

KierLink

The magazine for the Kier Fellowship Trust | Issue 32 | Spring/Summer 2016



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Your **new-look** KierLink



Viv Chesterfield
Editor

Hello everyone!

Welcome to the spring/summer edition of KierLink which has had a facelift to bring it more in line with the current Kier corporate branding. I hope you like it and that you enjoy reading this issue.

Feedback (both within and beyond the Fellowship) suggested it was looking a bit jaded – I know the feeling! But, a bit like us, it’s not just the look that counts, it’s what’s inside. Now, I find it hard to believe that, among our members, there aren’t some of you with a tale to tell, a hobby to herald, a passion to plug, a pastime to praise, a sport to showcase, a craft to crow about... you get the picture? So please, please share with our readers.

Our Fellowship events are so important and I appreciate that there is no better way to meet and catch up with colleagues old and new than over a delicious meal or a round of golf. The thing is, that’s what we do and that’s a given. We expect (and like to see) happy faces tucking into a lovely lunch or golfers brandishing their favourite clubs. But I’d really like to balance the usual suspects with a little more of the unexpected to create more variety.

Short stories and poems would be a wonderful addition to the magazine – your chance to get published! Details of useful websites would be handy too. And recommendations for books, DVDs, shows and so forth would be brilliant! If there’s anyone who’d be interested in becoming a regular contributor for recipes, book, music or film reviews I’d be pleased to hear from you.

Our readership (and membership) is growing and set to grow still further and I’d like to make sure the magazine is widely and gladly received. Please help! Do get in touch if you have any suggestions for future features or have any queries regarding proposed content.

Viv Chesterfield

Email

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“... please, please share with our readers...”

“...interested in becoming a regular contributor...?”

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Chairman's Fellowship matters



Neil Meixner

I am delighted to report that a total of 1,007 attendances were registered in the three-month period to the end of 2015 and that our total membership has reached a new high of 1,295. This is a great tribute to all the work done by Event and Area Organisers.

I was sad to receive a letter from Andy Pallant requesting that he stand down as Area Organiser for the Wisbech Area. We thank him for all his hard work over many years and wish him all the best for the future. Andy's resignation underlines the sterling work done by the Area Organisers on behalf of all of us in the Kier Group Fellowship Trust.

I attended the Wisbech/Waterbeach area Christmas lunch and reacquainted myself with a number of past colleagues. It was great fun. I would very much like to visit as many as possible of the other areas over the next year and hopefully get to know a lot more of you.

The increase in size of the Kier Group will provide the opportunity for greater membership of the Kier Group Fellowship Trust. I am mindful that this will create further challenges and accentuate the need for more Event and maybe even Area Organisers. So as always we are looking for new volunteers to help organise events and potentially become Area Organisers. If you have recently joined the Trust and/or would like to get involved please inform your Area Organiser. Contact details available at:

Web <http://www.kier.co.uk/corporate-responsibility/fellowship-trust/contact-the-fellowship.aspx>

or contact our Administrator Brendan O'Boyle at:

Email brendan.o'boyle.ext@kier.co.uk or Email kier.fellowshiptrust@kier.co.uk

Neil Meixner

COVER PHOTO:
MEMBERS FROM THE SOLENT AREA
AT HAYLING ISLAND'S PAR THREE
GOLF COURSE.



Copy deadline for Autumn/Winter issue:

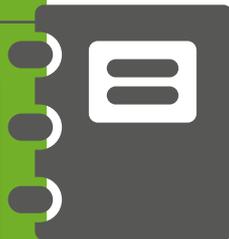
MONDAY 1 AUGUST



Brendan O'Boyle

While the 13 areas of the country presently covered by the Trust have completed yet another very successful year with 27 events in the period October to December alone, the exciting acquisition of both May Gurney and Mouchel by Kier Group may provide the opportunity to extend our area network even further to parts of the country not currently represented by the Trust. During the current year the Trustees and the Area Organisers will be reviewing any possible expansion to our organisation where a need exists to reflect the changes geographically within the company. We hope to build on the success of the last few years and give as many members as possible the chance to get involved and attend future events.

Our continued success this year is in part due to the introduction of more, small committees to assist the Area Organisers and help to not only spread the workload but also



Administrator's report

introduce new ideas for events. This, together with excellent admin and financial support provided by the Kier businesses locally, has helped maintain the high standards and quality of events our organisers are achieving. I would like to thank the Designated Directors around the country who have made this possible.

A number of our new members were not aware that the Kier website contains a section dedicated to the Fellowship Trust under the Corporate Responsibility tab.

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 we hope we have something to interest all our members. Previous editions of our Fellowship magazine KierLink are also available on the website for members to read.

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 each month for loading on the system.

A small number of limited edition KGFT ties are still available to members on request at £5 each.

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.

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



Welcome to the spring edition of Kierlink. I hope you celebrated the start of 2016 in good spirits with family and friends.

For those of us at Kier, the beginning of the year was an ideal time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the next 12 months and beyond.

