

Kier Group Fellowship Trust

KierLink

The magazine for our people | Issue 31 | Autumn 2015



Dick Side

Steps down as Fellowship
chairman after 17 years

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Welcome



Welcome to the 31st edition of KierLink magazine. We are pleased to bring you this autumn 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 KierLink.

Kind regards
Marel Strydom
(KierLink Designer)

Editors' notes

It's all change for the editors of KierLink. My joint editor, Geoff Brown, has had to resign due to his other commitments and this will necessitate me taking over as editor of our local newsletter for the Loughton/Witham area.

Fortunately, Viv Chesterfield, who left the Group last year, has agreed to take on the editorship and her long-standing role in Kier's corporate communications department means she's ideally qualified to do so. I am sure she will inject new life into the magazine which is the prime contact for many of our members with the Fellowship.

In this issue, apart from all the area reports, you will find an interesting history of the Bristol and Newport office and an article about Diddington reservoir which was completed 50 years ago this year by W&C French and opened in 1966 by the Duke of Edinburgh. Our crossword winner this time is Mrs A Davies from the Tempsford area and your cheque for £50 is on its way. Thank you to all who have sent in their entries.

John Simson

John Simson: johnsimson@live.co.uk



As John and Geoff hand the baton over, I take it with mixed feelings. I'm really sorry to see them go as joint editors of KierLink as they've done a great job but I am excited about having a new project to get my teeth into. On behalf of our readers, I'd like to express our thanks to John and Geoff for their excellent contribution to KierLink and wish them all the very best for the future.

Since leaving Kier, I quickly realised that people aren't kidding when they say: "I don't know how I ever found the time to go to work!" As well as doing some school runs for my three granddaughters, I've taken up cycling, long distance walking, DIY, entered the property development arena in a small way (I refurbished a Wendy house!) ventured into cake decorating, written some poetry and even completed a counted cross-stitch sampler. But most importantly, I've shared some truly magical times with my family, most recently in Disneyland Paris. But enough about me – Because it's YOU I'm interested in.

I'll be looking to fill these pages with all manner of things that YOU do that may be of interest to our readers. And of course, I'm hoping you will share your memories of times past too. Why not share it now with your area organiser, or me, viv_chesterfield@yahoo.co.uk

I look forward to working on KierLink – and I especially look forward to hearing from you!

Viv Chesterfield

Viv Chesterfield: viv_chesterfield@yahoo.co.uk

Our front page



Dick & Liz Side at the Tempsford Garden Party, after he stepped down as Fellowship Trust Chairman.

Chairman's Fellowship matters



Those of you who attended the Garden Party will be aware that Dick Side has decided to step down from his role as Chairman of the Board of the Kier Group Fellowship Trust for reasons of ill health. I would like to express the thoughts of many, in congratulating Dick on his work over some 17 years and particularly the way he has steered the Trust over the last 6 years or so as Chairman.

I am delighted to report that Dick has agreed to continue as a member of the board for the time being to assist us to continue the good work and move forward. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Dick and Liz all the very best for the future.

The Garden Party was again a great success. Our thanks go to all the organisers. Main board members Haydn Mursell, Chief Executive Officer, and Claudio Veritiero, Corporate Development Director, were present and showed their enthusiasm for the Fellowship and we look forward to seeing them both again next year.

Haydn spoke eloquently after lunch and explained that it has been yet another year of change for Kier with the most significant addition being the acquisition

of Mouchel to enhance the breadth of Kier particularly in the Highways sector.

We are grateful to Alan Smith for his support and liaison with the main board. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Fellowship Board of Dick Side, Harold Thompson, Viv Chesterfield, John Stamford, Alan Smith and of course Brendan O'Boyle for their welcome and promise of continued support.

A huge thank you goes to all our Area Organisers and their supporters for their efforts during another successful year in which 108 events were staged that attracted 3,185 attendees, 118 more than in the previous record year.

The number of Fellowship members has increased slightly to 1,274. As always we have operated within a strict budget and are grateful for the support given to the Fellowship by the local businesses whether it be financial or in the provision of resources. I am confident that their support will continue to be freely given so we are able to maintain the number and quality of events that our members so obviously enjoy.

