

# KierLink

The Magazine of Kier Group Fellowship Trust

## FELLOWSHIP MATTERS

Reports from Trust Chairman Dick Side & Group Chief Executive Paul Sheffield

## FEATURE

The Fellowship Trust is 15 years old!

## REGIONAL REPORTS

What has everyone been up to?

Plus much more!



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## Features for the next edition of KierLink

Please send all features to Geoff Brown or John Simson by no later than

**29 Jul 2013**

Many thanks!

## Welcome!



Welcome to the 26th edition of KierLink magazine. We are pleased to bring you this spring edition and very thankful to everyone who has made contributions - without your interest and support this magazine cannot exist.

As much feedback as possible is always welcomed and can be directed to your respective area organisers. All feedback will be taken into consideration when designing the next edition of the KierLink.

Kind regards  
Marel Strydom  
(KierLink Designer)

## Editors' notes



By the time you read this British Summer Time will be with us and the long dark days of winter will be behind us - let's hope this summer will be better than last year's record rainfall.

Our crossword competition brought a record response from our readers and our winner, who will receive a cheque for £50, was drawn out of the hat and is Mrs S Rainsley from Romsey. Congratulations! We look forward to an even bigger number of entries this time!

Once again we have two excellent feature articles in this issue. One traces the history of the Fellowship which is 15 years old this year and the other the emotional trip taken by one of our members' wives who found that after 55 years she had a sister!

We are now looking for contributions for the next issue of KierLink. We are sure that amongst our members there must be some interesting stories about you or your colleagues and we would like you to share them with us.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this issue of KierLink and we hope to see many of you at the Tempsford Garden Party on Sunday 30th June.

*John Simson & Geoff Brown*

John Simson:  
johnsimson@live.co.uk

Geoff Brown:  
geoffbrown13@sky.com

## Administrator's report



When I became involved in the Kier Fellowship Trust almost twelve years ago I never imagined how successful it would become with membership doubling to 1,240 during this time, and approaching one hundred events being held annually across our thirteen areas. At some of these events money has been raised for local charities and the children's charity Barnardo's. May I offer my personal thanks to the area organisers and the enthusiastic admin 'helpers' at each local Kier office who are a key part of this success story.

From a financial point of view it is pleasing to report that we are close to maintaining the original sum placed in the Trust fifteen years ago. Nearly 80% of our funds are invested on the stock exchange in investment trusts & unit trusts with the remainder on short term cash deposits. We are fortunate that even in these difficult times the market valuation of our shares remains healthy with the opportunity to make small gains.

During the last year nearly 350 members have joined the KierPlus Benefits Scheme since it was made available to Trust members and they can now enjoy shopping with genuine savings, earn cashback and get discounts from a range of stores. If you have not yet joined and would like to please provide your area organiser with your full name, date of birth and National Insurance Number. New applicants are uploaded to the KierPlus provider on 15th of each month and become live on the system within two weeks.

For those of you with access to online facilities may I also draw your attention to the Kier website address [www.kier.co.uk/about/fellowship.asp](http://www.kier.co.uk/about/fellowship.asp) which takes you direct to the Fellowship section of the website. Here you will be able to view forthcoming events, read previous KierLinks, check area organisers' details and review other useful links. The website also contains an application page for new members, so if you have a friend who previously worked for Kier, but is not yet a Trust member please encourage them to join. For those without access to computers membership forms can be obtained from your local area organiser.

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

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

Brendan O'Boyle  
Kier Group Fellowship Trust  
7 Chestnut Drive  
Harrow Weald  
Middlesex  
HA3 7DL

E-mail: [brendan.o'boyleext@kier.co.uk](mailto:brendan.o'boyleext@kier.co.uk)

*Brendan O'Boyle*

## Chairman's Fellowship matters

I hope that most of you have been able to attend at least one Fellowship Trust function over the last few months.

What with the emotional roller coasters provided by the Queen's Jubilee, the Olympics, the Paralympics, the Ryder Cup and other major sporting triumphs it is a wonder that our area organisers have been able to organise any events.

Happily the evidence is that the number of lunches, golf days, theatre trips, coach trips to places of interest and trips abroad continue unabated and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved for providing this excellent array of Trust events.

As always the number and quality of events would not be possible without the help and support given by local Kier offices and it is pleasing to note that some areas have organised charity fundraising in response to the company's request for contributions to the Kier Foundation in aid of Barnardo's.

This interaction is not only good for the Fellowship Trust, but also the company's corporate responsibility reputation benefits from the special relationship it maintains with the Trust.

You will see from Brendan O'Boyle's administrator's report in this issue that our membership continues to grow and we are managing to preserve the funds the company endowed to the Fellowship Trust 15 years ago.

We do our best to try to distribute the proceeds derived from our investments in such a way as to encourage and maintain the staging of area events and functions that members want to attend.

I hope you would agree that we are meeting our objectives and any constructive comments should be directed to your area organiser to help us ensure that you are able to enjoy your membership of the Kier Fellowship Trust



*Dick Side*

## Message from the Group chief executive

It's difficult to believe that we are now in the 4th consecutive year of recession in the industry and all the signs are that 2013 is going to be just as tough as the last few years. Do I see light at the end of the tunnel?