We have now completed the first year of our five-year journey towards Vision 2020, our strategy for growth. We've made good progress over the last year but it's important that we maintain our momentum in 2016. Kier is now a significantly bigger company than it was a year ago, following the acquisition of Mouchel. Its market share in Highways

England's strategic road network, together with operations in the Middle East and Australia, now positions Kier as a top three player in the highways market.

Outside the highways sector, we have also strengthened our profile elsewhere, most notably within the health, education and, more recently, biotech sectors. All of this equates to an even broader range of services offered by Kier.

As many of our key markets continue to grow, there's no better time to ensure we are operationally efficient and fit for the growth we are pursuing. This focus will enable us to maintain our strong market position and also provide scope to reinvest in areas where we see the best opportunity for high quality growth.

Rest assured that the enduring crusade to grow Kier and to be the best that we can be lives on.

With spring now in full bloom and with the summer months in sight, I do hope you'll enjoy supporting the Fellowship Trust's social events calendar – which I'm pleased to note is another area of growth. This is thanks to the Area Organisers – who I'm sure look forward to greeting members old and new in the months to come.

"My very best wishes to you all."

Haydn Mursell

A warm welcome to the following new members

Name	City/town	Area	Worked for	Years of service
Gary Barnes	Bedford	Tempsford	*See footnote	37.5
Rod Burrows	Ipswich	Waterbeach/Wisbech	Kier MG	12
Gabriel Cagliarini	Liverpool	Liverpool/Manchester	Kier NW	12
David Evans	Chislehurst, Kent	Maidstone	Kier SE (Wallis)	39
John Fenton	Witcombe, Glos	Cheltenham	Kier Moss	31
Paul Flight	Morton, Lincs	Waterbeach/Wisbech	Kier Environmental	25
Peter France	Oldham	Liverpool/Manchester	Kier Northern	35
Sara Green	St Neots	Tempsford	Kier Limited	12
Helen Higham	St Neots	Tempsford	Kier Construction	29
Barbara Hollinworth	Chippenham, Wilts	Bristol & Newport	Kier London	14
Kit Hubback	Peterborough	Tempsford	Kier Professional Services	4
Christopher Keeble	Ipswich	Loughton & Witham	Street Lighting Services	1
Frank Maybin	Northampton	Tempsford	Brand/Int'l/Lon/Group	29
Karen McWalter	Solihull	Cheltenham	Kier Moss	10
Rodney Murphy	Kettering, Northants	Tempsford	Kier Infrastructure	17
Adrian Neech	Bristol	Bristol & Newport	Kier Western & Wales	5
Diane Potter	Plymouth	Devon & Cornwall	Kier Western	48
Margaret Pye	S Milford nr Leeds	Boston Spa	Kier MG	8
Paul Shergold	Eastleigh	Solent	Construction Southern	15
Greg Tagney	Milnthorpe, Cumbria	Liverpool/Manchester	Kier Nat/Int'l/Regional	33
Steven Turnage	Hornchurch, Essex	Loughton & Witham	Kier London	32
Paul Voden	Croydon	Tempsford	Kier Living	29
Derek Ward	Southampton	Solent	Construction Southern	11.5
Christopher Wootton	Blackwood, Gwent	Bristol & Newport	Kier Western	14

*Kier London, Eastern, Project Investment, Loughton, Witham, Wisbech, Tempsford. (There's always one!)

Around the regions

Boston Spa

A good crowd of 32 attended our Christmas lunch at the popular Milford Lodge Hotel on Sunday 9 December. This event is really popular and we now use the private dining room to accommodate everyone. Apart from delicious festive food and drink, a Christmas quiz was enjoyed followed by the usual raffle. As this kind of get-together has proved the most popular amongst our members, more lunches are planned for March and September. We've made sure we're back at the Milford Lodge Hotel this year and have already booked 4 December for our Christmas lunch in the private dining room.

Katherine Leadley

Bristol and Newport

Jack Laughton announced in the summer that he was stepping down as Area Organiser. Our thanks go to Jack for his hard work, but we will not be losing him completely as he is



remaining on our committee. David Priddis, who has been secretary, is taking on the role. David was pleased to be able to attend the Area Organiser's meeting in Tempsford in October and to meet everyone there.

Our golf match in late September was held jointly with the Cheltenham area where the 'Wallis Trophy' was again keenly contested. The very poor weather in the morning gave way to a lovely afternoon. Bristol and Newport, under their captain, Jack Laughton, were delighted to regain the cup this year. Denis Lawler had the best overall score; John Blagg received a prize for nearest the pin and runners up were Roger Johnson and Robin Butler. Our thanks go to Jack for the arrangements at Stinchcombe Golf Club.

For our autumn meal we visited the Roman Legion Town of Caerleon, South Wales on 22 October 2015. The Bell at Caerleon was a new venue for us and we were made to feel welcome at this ancient coaching inn. The venue proved excellent with a warm log fire and good food. This was a very successful and enjoyable event

appreciated by the 22 members, some of whom visited the extensive Legion site afterwards, which includes a museum and amphitheatre.

