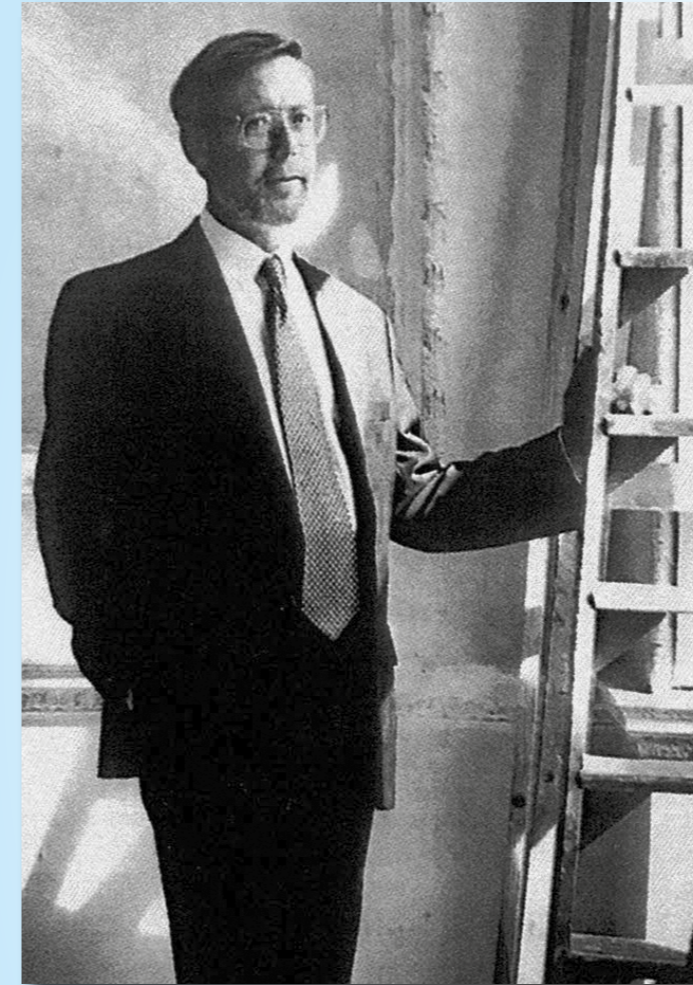
Maidstone	
EVENT	DATE
Christmas lunch Location: Cornwallis Suite, Thyme 2 Dine	20/12/2022

Maple Cross	
EVENT	DATE
Christmas lunch	15/12/2022
Valentine's Day lunch	16/02/2023
St. George's Day lunch	20/04/2023
Windsor horse racing evening	26/06/2023
Autumn lunch	10/2023
Christmas lunch	14/12/2023

Solent	
EVENT	DATE
Solent golf day Contact: Ian Burrell	04/10/2022
Solent New Year late lunch Contact: Gary Mackie	06/10/2022
Gilbert Whites House walk/lunch Location: High Street, Selbourne Contact: John Clayton	06/10/2022
Solent golf day Contact: Ian Burrell	07/10/2022
Solent golf day Contact: Ian Burrell	20/10/2022
Solent golf day Contact: Ian Burrell	02/11/2022
Solent skittles evening Location: Kings Head, Wickham Contact: Peter Wallbank	08/11/2022 (TBC)
Old Winchester Hill walk Location: near Droxford, Hampshire Contact: Ian Burrell	15/11/2022
Solent New Year lunch Hayling Island Golf Club Contact: Gary Mackie for more details	23/01/2023

ENJOY MEMBERS!

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARTYN WRIGHT



Martyn was born on 3 October 1944. After school he attended college obtaining his formal construction qualifications. He then spent a short period with a small building firm before joining Wallis in 1967 as an assistant quantity surveyor. Martyn's career then advanced steadily being appointed an area surveyor in 1978.

In his early days Martyn had been involved in Essex contracts at Rochford & Chelmsford before moving to Bromley, Wallis's head office. He then became involved in Central London projects and was appointed as chief surveyor in 1981.