The fact that we now have all three of the major political parties extolling the virtues of construction and talking about investment in our industry as the best way to drive the economy out of recession is undoubtedly great news. Unfortunately I can't quite measure the time lag between the courageous words being spoken and the reality of concrete being placed on the ground. My best bet is that there will be a gap of two years so we might as well get used to what is now being called "the new normal".

Notwithstanding that, you will be pleased to hear that we are still faring well. 2012 saw us regain our crown as "Contractor of the year", an award that gives us a great deal of satisfaction. Across our construction business, we are seeing a significant growth in our civils and overseas businesses whilst the UK social infrastructure market remains very difficult and we are seeing workloads in that sector shrinking. Our Services business has won two very big contracts in the last six months - in housing maintenance and in refuse collection and these will certainly help to underpin growth in our outsourcing business. Perhaps the strongest performer in the last year has been our property development business where we have picked up three very big regeneration schemes in Watford, Derby and Manchester and in the same period we won three new PFI contracts valued at over £100m.

The health of our pension scheme and of course of our Fellowship Trust remains important to us as a company and with that in mind, we will again be supporting the annual garden party in the summer months so I hope to see many of you there again this year.



*Paul Sheffield*

# Obituaries

Our deepest sympathies to the families of the following members who have passed away.

Name	Date Passed Away
Annie Jones	04 Jun 2012
Arlene Pearce	30 Jul 2012
Basil McIntosh	25 Apr 2012
Clifford Connely	12 Jul 2012
David Davis	06 Aug 2012
David Duthoit	17 Jul 2012
Dennis Teeham	15 Apr 2012
Derek Purkis	31 Mar 2012
Douglas Titmarsh	16 Aug 2012
Eileen Rice	31 May 2012
Ernest Fisher	01 Apr 2012
Ernest Jordan	29 Aug 2012
Frederick Partleton	09 May 2012
Harry Munn	11 Oct 2012
Ian Richards	19 May 2012
Irene Keeble	30 May 2012
Ivan Knowles	25 Aug 2012
James Cummins	28 Jul 2012
James Hann	10 May 2012
James Howard	08 Sep 2012
James Lakeman	16 Aug 2012
Jean Collins	04 Aug 2012
John Conlon	22 Dec 2012

Name	Date Passed Away
John Houghton	09 Mar 2012
John Sheehy	20 May 2012
John Worton	04 Feb 2012
Joyce Mills	01 May 2012
Kenneth Dodson	24 May 2012
Louis Hibbert	31 Jul 2012
Michael McDonald	19 Jun 2012
Mike Health	16 Oct 2012
Molly Sparrow	29 May 2012
Neville Beynon	24 Apr 2012
Paul Stribling	10 Oct 2012
Peter Boakes	30 Dec 2012
Peter Rooney	23 Sep 2012
Phyllis Cooke	26 Mar 2012
Ray Gent	02 May 2012
Reginald Andrews	20 May 2012
Robert Cambell	28 Jun 2012
Roy Sisley	18 Jun 2012
Sheila Bennett	20 Jul 2012
Stanley Friend	06 Jun 2012
Terrence Voisey	07 Aug 2012
Trevor Church	20 May 2012

## Cheltenham

### Christmas lunch at the National Star College

The Cheltenham Area's Christmas lunch was held on 14th December at the National Star College at Ullenwood Manor, near Cheltenham. The college offers courses for young people aged 16 to 25 who have a variety of disabilities. It also offers dining services in part of the premises in conjunction with Wiggly Worm (yes really) who provide and serve the locally sourced food with the help of some of the students.

This was a new venue for our Christmas festivities, and the 53 members and spouses who attended were very pleased with the change. We were very pleased to welcome Janet Ballinger, Marianne Irwin-Boers and John Mackman from Kier Central's Cheltenham office, and it was good to be able to express our appreciation for the support, both financial and administrative, which the company gives to the Fellowship.

**The next event will be in the spring, details to be forthcoming.**

*Hugh Sweet*

### Milford Lodge Hotel lunch & Christmas party

We had a lunch in September at the Milford Lodge Hotel which was attended by 18 people and then on 15th December 17 attended the Christmas Party Night at the Milford Lodge Hotel where a number stayed over. It was a very enjoyable evening for everyone with a disco following the meal.

### Planned events

We have planned three lunches at Milford Lodge Hotel for 2013

- Sunday 17th March
- Sunday 22nd September
- Sunday 15th December

### An evening in York

We are also hoping to organise an evening in York to have a meal followed by a walk around the city when one of our members will tell some local historical tales as we go.

*Katherine Leadley*



## Bristol & Newport

Our newly re-formed area had a good 2012 with excellent attendance from both sides of the River Severn for our functions.

### Dewstoke Gardens and Grottoes

Following on from a June lunch, we met in August at Dewstoke Gardens and Grottoes, near Chepstow. As we arrived, the heavens opened, but following an introductory film indoors showing how these Victorian grottoes, ponds and gardens had been rediscovered and beautifully restored, we were lucky to have a sunny, dry, afternoon to enjoy our visit. A relaxing stroll around, above and below ground, in small groups was rounded off with a welcome get-together cup of tea. The visitor who we 'volunteered' to take the photo nearly included us all!