We were very sad shortly after our autumn lunch to lose Pete Turner. Peter and his wife Margaret were regular attendees at our events and had been members of the earlier KFT organisation locally. Some members were able to be present in Bristol to pay our last respects and to support the family. We will miss Pete and hope that in due course Margaret may feel able to join us in some future events.

Our next event will be a meal in March at Tortworth Court. We hope to be able to welcome our Kier Nominated Director, Mr. David Snell, from Bristol Office to this event, together with some 25-year-service employees.

Our programme of events for the summer will include a boat trip on the River Severn to Worcester and a visit to the Royal Mint's new visitor centre, which is due to open shortly in Llantrisant, South Wales.

David Priddis



Cheltenham



Early in December Moss Fellowship began their Christmas celebrations with a magnificent lunch at The Cheltenham Park Hotel where 60 members met and enjoyed crackers, balloons and a hearty turkey lunch.



On 11 January 2016 to start the New Year, 24 members met at The Fleet Inn, Twyning, near Tewkesbury, for a pub lunch and a chat about activities for 2016. There was great enthusiasm for all sorts of events and the Planning



Committee is now working hard to put together a varied programme to include as many of the suggestions as possible.

We are now looking forward to getting together on many different occasions through the year.

Sheila Heath

Devon and Cornwall

On 3 December 2015 our Christmas Lunch was well attended with 31 of us enjoying excellent Christmas fayre at The New Continental Hotel in Plymouth.

Our numbers included some guests of the members which made for an extremely lively event with everyone getting into the Christmas spirit.

Our next event will again be a lunch during April which will be for members only, further details of which will be communicated to the members soon. Hopefully the weather will have

improved by then and a good number of us will be able to meet up as usual.

It is still very apparent that the membership wish to continue our get-togethers as lunches and our usual September lunch will also be arranged as soon as the members have been 'polled' to see if they want a change of venue.

All in all a very happy band of KFT members meet on about three to four occasions throughout the year and enjoy the good company of ex-colleagues.

Shirley Riddle



Loughton and Witham

River Lee and Royal Gunpowder Mills



In August our lunch on the River Lee turned out to be a static one moored at the riverside as the engine of our boat had broken down. Not deterred, we nonetheless enjoyed our lunch and moved on to visit the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey. The site had been involved for 300 years in the manufacture and testing of explosives and the many exhibits and history of the site made an interesting and enjoyable afternoon.



National golf day

We were delighted to see our member, Ted Staples and veteran at 84 years old, win the main prize in September's golf day which was held at Bedford and County Golf Club. Another enjoyable day's golf in good company.

All our Waterloos

To mark the 200th anniversary of the battle of Waterloo our tour looked back over 1,000 years of the ups and downs of our relationship with our French neighbours from the Norman Conquest to the present day. In the morning our coach took us to many of the famous landmarks connected to our French cousins – all described in a very amusing way by our guide. In the afternoon we visited Apsley House, the home of the Duke of Wellington and victor over Napoleon, which has a wealth of Napoleonic souvenirs and an impressive art collection.

Miss Saigon

We travelled by coach to London's Prince Edward theatre in November and thoroughly enjoyed a great musical. It is set in the last days of the Vietnam War and tells the story of a local girl and her romance with an American GI and the consequences when the GI returns years later with his American wife. A moving story with excellent music.

Christmas lunch

This year's lunch was held at Little Channels Golf Club near Chelmsford and 69 members enjoyed a choice of meal in a very festively decorated

restaurant. We all had time to mix and find old friends over a drink or two and after our meal the raffle provided several prizes including a 16lb turkey.

Bearskins and Blighty



Our October trip into London was unfortunately delayed by heavy traffic and so we started with our 'Win the War' pie pub lunch which meant we missed our morning tour of the route of the Zeppelin bombing raids and their effects on London. The afternoon was spent at the Imperial War Museum which had a fascinating new First World War galleries exhibition and we even had time to visit other parts of the museum which had hundreds of Second World War and more recent exhibits on display.

John Simson and Geoff Brown



Maidstone

20 August 2015: Hog roast, Hadlow Manor Hotel



Forty-two guests attended our hog roast this year. We were a little unsure of the weather so we ate indoors but it gradually brightened during the day and we were able to venture outside.

Our group took up the challenge to dress as cowboys and cowgirls. Dave and Chris Jillians won this event and received a bottle of champagne. Congratulations to you both.

28 October 2015: Sunny Afternoon, Harold Pinter Theatre

Thirty-seven guests came along to see 'Sunny Afternoon' which depicted the journey of fame for the Kinks. The band's lead guitarist Dave Davies experimented and created a distorted power chord sound on the group's third single, 'You Really Got Me'. The song, written by Dave's older brother Ray, went to No 1 in the UK charts. Woven into the musical are the themes of the Davies brothers' sibling rivalry, Ray's doomed marriage and their subsequent banning from the United States.