His career then advanced in 1987 as Director of the London construction division working closely with Dick Side and was involved with the closer integration of the company within Kier who had by then become the umbrella organisation for all of Beazer's construction activities.

Once the management buyout was completed, his company trading as Kier Wallis, started a strong period of growth under Martyn's leadership as managing director. This involved many landmark public projects such as the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Supreme Court and Palace of Westminster. The company also developed a close working relationship with the Royal Household undertaking many projects at Windsor Castle, Clarence House and Buckingham Palace. This work resulted in the company being awarded a prestigious Royal Warrant that stated:

"Into the place and quality of Building Contractors to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II."

Martyn Wright originally worked for G E Wallis & Sons that became part of Kier in 1986 when that company by then had been acquired by Beazer plc. He was one of the directors at the time of the management buyout in 1992 when Kier became Britain's first major contractor to be employee-owned and Martyn worked in total for 37 years with the Group.



Martyn's family life was equally as busy with his first wife Judy, sadly now departed, and his two sons Andrew and David. In later life Martyn married Pam, his new life partner, who supported him so well with his declining health in later years. He enjoyed nothing more than being in the company of his family.

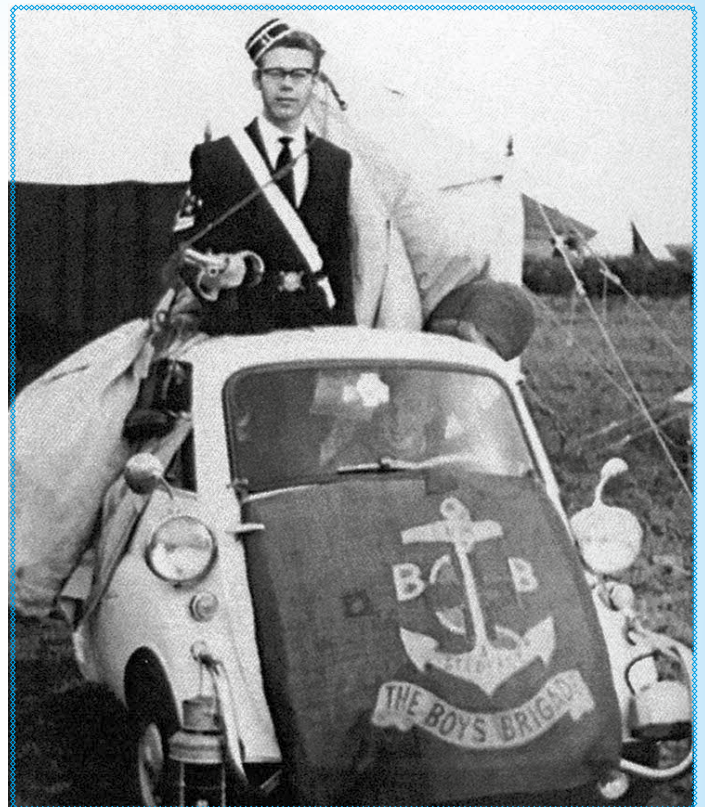


Pam and Martyn on their wedding day

Other than his commitment to his work and career, Martyn was a very accomplished exponent of the Spanish guitar, and his love of music had its roots in

his youth as a member of the Boys Brigade Band. In later years Martyn took up golf in a non-competitive way – it was an opportunity to take regular exercise and spend quality time with family & friends.

Martyn always had a positive attitude, was very unpretentious allowing him to get the best out of people and in turn they felt full trust in him. This was most evident at the time of the fire at Windsor Castle in 1992. Although he was abroad on holiday he kept a clear head and gave confidence to those having to deal with this immediate & highly charged situation in his absence.



Martyn: a member of the Boys Brigade Band

In retirement with Pam, he followed his passion for travel visiting many places. A very memorable trip to New Zealand was the highlight of this period in life plus enjoying and supporting the exploits of his grandchildren.

He sadly passed away on 19 February 2022 after contracting Alzheimer's that affected his later years, but in character he kept a very positive attitude to life even as his health declined.

Martyn was a very modest and generous individual with a very quick sense of humour and all of those who worked with him felt privileged to have known such a special person.

By Richard Bush