# Devon & Cornwall

## April lunch

Our April lunch held on the 25th, was unfortunately not particularly well attended due to various other commitments from our usual attendees although a pleasurable lunch was enjoyed by the 12 who were able to 'get away!' Our usual venue of The Marsh Mill was used where we were once again treated well.

## Festive lunch

On Tuesday 11th December 2012, 19 members together with 12 guests enjoyed their festive lunch once again at The Quality Hotel, Plymouth.

The hotel was originally built by Dudley Coles (pre Kier) and at least one of the members had been involved in the build project. Overlooking the beautiful Plymouth Sound on a rare lovely day in December, a very good time was had by all.



## Future events

Although no specific dates have been confirmed further lunches will be arranged for May, September and of course December 2013.

*Shirley Riddle*



## Lansdown golf day

We have also revived our golf day which was held in early September at Lansdown Golf Club, Bath. Our special thanks are due to Jim Parker for making the necessary arrangements and for a super day.

If there are any further KFT members interested in playing in future who may not have registered their interest, please contact Sharon, Tel; 01633 244 955. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Ship Inn lunch

Our successful year, which has enabled older and newer members to become better acquainted and friendships to be re-made, was rounded off with a relaxed lunch at the end of October at the Ship Inn, Alveston, Near Thornbury.

We had 21 attendees and enjoyed a two course luncheon in a private wing overlooking the garden. We had a good measure of support from both sides of the River Severn.

**Our next event is scheduled for April 2013 and details to follow shortly**

*Jack Laughton*

## Liverpool / Manchester

### Christmas lunch at the Liner Hotel

On Thursday 13 December our Christmas lunch was held at The Liner Hotel, Liverpool and was attended by 33 members. Everybody agreed the venue and food were exceptional.

Father Christmas (our very own Barry Cook) made an appearance, getting everybody in the spirit of things by assisting Pat Rostron with the Xmas raffle which contained some very interesting prizes. Of course, lots of us wanted to sit on Santa's knee.



### Kier Fellowship / 25 Year dinner

The next event is the annual Kier Fellowship 25 Year Dinner which is to be held on Friday 15th March 2013 in the Courtney Suite at the Suites Hotel, Knowsley.

*Sharon Jenkins*

### Can you Help?

Are there any members that during 1983-1985 worked on the GALLOWAY HYDRO DRUMJOHN project, or know of anyone who did.

We are keen to speak to anyone regarding the project especially engineers.

If so please contact Geoff Brown or John Simson

## KierLink co-editor ties the knot

### Geoff & Karen tie the knot at Gretna Green

Geoff Brown, my co-editor, and Karen Knevett travelled to Gretna Green with family members for their wedding on 6th September and after a honeymoon in Madeira, held a reception at the Bell Hotel, Epping on Sunday 23rd September.

All the families including the grandchildren and friends enjoyed an afternoon of celebration and toasted the couple's future happiness.

*John Simson*



# Loughton-Witham

## Hatfield House & Gardens

Since the autumn edition of KierLink we have held six events, the first of which was a day at Hatfield House and Gardens on 22nd August.

Fifty two members enjoyed a look around the favourite home of Queen Elizabeth 1 which is set in extensive formal gardens and parkland.



## National golf day at Bedford Golf Club

In September three members took part in the national golf day at the Bedford Golf Club and each member won a prize!!

## St Paul's Cathedral

On 20th September we spent a day in London with a tour around the Globe Theatre and then a gentle walk over the Millennium Bridge to St Paul's Cathedral where we had time for a tour and some of us even climbed to the Golden Gallery to enjoy some excellent views over London.



## Top Hat theatre trip

In October we again visited London for our annual trip to the theatre. This year we saw the musical Top Hat which was a superb show with music and lyrics by Irving Berlin and starred Tom Chambers and Summer Strallen.

## Christmas lunch in Chelmsford

Our Christmas lunch was held on 29th November at the usual venue near Chelmsford and 61 members enjoyed a drink before a traditional Christmas meal with all the trimmings.

## Thursford Christmas Show



And finally on Thursday 13th December 40 members went to the Thursford Christmas Show stopping off for lunch en route in Swaffham and then on to see an excellent show which once again was enjoyed by all.

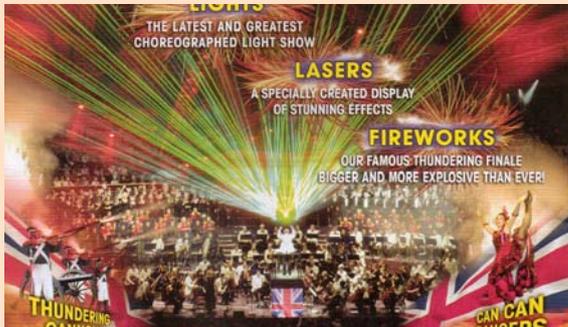


## Future events

We have planned a busy programme of 16 events over the next 12 months which includes several of our popular regular events together with many new venues.

*Geoff Brown & John Simson*

## Maidstone



### Classical Spectacular with fish & chip supper

On Sunday 25 November 42 guests gathered to go to the Royal Albert Hall to see their 'Classical Spectacular'.