22 November 2015: Classical spectacular, Royal Albert Hall

Fifty-three guests enjoyed the Spectacular this year. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra played to the delight of the audience, ending with Nessun Dorma, Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia, Fanfare of Trumpeters and Band. During our coach trip Dot and Warwick Stevens held a quiz in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and raised £42.30.

16 December 2015: Hadlow Manor Hotel

Eighty-one guests enjoyed their lunch and to celebrate this special time of year, we held a raffle in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, which is Kier's chosen charity for this year. Many responded to the request for raffle prizes and guests

were also asked if they would wear something 'Christmassy'. Most guests 'rallied to the call' and our Betty Brooks was chosen as the winner for the best dressed and was presented with a bottle of champagne. We held an auction for our litre bottle of whisky and for our magnum of champagne. This year, along with our quiz (held on coach trip to Royal Albert Hall) our raffle, and auction plus donations, we were able to raise the sum of £407.80 to go to Macmillan Cancer Support.



"A BIG THANK YOU and WELL DONE to everyone who took part."

Anne Ransley



Maple Cross



St Bernard's Hospital site tour

On Thursday 10 September, six members from the Maple Cross Area were whisked away to one of Kier Construction Southern's current construction projects. Project Manager Chris Woods welcomed the team and after a short health & safety briefing we were given a tour of the Medium Secure Mental Health Facility that is currently being built adjacent to Ealing Hospital in West London. The members were very impressed with the quality of workmanship and the H&S regime in place on the project. Comments were also voiced about the positive use of modern technology to progress the works including all members of staff having iPads to use.

Late summer luncheon

On Thursday 24 September, 30 members attended a delightful luncheon at Shendish Manor Hotel and Golf Club near Hemel Hempstead. This is the third time that the area members

have been to Shendish Manor and as on previous occasions everyone commented on the good facilities and culinary delights. I'm sure this will not be the last time we go there!



Christmas luncheon

On Thursday 17 December we tried a new venue for our Christmas lunch. Forty-nine members including a number of new members arrived at the large red brick built Tudor Mansion known as



Latimer House in the Buckinghamshire countryside. Latimer Place as it is now called is run as a conference facility by De Vere Venues. The chef did us all proud and great Christmas fare was served up with sufficient alcohol for those permitted to partake (non-drivers) along with party hats, crackers and streamers in our own room. It was good to see a fantastic turnout along with new members.

Long Service Awards luncheon

On Friday 16 October, 49 members and a few current Kier employees (who had completed 25 years' service) had an excellent lunch when many stories of 'how it was' and 'how it should be' were discussed at length. Peter Dixon was commended on achieving his 25 years and it was good to see the support from Jonathan Payne (new MD for Kier Construction Southern) and Martin Reilly (Maple Cross local director).



Rushden

Since the last edition of KierLink the Rushden group, which currently has 180 members, has been actively involved in many experiences.

The annual Fellowship golf day at the Bedford County Golf Club on 3 September was, rather disappointingly, not well attended by the Rushden area with only one member and two guests attending.

Travis Perkins sponsored the European Senior Masters Golf Tournament at Woburn Golf Club on 4-5 September and due to this, we were able to distribute 80 free tickets throughout the nationwide group of Fellowship members.

The first week of October saw 36 members travel to Sicily (see separate report) and the Mystery Trip on 18 October saw 41 members travel through the beautiful New Forest, ending up in Bournemouth on a beautiful sunny day. What a great choice of venue!

Members were able to make a start on their Christmas shopping on 21 November with a trip to the Westfield Centre in Stratford, East London. All 37 members spent plenty of money!

On 26 November, the annual Christmas lunch at John White Golf Club was supported by a good crowd of 69 members and friends,

including six past directors. Steve Dicks reminisced over his 40 years with the Group. It was an excellent start to the Christmas festivities.

On 27-29 November a small group of ten members attended Potters Leisure Resort in Hopton-on-Sea for a festive weekender to sample the delights on offer. The Christmas celebrations continued and on 6 December, 48 members attended The Guards Chapel in Birdcage Walk, London for a Carol Service. Always a firm favourite, the event began with an enjoyable meal before walking to the chapel for the evening carol service which was led by the band of the Welsh Guards.

A group of 39 travelled to Bruges on 30 December for a four-day three-night trip to see in and celebrate the New Year. It was quite a trip (see separate report).

Lined up for 2016

Sat 27 Feb

Ferret race night

Sat 9 Apr

Mountbatten Festival of Music at Royal Albert Hall

Fri 6 May – Mon 9 May

Four days, three nights in Reims

Tue 31 May

Royal Hospital Chelsea – Founders Day Parade

Sun 26 June

Tempsford Hall garden party

Mon 10 Oct – Sat 16 Oct

Six days, five nights in Dubrovnik and Cavtat fully inclusive BA flights

Fri 30 Dec – Mon 2 Jan 2017

Four days, three nights in Papendrecht, Holland

"Finally, congratulations to John and Flo Chambers who celebrated their Golden Wedding in September 2015."