As we look forward, the Kier Group Fellowship Trust needs to establish how to grow and accommodate the future leavers of both May Gurney and Mouchel and I hope to be able to report on progress in the next issue.

Neil Meixner



Administrator's report

Since the last publication of KierLink we have had a change on the Trustee Board with Dick Side resigning from the role of Chairman due to reasons of ill health. Many of you will know Dick and we are all pleased that he has agreed to continue as a member of the Board for the time being. We are fortunate that Neil Meixner, who has recently retired from the company, has accepted an invitation to take over as Chairman of the Trust and we wish him every success in his new role.

Our eighteenth annual garden party was held at Tempsford Hall on 21 June 2015 with 239 members in attendance as well as main board members Haydn Mursell and Claudio Veritiero. The good weather ensured it was another great day for all. The Chairman's award for area organiser of the year was won by Brian Hill of Rushden for the second year running with another record year for attendances at his events. The award for most improved area went to the Solent area and a presentation was made to Peter Wallbank.

From a financial point of view I am pleased to report that our last statutory accounts for the year ended 5 April showed that we

continue to operate on a break-even basis. In addition we have maintained the original capital sum placed in the Trust 17 years ago. Some 80% of our funds are held on the Stock Exchange in Investment Trusts and Unit Trusts and these continue to provide a good source of income to subsidise our events for the future.

Membership of the Trust increases year on year and all our thirteen areas have reported a good year with overall attendances up on the previous year and a record number of events held nationwide.

We are aware however that some past employees of the company may not have been invited to join the Trust and if you have contact with these people please encourage them to join by visiting the website listed below.

Some of our members have been unaware that the Trust has a dedicated section on the Kier Group website under the corporate responsibility tab. The 'short cut' address of www.kier.co.uk/corporate-responsibility/fellowship-trust.aspx will take you direct to the Trust section of the Kier website.

Newer members should be aware that the website includes a calendar of future events and a 'read more' tab giving information about those events.

Members are not restricted to events in their own area, so if you are interested in meeting and joining other areas for a function please get in touch with the relevant area organiser.

Back editions of our Fellowship magazine KierLink can also be read on the website.

As previously, 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 deal directly with them and that they will need to provide their Area Organiser or myself with their name, date of birth and National Insurance number so that we can register them with the Rewards Team.

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

In order to keep our records up to date may I remind members to advise us of any change of address so that they continue to receive invitations to events and copies of the KierLink magazine.

If you need help or 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
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Middlesex
HA3 7DL

E-mail:
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Regards

Brendan O'Boyle



Message from the Group Chief Executive

After my first full year in the role of chief executive, I'm delighted with the achievements of the business over the last twelve months.

Trading has continued to be in line with management's expectations, but most importantly our teams have really taken up the challenge of our new five-year strategy, Vision 2020, and started to make it a reality. We'll be announcing our latest results for the twelve months to 30 June to our investors on 17 September.

Vision 2020 sets out the direction of travel for the Group over the next five years, focusing on growth. We have set ourselves a target to broadly double in size, in terms of revenue, profit and number of employees. That's no mean feat but I'm pleased that in our first year Vision 2020 is already becoming a reality.

There were many operational highlights during the year; the completion of the successful integration of May Gurney, creating a new residential division focused on mixed tenure and affordable housing opportunities, a strong contribution from framework contracts particularly in the education, health and transport sectors, securing a significant amount of utilities work as part of AMP6, helping local authorities get the most out of their property assets and moving into the student accommodation and care home market.

We continue our track record of delivering

exciting projects such as the redevelopment behind King's Cross where we are one of the three construction partners for Argent, building a new £45m grandstand at Cheltenham racecourse, winning contracts with private housing providers such as Genesis as well as building on our existing track record with local authority clients. In addition, we continued to grow our international business with a strong pipeline of growth particularly in the Middle East. The UK Government focus on increased infrastructure spend also provides opportunities for the Group given our breadth of capabilities across this sector, particularly in the transport, power and water sectors.