During our journey to London, Dot and Warwick Stevens kindly organised a quiz which raised £30 towards Kier Foundation's chosen charity. Thank you both. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this outing, some even saying that it was the best outing so far! The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra played for us and we enjoyed Nessun Dorma, Rule Britannia, Land of Hope and Glory, Jerusalem and of course the 1812 Overture with thundering cannons and indoor fireworks.

Although I have seen the Spectacular before, nothing quite prepares you for the lasers, fireworks and of course the thundering cannons. Watching this or something similar on the television, is not the same as actually being at the performance and absolutely guaranteed to stimulate your patriotism.

We re-joined the coach and shortly after we stopped off for our fish or chicken and chips which our driver had previously ordered for us. Delicious!



### Christmas lunch at Wealden Hall

Our Christmas lunch was held on 18th December 2012. The members of the Fellowship and their partners were pleased to receive as their guests Richard Bush, deputy MD for Kier Construction and Peter Searle, director.

Eighty members and guests were able to come along to our Christmas lunch this year. As for the past few years, we had our lunch upstairs at Wealden Hall, Larkfield from midday.

This year was to be a little different from usual as at the end of our meal we held a grand raffle in aid of Kier Foundation's chosen charity, which this year was Barnardos. All prizes were donated and included a hamper containing a bottle of Bollinger Champagne Special Cuvee, plus many Christmas goodies.

The total amount raised this year for Kier Foundation's chosen charity, Barnardo's, was £291 by Maidstone Fellowship. We have subsequently received a letter from Jackie Hunter, finance director for Kier Southern which says "this is a fantastic effort and I know it will be put to good use by the people managing the Foundation and Barnardo's. A great effort – please pass on our thanks."

After lunch I like to remind members of the preceding year's events which took place also tell them of any particular members who have contacted me to relay any messages to members.

I would just like to say to everyone who came along to the various functions this year and especially those who were at our Christmas lunch, a big 'thank you' for all of your support and look forward to meeting up with you again during the forthcoming year.

*Anne Ransley*



# Maple Cross

## Kier Construction 25 year service luncheon

At the Kier Construction 25 year service luncheon, several fellowship members joined Kier Construction employees for their annual long service luncheon on 19th October 2012 at Aldenham Golf & Country Club. Pre-lunch drinks were followed by an excellent three course meal.



## Winter Warmer luncheon

Twenty members enjoyed a three course meal at Edgwarebury Hotel with plenty of wine which seemed to go down well with all.

## Christmas luncheon

Thirty members enjoyed pre-meal drinks followed by a three course Christmas lunch, with the customary mince pies & coffee, at our popular venue the Aldenham Golf & Country Club on 16th December 2012.



## Future events

Date	Event	Venue
19th April 2013	St George's Day luncheon	Freddies Restaurant
24th May 2013	Summer B B Q	Aldenham Golf Club
3rd June 2013	5 day break	Warners Cricket St Thomas
11th October 2013	Kier 25 year luncheon	Aldenham Golf Club
8th NOvember 2013	Warmer luncheon	Ruby's Restaurant
13th December 2013	Christmas luncheon	Aldenham Golf Club

## New Members

Welcome to our new members William Heyes, Jeff Taylor, & David Hayes (who between them completed 108 years' service with the company.)

*Terry Delaney*

### Monthly Lunches

Our monthly lunches continued successfully with visits to:

- The Greyhound Inn, Haynes, Beds;
- The White Horse Inn, Broom, Beds;
- Orchard Harvester, Bedford;
- The Green Man, Stanford, Beds
- The Anchor, Great Barford, Beds.



### Christmas Celebration at The Anchor

Our Christmas celebration took place again at the Anchor, Little Paxton, Cambs on 13 December. The smallest attendance was at Broom which was just as well, as we were squashed into a rather cramped area. We will try somewhere different in 2013.

### Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch saw a record attendance of 33 and we spent a very happy time together. However, it is probably time to try a different venue



*Harold Thompson*

## Photo gallery



# Wisbech

During the autumn and Christmas period we have held five events.

## Lunch at the Royal Standard

In October eight of our members enjoyed lunch at the Royal Standard in Wisbech.

## London trip

On 3rd November four of our members joined a coach trip to London with staff from the Wisbech office.

## Lunch at King of Hearts

On 14th November eight of our members met for lunch at the King of Hearts in West Walton.

## Christmas party & hog roast

Two weeks later we again joined staff for a Christmas party and hog roast at Wisbech St. Mary. This was a very successful event and the cost was helped by the fundraising events held through the year.

## Christmas lunch at Crowne Lodge Hotel

Our Christmas lunch was held at the Crown Lodge Hotel, Outwell on 7th December. We were joined by five directors and staff and a total of 36 enjoyed a festive meal.

## Keeping in touch

We have also been keeping in touch with some of our members who are currently 'under the weather' by telephone and email and sending them a copy of our latest staff and business development newsletters.

*Sonia Webb*



*Since our July report we have been active with several interesting excursions.*

### Mystery trip to Bristol

On Saturday 28 July we ventured west on a mystery trip to Bristol and surrounding area. Despite a hold up on the M5 due to a multiple accident a full day was spent exploring the countryside with lunch in the Old Town and a guided visit to the S.S. Great Britain. Forty-five members attended and enjoyed a long day.