Brian Hill



Sensational Sicily

On 1 October, 36 of our members went on a six-day trip to Cefalu in Sicily. Our hotel was situated in a lovely location right on the seafront so we only had to cross the road to get to the long sandy beach. The sea was nice and warm so lots of us went for a swim.

The charming town of Cefalu was just a 15 minute stroll along the promenade and soaring above it was the great rock face of la Rocca, a very impressive sight.

On the Saturday we had a full day's excursion to Erice and Segesta. At Segesta we saw the 5th Century BC Doric temple which was built by the Greeks. Our guide then took us by shuttle bus to the top of the plateau where there was a well preserved amphitheatre and amazing views across the valley below. When we got to the mediaeval town of Erice we had an enjoyable lunch break before climbing up the steep streets to the castle area.

Five musicians played at our Sicilian evening and there was singing and dancing. The weather was fabulous and the ice cream delicious! We all had a great time!

Sandy Collier



Bruges trip

On Wednesday 30 December a coachload of some 39 intrepid travellers and their driver set off from Rushden – destination Bruges – for a New Year break. Upon reaching Dover the sea appeared to be somewhat choppy, much to the dismay of the majority. The crossing, which could not be described as smooth at the Dover end, was thankfully uneventful and upon landing we headed for Belgium arriving in Bruges on schedule.

The Velotel, situated on the outskirts of the city, was modern, comfortable and graced by friendly and accommodating staff.

New Year's Eve day was spent getting reacquainted with or being introduced

to the beautiful mediaeval city of Bruges. Other than one short, sharp shower, the weather was good to us while we explored the city's charms including good food, beer and chocolate – not to mention the chips!



In the evening, we assembled in our finery (some of us almost unrecognisable) for the obligatory bubbles, a long, enjoyable meal – comprising some fine food and wines – and even some decent fireworks (despite the national ban) at midnight. The Fellowship Trust group celebrated the turn of the year twice – to take into account both local and UK time – by dancing to the excellent tunes of DJ Eric. The group's adopted anthem was enjoyed on more than one occasion when local guests witnessed us, en masse, dancing and singing with gusto!

A quieter, more subdued mood was in evidence at breakfast the next morning. The group was then treated to a cure: a trip to the Belgian coast – with a wander through the town of Knokke, down to the bright, sunny beach. After a welcome hot chocolate, we boarded the coastal Tramway and enjoyed a restful journey along the meandering coastline to Ostend. After a walk and/or lunch in the port of Ostend, the coach took us back to the hotel for afternoon tea, a drink or a welcome nap.

New Year's Day evening was the now traditional 'fancy dress party' and this year, the theme was the colour yellow. The revived revellers embraced the theme with gusto.

There were nine Hi-de-hi yellowcoats, some baring legs and shaking out their locks like never before, a stunning Goldilocks and 'her' three bears, the raunchy Mask character and his Dragon buddies; four beautiful golden ballerinas; ten fishermen friends (to include one ancient mariner complete with nets, seagulls and fish). The motley crew were joined by an impressive raft of ducks – with Big Bird in tow! The duck costumes were amazing and had been fashioned by Terry Holland who had completed them during his recent convalescence but sadly he and his wife June weren't able to join us on this trip. The judges – members of hotel staff – surprisingly did not choose one of the themed groups but judged two representative individuals – Goldilocks and the Ancient Mariner. After dinner, another successful evening of dancing to DJ Eric concluded a little earlier than the previous one.

After breakfast the next morning, the group boarded the bus bound for Calais. En route to the ferry we were treated to an interesting and sobering visit to the Great War graves at Tyne Cot Cemetery, followed by a few hours in Ypres – where we passed through the impressive Menin Gate. These were unexpected, bonus excursions on what was a highly enjoyable four-day trip. Our driver made good time and was unable to secure us an earlier crossing so we were arrived back in Rushden by 10.00pm – a little weary but very contented.



Annie Dicks

Solent

Solent Christmas meal

On 8 December, 26 members and partners of the Kier Solent Fellowship gathered for a Christmas meal at the Hurdles Bar and Restaurant.



The Hurdles, situated on the edge of the beautiful Meon Valley, is a remodelled Victorian pub and was impressively decorated for the festive season.

The wine and conversation flowed as old friends caught up and exchanged stories since the last gathering and the three course meal was heartily consumed!

The meal was topped off with a raffle draw with the prize (a bottle of fine champagne) going to Graham Baker. A wonderful way to end a year of enjoyable and varied Fellowship gatherings! And if any readers find themselves in the Meon Valley area of Hampshire then the Hurdles comes highly recommended for a lunch pit stop!