### Fellowship golf day

A disappointing group of five attended the Fellowship Golf Day at Bedford Golf Club.

### Peterborough greyhound stadium

On Friday 12 October 30 members attended Peterborough Greyhound Stadium and we sponsored Race No 7 'The Kier Group Fellowship Trust Stakes'. Several members presented the winning dog and owner with the Trophy. How many of the group lost their shirts is not recorded!

### Westminster Abbey

On Saturday 15 September 39 visited a behind the scenes tour of Westminster Abbey where, with the help of two blue badge guides many interesting areas were viewed. After lunch we then visited the posh area of London – Burlington Arcade, Piccadilly and Fortnum & Masons – all too expensive to indulge.



These old gits can't afford to shop at "Fortnum and Masons"



The Winning line up at Peterborough Dogs.

## Westfield Stratford

On Saturday 17 November we went on our Christmas shopping trip. This year we went to the new centre 'Westfields Stratford' which is situated alongside the Olympic Village in East London and 47 members attended.

## Christmas trip to London

On Sunday 9 December 39 members enjoyed our Annual Christmas trip to London for a lunch and the evening Carol Service in the Guards Chapel which is always a moving occasion and sets us up for the festive season.

## New Year's break in Belgium

Our New Year break this year was enjoyed by an enthusiastic group of 36 members venturing to Ypres in Belgium. The Novatel is situated in the City Centre close to the Menin Gate where the evening event of the Last Post Ceremony is performed daily. Whilst in Belgium we had a day trip to the historic City of Bruges and visited several War Cemeteries to remember the fallen.



"The Book End coach driver with the organiser"

## Obituaries

Since our last report we have lost several members, namely Cliff Connolly, David Davies, Ronald Freer and George Moody.

## Future Events

Future Events 2013 – a lunchtime event is planned for early in the year Followed by trips to Ascot Races with behind the scenes tour, our annual pilgrimage to The Royal Albert Hall for the Mountbatten Festival of Music, Knebworth Hall, The National Arboretum and Litchfield plus the usual Mystery Trip.

## Future overseas trips.

Thursday 16 April –Saturday 20 April  
Hidden Northern Portugal the area not usually visited by the British Tourist.

Friday 13 September 2013 Four days/Three nights Parisian Lights.

**Any members invited to join us.**

*Brian Hill*

# National Golf Day

The National Golf Day was held on Thursday, 6th September.

In near perfect weather 29 Fellowship golfers coming from as far afield as Southampton and Staffordshire assembled at Richard Fogg's home club "The Bedford Golf Club" at Great Denham Golf Village, Bedford, for this year's competition...

Guests were welcomed by the organiser, John Stamford, and after the customary bacon bap and coffee the participants braved the course under guidance of our starter, Duncan Mort. The first hole was challenging and those who hooked to the left soon lost their complimentary golf balls, but somehow it did not show up in the day's scoring which was generally high.

Ten games took place with the last game finishing about 6pm and this was followed by pre-dinner drinks and a discussion "on what might have been". After a three course meal with wine the prizes were presented by the Fellowship chairman, Dick Side.



Colin Busby (l) receives his overall winners cup from Fellowship chairman Dick Side



Overall winner and receipt of the cup	Colin Busby
Ladies prize	Inga Addington
Best front 9	Roy Ellis
Best back 9	Ted Staples
Nearest Pin	Ian Tidey
Longest Drive	Roy Martin and Neil Meixner
Nearest pin in two shots	Barrie Addington



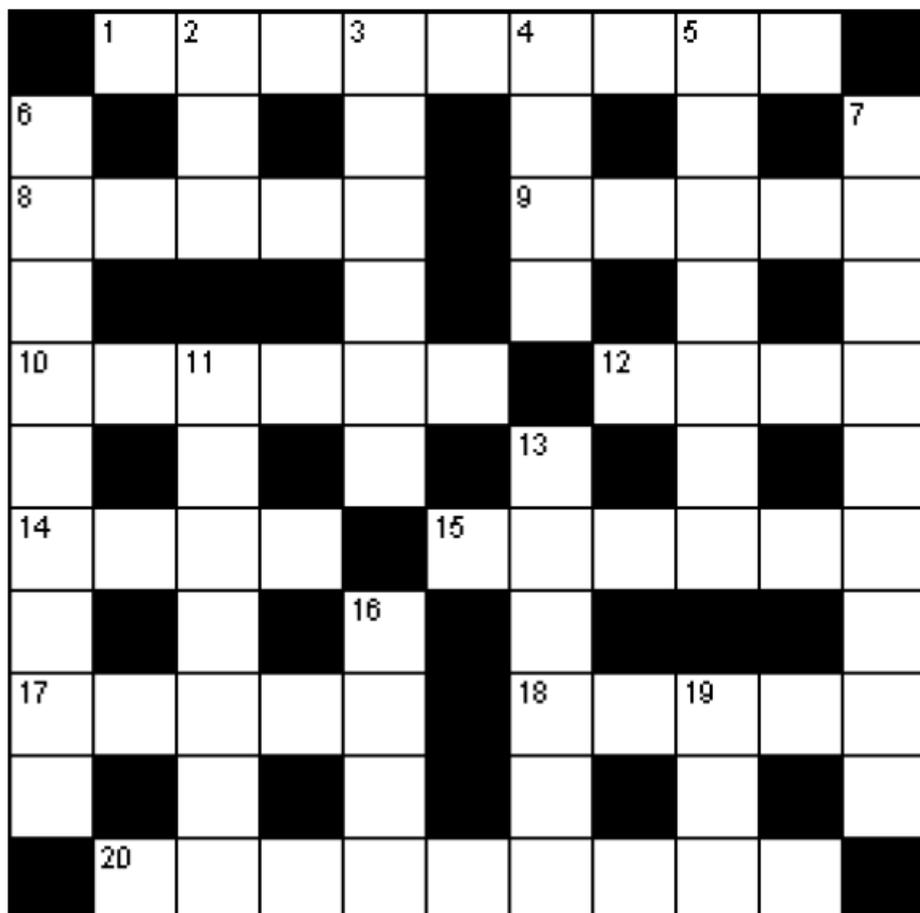
It was an excellent day, enjoyed by all, and we look forward to next year's competition.