Gary Mackie

Long service lunch

We were invited by the Southampton office to the annual long service lunch on 30 October held at the Lyssess Hotel in Fareham. Nineteen Fellowship members attended and we were joined by eight employees of the paid persuasion.

Pre-lunch drinks were followed by an excellent quality lunch which we have come to expect from this repeat venue. As usual we reminisced on our times past and reflected on our experiences when we were involved in properly designed and constructed projects, albeit with less emphasis on health and safety issues. For many of us computers were, and maybe still are, a mystery as our formative years were with pencil and paper with slide rules used by the really clever ones!

Trevor White, the local director, gave us an overview of where Kier are and where they would be going in the next few years. The structure and changes in the business seem to be ongoing but nevertheless he was upbeat about the future growth and financial success of Kier within their vision for 2020.

Relaxed discussions lasted into the late afternoon and people slowly drifted away into the wintry gloom with happy memories of their time with Kier.

Peter Wallbank



First footing

In a futile attempt to shake off the Christmas excesses 14 members and three dogs strode out from the pub at Owlesbury, near Winchester, on 12 January with the winter sun warming our backs. As the 'horsey' people would say, the going was soft but the chalk downs of Twyford soon revealed their splendour with magnificent views over rich Hampshire countryside.



Before



After

Eventually the Norman church tower was spotted and after 7.4 miles the party arrived at The Ship Inn looking a little knackered! However, despite glass-to-mouth resuscitation only five members managed the afternoon's walk which completed another circular route but this time to the west of the village; a total of 12 glorious miles on a sunny January day. Who needs Tenerife!

If anyone needs help planning walks may I suggest the following which uses OS maps:

Web

<http://maps.the-hug.net>

Graham Willoughby

19 November 2015: coastal walk

Seven members set off in light rain to walk the eight miles around Thorney Island which is situated in the middle of the Chichester Harbour and part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The footpath, around the perimeter of an old RAF Station which is now occupied by the Army, took us past the sand dunes of the RSPB reserve at the southern tip of the Island and then on to West Thorney churchyard to observe the war graves in the cemetery.



A visit to The Sussex Brewery pub enabled us to dry out and reflect on a damp but not too muddy walk.

Roger Osgood

Second shot at the Par 3!

A Par 3 golf gathering for the Solent region was held on Hayling Island. The short 9-hole course is located next to the sea and nearby there is a watering hole called 'Inn on the Beach' which we all went to afterwards for a bite to eat and a drink. The course requires each hole to be completed in three strokes hence the par three name for the course.

The function had originally been arranged earlier in the year but unfortunately the weather turned atrocious and the winds became gale force! Some of us however did meet at the restaurant to watch the seas pound the beach! Terry Delany and Bob Robinson from the Maple Cross area were also there having a short holiday break nearby so it wasn't time wasted.

Luckily, the sun shone this time and everyone enjoyed it – including the non-golfers! Richard Filer's wife Jennifer also attended who didn't take part but walked the dog and saved a table for us!

It wasn't a big turnout but as it's only the second year we've run this function I'm hopeful attendance will grow as it is such a splendid location.

Graham Baker



L-R: Colin Foskett, Linda Anderson, Phil Knechtel, Richard Filer (the winner) and Roger Osgood.



L-R: Colin Foskett, Linda Anderson, Phil Knechtel, Roger Osgood and Graham Baker.

Tempsford



The lunch in August at The Duncombe Arms, Waresley turned out well – our group of twelve had the dining room to ourselves and was treated to an excellent meal. We understand that the previous owners (at the time we had planned the visit) moved to take over the Wheatsheaf in Perry, so we must include them in our next plan. The return visit to the Orchard Harvester in

Bedford on 10 September was attended by 14 and we were again made to feel most welcome. On 8 October we had twelve at The Green Man Stanford, Bedfordshire for another excellent lunch. The Eaton Oak in Eaton Ford was our lunch venue on 10 November for a larger group of 20 and our Christmas lunch at the Tavistock Pub & Carvery in Bedford on 15 December saw a record



attendance of 33 – a lovely meal and friendly welcome, in sometimes noisy surroundings, set us up nicely for the festive season.

Further lunches are planned for February, March and April, by when we expect to have a full list of events planned for the following twelve months.

Harold Thompson



Waterbeach and Wisbech

We held our annual Christmas luncheon at the Crown Lodge Hotel, Outwell on 7 December with a pleasing crowd of 47 attending. It was good to see old and new faces – and we were particularly glad to note that one of our new members was previously a May Gurney employee. Hopefully word will spread and we will be welcoming more former MG employees as time goes on.

We are currently in the process of planning some events for spring and beyond and if anyone has any good suggestions for events in the area, please do get in touch.

Andrew Pallant has now stepped down as Area Organiser and on behalf of all who know him, we'd like to offer our sincere thanks for his contribution to the Trust and wish him and his wife, Joan, all the very best.

Sonia Webb



Obituaries

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

Stephen Booth	24/05/15
Thomas Buck	01/08/15
Patricia Bull	27/04/15
Irene Cable	11/09/15
Thomas Carruthers	24/10/15
John Coulter	21/06/15
Sherbrooke Crooks	31/08/15
David Cussans	03/02/16
Doris Davies	21/12/15
Ruth Faux	01/07/15
Raymond Finney	26/07/15
Colin Fry	26/11/15
Leonard Gayler	07/08/15
George Gesia	20/11/15
John Gray	24/10/15
Joseph Greaney	26/11/15
Richard Hamlin	23/11/15
Doreen Harris	22/08/15
Lilly Hoare	20/11/15
Ernest Hubball	17/10/15
Margaret Janney	06/08/15
Terence Keely	19/07/15
Jean Kelly	09/04/15
Peter Kingham	01/01/16
Denis Leech	08/08/15
James Mace	02/01/16
Brian Martyr	26/10/15

David McAllister	01/09/15
Douglas McCleod	26/09/15
Cecily Miller	03/11/15
Gerald Montgomery	08/06/15
Doreen Morgan	26/09/15
Alan Mulford	16/12/15
Archibald Paton	14/04/15
Mollie Pond	01/06/15
John Pritchard	15/12/15
William Rowe	13/10/15
Robert Semmence	14/09/15
Amy Spink	18/12/15
Robert Spink	14/07/15
William Spinks	16/05/15
Tamara Strodachs	05/06/15
Leslie Tapp	15/01/16
Raymond Tite	12/09/15
Peter Turner	03/11/15
Ronald Underwood	15/11/15
Donald Viant	28/12/15
Peter Wales	16/01/16
Joseph Warden	04/09/15
Winston (Taffy) Watts	17/08/15
Peter Wilkinson	26/04/15
Samuel Wilson	21/08/15
Dorothy Woolmore	21/09/15

National Golf Day 3 September



Much to his own amazement, 84 year old Ted Staples emerged as the overall winner of the Kier Group Fellowship National Golf day played at the Bedford and County Golf Club. Commenting on his success Ted said:

"I was teaching my granddaughter to play golf at the weekend and some of what I said must have stuck. Just wait until I show my granddaughter the cup!"



After a few fairly wet few days previously, the players were pleased to play in dry although cloudy and overcast conditions.

Duncan Mort once again acted as starter, photographer and refreshment provider. At the 11th hole Duncan's deep voice greeted players and provided a welcome refreshment stop and words of encouragement coupled with a joke or two.



It was good to see Dick Side, the previous Fellowship chairman, play and also Neil Meixner the new Fellowship chairman who after dinner presented the prizes to the worthy winners.

John Stamford

Kier and Macmillan – a healthy partnership

The health aspects of health and safety within the construction industry haven't always been given the attention they deserve. Remember the iconic image of the US construction workers lunching on a steel girder 256 metres above NYC without so much as a harness between them? Few would fail to fear for their safety – yet nobody back then would have given a second thought to the fags they were lighting up! How times change.

The construction industry's attitude to health and safety has altered dramatically these past decades with a greater emphasis on health than ever before. At Kier, any opportunity to promote better health with colleagues past and present is welcomed, and various initiatives to promote health awareness are always in place at Kier's many sites and offices. At the moment, a new health champion's programme is being rolled out across the Group, and employees at head office in Tempsford can currently undertake a health MOT on a specialist piece of equipment. Opportunities to give Kier people access to healthcare advice and support are always welcome and various healthcare organisations, including Macmillan Cancer Support, provide this.

Kier is keen to ensure that healthcare advice from Macmillan is extended beyond Kier employees into the Fellowship Trust. Whether you, or someone you know, has been affected by cancer or not, there's a wealth of really helpful information on the Macmillan website.

You may choose to become involved in Macmillan by taking action through fundraising and volunteering (some people within the Kier Group Fellowship Trust already do this) and of course there is the means to get that all-important support when it's needed through the many services on offer. Macmillan says:

“When you have cancer, you don't just worry about what will happen to your body, you worry about what will happen to your life. At Macmillan, we know how a cancer diagnosis can affect everything and we're here to make sure you don't face cancer alone.”

FIVE WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Nearly half of us will get cancer in our lifetime, so we need more support now than ever before. So run, bake, donate, volunteer or speak up and help make sure no one faces cancer alone.

Go on, do something great today.

SHARE

Talk about your cancer experience to inspire others going through something similar.

SIGN UP

Run, bake, swim, dance – put the fun into fundraising and find your perfect event.

SHOUT

Make your voice heard by campaigning for a better deal for people affected by cancer.

VOLUNTEER

From shopping to a chat – lend a hand to someone with cancer in your community.

DONATE

Make a one-off or regular donation to help people facing cancer. To give £5 today, text **MAC12** to **70550***

Want to find out more?