*John Stamford*



# Crossword competition

**£50 Prize for the first correct**  
solution drawn out of a hat!



Entrants must be members/partners of the Fellowship. All solutions to be sent either by post or email to:

John Simson, 5  
Gainsborough Place,  
Hutton, Essex,  
CM13 2R  
or  
johnsimson@live.co.uk

**Don't forget to include your name and address with your entry**

**Deadline Date:  
15 July 2013**



**Winner of the Autumn Crossword was Mrs S Rainsley from Romsey who wins £50.00.**

## Across

1	Abandoned town (5,4)
8	Electromagnetic telecommunication (5)
9	Flat surface (5)
10	Female parent (6)
12	Portable shelter (4)
14	One of the Channel Islands (4)
15	Subject to death (6)
17	Sound (5)
18	Storage centre (5)
20	Soon (9)

## Down

2	Did possess (3)
3	Oral (6)
4	Oustanding (4)
5	Most feeble (7)
6	Likely to turn out well (9)
7	Provide with fresh air (9)
11	Small dog (7)
13	Made of wood (6)
16	Chief god of ancient Greece (4)
19	Comrade (3)

## The Fellowship Trust First 15 years

Dick Side, the current chairman of the board of Trustees traces the formation and development of the Fellowship Trust.

The Kier Group Fellowship Trust was formed 15 years ago in March 1998.

The concept had been developed when the Kier Main Board was considering how to deploy funds that had accumulated in the Kier Group Employee Benefit Trust prior to the flotation of Kier Group plc. in December 1996.

These funds, which totalled approximately £300,000, had accrued from the management of the internal market in Kier shares since the employee buyout from Hanson in July 1992.

As the funds were held in a trust the most practical way they could be recycled was to transfer them into a new trust with nominally the same beneficiaries and so the concept of an organisation that enables people who had worked for Kier to stay in touch with ex-colleagues was born.

The Kier Group Fellowship Trust document states that it was established with the objective of benefitting, encouraging and maintaining links between the employees and ex-employees of the Kier Group and its subsidiaries and their dependants.

The Trust is an umbrella organisation to enable retired and other former employees to keep in touch with one another for social, sporting and welfare activities and to maintain a link between the Kier Group and its former employees. It operates through a number of volunteer area organisers who organise and administer appropriate events approved by the Trust Board.

The original Board of Trustees included:

John Stamford (consultant and former employee) as chairman, Hugh Sweet (retired pensioner) as the Trust's administrator, Duncan Brand (Kier Group finance director), John Hebblethwaite (retired pensioner) and myself.



As I had performed the role of executive chairman in almost all of the Kier Regional businesses over the preceding 12 years I was best placed to create a structure of area organisations based on the network of offices run by the well-established Kier Regional construction businesses.

The offices selected were those located in Liverpool, Boston Spa, Cheltenham, Rushden, Wisbech, Maple Cross, Loughton, Witham, Maidstone, Plymouth, Newport (South Wales) and Tempsford for those based at the centre. These offices continue to support local area organisers with more latterly the addition of a new South Coast area based on the Southampton office.

The liaison between the local organiser and the company is conducted through a designated director who is based at the local office. It is through this structure that the area organisers obtain practical and financial support from the company.

The annual Tempsford Luncheon is supported directly by Kier Group and we are always pleased to have a Kier main Board director on the Trustee Board to help ensure that the stated aims of the Fellowship Trust are successfully implemented.

The first recorded event staged by the Fellowship was a luncheon at Maidstone in September 1998. This was closely followed in November by the first national luncheon attended by over 250 people in a marquee erected for the Kier AGM at Tempsford Hall.

We have been very fortunate to have some extremely enthusiastic and competent area organisers who over the years built up some excellent programmes of events. Sometimes these were inherited from existing organisations, such as Marriott's M25 club and the Maple Cross (ex Moss) Rolling Stones Club, which have been absorbed into the Fellowship area structure.

There are also regular company sponsored long service and social gatherings jointly organised to include Fellowship Trust members.