Call us on **0300 1000 200** or visit
macmillan.org.uk/getinvolved



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*Text cost £5 plus your network charge. We receive 95p of every £1 donated in this way. Obtain bill payer's permission first. Text 5DP to 70550 for more information. © Macmillan Cancer Support, 2015. Registered charity in England and Wales (263077), Scotland (SC039807) and the Isle of Man (404). MAC12/15_GER015

FIVE WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT WAYS TO GET SUPPORT

At Macmillan, we know how a cancer diagnosis can affect everything. So when you have questions or need someone to turn to, we're here.

We'll give you the support, energy and inspiration you need to take back control, so you can start to feel like yourself again. Because no one should face cancer alone.



Information you can trust

Our free booklets are written by experts and are available online, in centres or delivered to your door.



Answers online or over the phone

Speak to our team on the support line, or join our Online Community to chat to other people affected by cancer.



Face-to-face support from specialists

Pop into a Macmillan information and support centre near you for free, confidential advice.



Help with money worries

Our benefits advisers and financial guides are here to help you take control of your finances.



Support with everyday things

From advice on work to hospital lifts – we can support you with more practical things too.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

Call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00** (Monday to Friday, 9am–8pm) or visit macmillan.org.uk



Successful corporate partnership: Kier Group chief executive Haydn Mursell and Macmillan director of regional fundraising Claire Singlehurst pictured signing the charity partnership agreement.

“From help with money worries to someone who’ll listen if you just want to talk, we’ll be there. We’ll help you make the choices you need to take back control, so you can start to feel like yourself again.”

For more information on ways to give support: 0300 1000 200 or go to:

Web macmillan.org.uk/getinvolved

For more information on ways to get support: 0808 808 00 00 (calls are free) or go to:

Web macmillan.org.uk

You may already be aware that Kier began a two-year corporate partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support in June 2014, being a charity close to the hearts of many Kier employees. The partnership has proved a resounding success having so far raised an impressive £320,000! Kier’s original target to fund the equivalent of 4,000 nursing hours was exceeded beyond all expectation. Thanks to Kier employees, funding for an amazing 7,000 nursing hours had been raised by the end of year one! This performance did not go unnoticed as Kier and The Kier Foundation were named the 2015 Best Corporate Partner by the Institute of Fundraising East Anglia Region recognising that the partnership is both mutually beneficial and innovative.

Meet our own gardening correspondent – Warwick Stevens



Warwick Stevens

Warwick comes with an excellent gardening pedigree. He used to be on Radio 2's Allotment Watch on Sunday mornings with Andy Garland for several years during the 1990s. He's also appeared on Eastenders.

Warwick reflects on his time with the Group: "My Kier career goes back to 1991 with Beazer working at Charlton Football Club with Graham Shennan. Following the Kier buyout in 1992, a new company was established as Kier Southern based at Maple Cross. I was sent to various sites under Graham: Ford's, various schools, Heathrow T4, City Airport, many Tescos and a major project to build warehouses in Borehamwood with Trevor Ayling. Eastenders used this site for one of their episodes and a number of us appeared as extras. It was quite funny as, when I was boarding a fork lift truck, my helmet fell off and a big shout of 'CUT' was heard so it had to be re-run!

I can safely say I did my 'time' with Kier having spent about three years working at HMP Wandsworth and a year in Broadmoor. I had a year with Geoff Taylor at Gatwick on the upper floor of the train station and ticket area. I could go on, but the memory seems to be fading.

I was moved to Wallis, Maidstone, by Dick Side so that I had shorter journeys – my first job was the Village Hotel, Maidstone for a year, followed by four months at Butlin's in Bognor Regis (so much for a job nearer home!). Then a year building the Morrison's at Strood – with Sid. Unfortunately after Morrison's I was on sick leave for a year and was retired due to ill health. I have been retired for nearly ten years."

What to do on the allotment or in the garden now...

Warwick says: "Most seeds can be planted out in the ground or in trays i.e. broad beans, carrots, parsnips, swede, spring onions, leeks, onion-sets, shallots. Plant seeds that are susceptible to frost e.g. onions and marigolds – in trays

and place on the window sill. Plant out gladiolas, lilies, asters, cosmo and zinnias. March and April – plant potatoes, runner beans, tomatoes, marrow, cucumber, pumpkins and squashes. Cut the grass after raking to remove worm casts.

More next time. If you have a garden or allotment-related problem, my address is:

Email warwickstevens1942@gmail.com

Warwick Stevens



Pick of the crop: Warwick is pictured receiving an award for most points in the best fruit class at Borden Horticultural Society, Sittingbourne (of which he is President).

The Trust's got **Talent!**



This time we focus on photography (pardon the pun) and the man behind these amazing shots is Chris Shurlock. Chris, a member of the Tempsford area, was an engineer in Kier Construction's design office at Tempsford Hall. He retired in 2007 after 38 years with the Group.

Do you have a creative talent? If so, we'd love to feature any images you may have in forthcoming issues of KierLink. Flower arrangements, baking, pottery, painting, photography, carpentry, modelling... whatever your passion, please share! When submitting photos, please provide some information about yourself too.