While the Kier organisational structure changes for operational reasons we have been able to maintain an unchanged Fellowship Trust area structure which, whilst based on historic areas of company operations, is flexible enough to accommodate new members who once worked for Kier in other parts of the country and abroad.

The Kier Group Fellowship Trust may not represent an entirely unique concept, but it is a special organisation and an important factor that helps differentiate Kier from its competitors.

Long may it prosper!

*Dick Side*

## A New Year's Honour



It was announced in the New Year's Honours list that Peter Culverwell has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to his local community.

Peter served as a senior civil engineering contracts manager with Kier Construction and subsequently French Kier Construction before he retired in 1986. Peter worked on such major contracts as Canvey Island, Rugeley & Drakelow power stations, and the Ware bypass. He worked for the company in Jamaica for three years.

Since retirement Peter has given his time to 14 separate organisations in the village of Biddenham, where he lives. These include:

The Biddenham Society, the Biddenham Show, the Village Hall Management Committee, Parish Paths Partnership, the Millennium Committee, Church Maintenance Sub Committee, Biddenham Gardens Association and is a Church bell ringer. He has also shipped school books to Ghana and was behind a recycling project for the village hall which returns a substantial amount towards its management.

The medal will be presented to Peter by the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire (the Queen's representative) at a date to be arranged.

Many congratulations to Peter on a thoroughly deserved award.

*John Stamford*



**Penny & Gaynor**

How to start my story! Let me begin with the basics. I was adopted from birth and grew up in a very loving environment. I had always known I was adopted, even before I truly understood what it meant. My parents told me that I was special because they had chosen me, so I never felt different from the other children at school.

My childhood was uneventful, passing the eleven plus then going to senior school at Loughton County High. My father had always cycled 11 miles into London every day for work and then cycled the 11 miles home again, and he was always fit. However, his job moved and he was required to take the tube into London as it was too far for him to cycle. From that day on he was never well. When I was 11 he had surgery and although he was never told, it was later revealed he had cancer.

When I was 15 my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, but in those days cancer was never talked about so she tried to ignore the lump she had found. In January 1974, when I was just 16, my mother died. Obviously, my father took this badly and became depressed. It was only a matter of weeks before the GP told me that my father also had cancer and did not have long to live. He died in May 1974. At the age of just 17 I was an orphan. I say that because from

## Penny & Gaynor: Sisters by chance, friends by choice

the day of the funeral I have never seen my adopted family.

Fast forward to February 2012. I was sorting my mail at work; I have owned and run Kentes Ltd, Physiotherapy Clinic in Southend for the last 25 years, when I received a letter. I had to read, and re-read it several times before what it was saying sunk in. It told me that I had a sister. My emotions were all over the place, excited, dubious that I was the right person, but strangely, vindicated. Indeed why had the letter arrived at work and not at my home address? At the back of my mind I had always thought that I had a family but I had come to believe it was just a notion. I believed because I wanted a brother or sister.

That night Graham, my husband, couldn't get any sense from me. Apparently, all I could do was wave this letter in the air and kept saying "I've got a sister, I've got a sister" I couldn't wait to find out more so that very same evening I contacted the agency who had sent the letter for more information. I was given the opportunity to remain unfound, but I decided that my sister had put in so much effort the least I could do was to find out more. The next step in the process was for my sister to write to me, via the agency.

They have to vet the initial replies. My first letter also had to be written via the agency, but once they were happy we could write directly to each other. Never has snail mail taken so long. In the modern world when we are used to instant mail it seemed an eternity waiting for each letter to arrive. At the back of my mind I wondered why it took so long. Did she not want to write back? It transpired that my sister Gaynor and I shared a mother and that she had also grown up thinking she was an only child before finding out only 3 years previously that she had a sister. Our mother had died in 1992 and her sister, our aunt, died in 2000.

Since then Gaynor and her husband Brian have continued to see our uncle regularly and it was at a Christmas meal in 2008 that in conversation Gaynor mentioned that she had always wanted a sister.

Imagine her surprise when the uncle casually told her that in fact she did have a sister. He told her that he had taken our mother to Walthamstow for her to give birth to me.

It had been a family secret since 1957. Within mother's effects Gaynor had found an envelope which she had never seen before, in which she found a picture of her mum, herself aged 5 years, and a picture of a baby with Julie aged 6 months written on the back, but had no idea as to who this baby was. Once she had been told she had a sister Gaynor decided to try to find out about me.

After spending night after night on the internet and countless hours searching, Gaynor eventually found a birth certificate with her mother's name on it. And the name of the baby; Julie. She then started to look for Julie but came across nothing but dead ends. Countless times she was so frustrated by the lack of progress she was going to give up, but with the encouragement of Brian she continued the search. It was then she contacted the agency who finally found me. A process that took nearly 3 years in total.

After writing letters to each other we quickly moved on to texting. The good thing about letters is that we could send each other photographs. When I first saw Gaynor I couldn't see any likeness, but Graham and others could. She also sent me pictures of our mum and that's when I really could see a likeness. In our last letter Gaynor mentioned that I had a birthday coming up and asked me if I was doing anything special. I decided to ask her if she would like to make my birthday perfect and meet up. I was dying to meet her.

We arranged to meet for the first time on my birthday in April 2012 – 55 years to the day. One of Graham's brothers lives in Barton under Needwood and there is a lovely pub on the marina with pretty shops and walks nearby. As she had done all the searching it seemed only fair to travel to meet her. It was a very nervous time waiting for her to arrive. Almost like going on your first date, but much more tense.

Once I had spotted Gaynor I just flew up the bar and we just stood and hugged. Tears flowed.

Just what do you say to your sister, but about who you know nothing? We sat in the pub all day, chatting and generally getting to know each other. The thing that had upset her most, and still does today, was knowing she had a sister out there somewhere and no-one telling her. The fact that so many people kept it from her was very upsetting. To this day she still says she had the right to know. After all, uncle was 82 and if he had died then the secret may never have been revealed. Gaynor had the right to decide for herself if she wanted to find her sister. It wasn't right for others to make the decision on her behalf.

From that day we have met up every 2 weeks. Either they come to Southend or we go to Leicester where they live. On Gaynor's first visit to Southend I showed her some of the photographs of me growing up. Amongst them is one that is identical to the one she has of 'Julie'.

They say it's a world full of coincidence and now I have first-hand experience of it. Graham's family live in the Midlands and we have spent years travelling up and down the A5 – only 10 miles from Gaynor. Indeed several of my physiotherapy conferences have been held at Hinckley, again only 5 miles from Gaynor. It is, indeed, a small world. We continue to text each other several times a day and often seem to know instinctively what the other is thinking.

I have now met my extended family: Lisa the eldest daughter who is married to Wayne and who have Freya 7yrs and Frankie 5 yrs and Kelly the youngest daughter who is married to Andrew and who have just had Maisie the youngest at 14 weeks.

I have also met the uncle who withheld this knowledge for so long. Let's just say he is something of a character!

This year we spent Christmas in Leicester with the family – It was wonderful and I hope the first of many.

*Penny Emberton-Brookes*

# Welcome to New Members

Name	City / Town	Area	Worked For	Years of Service
David Fleming	Waterlooville	Southampton	Kier Southern	24 Yrs
David Hicks	Sheffield	Boston Spa	Kier North east	3.5 Yrs
David Knaggs	St Neots	Tempsford Hall	Group IT	26.5 Yrs
Eileen Lilian Prisley	Cosgrove	Tempsford Hall	Kier Homes	12 Yrs
Elizabeth Anne Mawson	Bartington	Liverpool	Kier Northern	7.5 Yrs
Greg Savage	Spalding	Wisbech	Kier Eastern	44 Yrs
Jeff Taylor	Maidenhead	Maple Cross	Kier Southern	35+ Yrs
John David Williams	Westbury-on-Trym	Bristol	Kier Western	7 Yrs
John F Rudge	Wollaston	Rushden	Kier Facilities Services	3 Yrs
John Fleming	Havant	Southampton	Kier Southern	25 Yrs
John Morgan	Bluntisham	Tempsford Hall	Kier Western / Tempsford	19 Yrs
John Rail	Truro	Plymouth	Kier Western	29 Yrs
Julie Stromdale	Chelveston	Rushden	Marriott	2 Yrs
Malcolm Mullinger	Scunthorpe	Boston Spa	Kier Plan International	15 Yrs
May Susan Cunningham	Prescot	Liverpool	William Moss	10 Yrs
Mel Ridgway	Armathwaite	Liverpool	Kier International	25 Yrs
Merik Malendewicz	Waterlooville	Southern - Southampton	Kier Build	2 Yrs
Patricia Anne Hawtin	Boston Spa	Boston Spa	Kier Northern	28 Yrs
Paul Goddard	Wimblington	Loughton	Kier London	38 Yrs
Paul J Staniland	Fowey	Plymouth	Kier International	30 Yrs
Petar Rapo	Hartlip	South East	Kier Wallis	35 Yrs
Peter Cullum	Wellingborough	Rushden	Kier Marriott	41 Yrs
Peter G Stacey	Kings Lynn	Tempsford Hall	Kier Plant	50 Yrs
Peter J Turner	Worcester	Cheltenham	Central	21 Yrs
Philip David Rose	Brighton	Southern - Southampton	Kier Southern	11 Yrs
Phillip John Wiscombe	Fornsett St. Peter	Tempsford Hall	Kier International	30 Yrs
Richard L Smith	Peterborough	Rushden	Central South	12 Yrs
Richard William Spencer	Saltash	Plymouth	Kier Western	12 Yrs
Robin Patrick	Twickenham	Southampton	Kier Process & Engineering	16 Yrs
Roger James Miller	Liphook	Southern - Southampton	Kier Southern	14.5 Yrs
Roy Clarke	Wimcote	West Midlands	Facilities Management	13 Yrs
Susanne Lynn Reed	Gt Bromley	Loughton	Kier Essex Schools	9 Yrs
Thomas F Turner	Rickmansworth	Maple Cross	Kier Southern	17 Yrs
Tony Daly	Romford	Loughton	Kier London	13 Yrs
Vanita Lightfoot (Mrs)	Wisbech	Wisbech	Kier Eastern	
William Heyes	Tadworth	Maple Cross	Kier Southern	34 Yrs