A major highlight of the year took place in early June when the Group completed the £265m acquisition of Mouchel, positioning Kier as the sector leader in the growing UK highways management and maintenance market. Mouchel is a business that Kier knows well and in addition to the complementary highways capability that the new team brings, the other divisions of Mouchel support Kier's existing capabilities enabling us to offer our clients a wider selection of services. I'm excited by the opportunities that Mouchel provides to the Group both in the UK and overseas.

All of the above has been made possible due to the consistent drive and enthusiasm of our teams. They continue to demonstrate our values of being collaborative, forward thinking and working as a team. A great combination.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Fellowship members for their continued interest in the Group.

Haydn Mursell

Welcome to New Members

Name	City / Town	Area	Worked For	Years of Service
Colin Baker	Brighton	Maidstone	Kier Southern	15 Years
Ray Bibby	Wirral	Liverpool	Kier Construction Northern	10 Years
Lita Boghurst	Basingstoke	Solent	Kier Fleet Services	14 Years
Lucinda Brown (Coe)	Saffron Walden	Loughton/Witham	Kier Southern/Eastern	16 Years
Frederick Carter	Bromsgrove	Cheltenham	KPH/Kier Living	3 Years
Michael Dathan	Sittingbourne	Maidstone	Kier Southern	37 Years
Paul Deane	Birmingham	Cheltenham	Kier Construction Central	6 Years
Eileen Edwards	Widnes	Liverpool	Kier Construction	15 Years
Michael Glossop	Sheffield	Boston Spa	Kier Sheffield	41 Years
Karen Greer	Larkfield, Kent	Maidstone	Kier Construction Southern	36 Years
Barbara Hollinworth	Chippenham	Newport/Bristol	Kier London	14 Years
Graham Howe	Dereham	Wisbech	Kier Eastern	10 Years
Uldis Lapikens	Luton	Tempsford	Infrastructure	13 Years
Dawn Line	Higham Ferrers	Rushden	Marriott	4 Years
Manmohan Malhotra	Northampton	Rushden	Kier Services	10 Years
Bill Menzies	Weston-Super-Mare	Newport/Bristol	Kier MG	8 Years
Nigel Pain	Cheltenham	Cheltenham	William Moss	38 Years
Angela Root	Sandy	Tempsford	Kier Services	15 Years
Michael Ross	Stevenage	Tempsford	Kier Design & Construct	23 Years
Colin Shea	Aylesford	Maidstone	Kier Southern	26 Years
Andrew Sleigh	Manchester	Liverpool	Kier Services	8 Years
Barry Smith	Henlow	Tempsford	Kier Group IT	14 Years

Boston Spa

Spring Lunch at Milford Lodge Hotel

Our spring lunch this year was again held at the Milford Lodge Hotel on 22 March when 28 of our members gathered to enjoy an excellent lunch and good company.



Planned Events

We are planning two further lunches at the Milford Lodge on 6 September and 6 December and hope that even more of our members will be able to join us at this popular venue.

Katherine Leadley

Liverpool

Kier Fellowship /25 Year Dinner

On 13 March a Kier Fellowship / 25 Year Dinner was held at The Liner Hotel in Liverpool. Thirty five people attended and included both members from the Kier Fellowship and staff who had completed 25 years with Kier Construction – Northern.

The Liner Hotel has become a popular venue for this dinner together with our Christmas Lunch, which has yet to be organised for this year. From all accounts everyone had a really good night.

Summer Lunch

On 13 June 22 people attended a lunch at Houghwood Golf Club. This is a favourite for all members. The food and venue are exceptional.

At these lunches a raffle is organised, which is self-funding. On this particular occasion the raffle lasted much longer than usual as people who had already won one prize and won again put their raffle ticket back for someone else to have a chance. Much laughter and fun was had by all.

A lunch is yet to be organised in September.

Sharon Jenkins

Devon and Cornwall

We are planning a lunch in September or early October, the date and venue to be confirmed. Several of our members have suggested that we return to the New Continental Hotel in Plymouth for our Christmas lunch after last year's successful event. This will be held in the first week of December and we are hoping for a bigger attendance this year after the fabulous meal last year.

Shirley Riddle

Cheltenham

Group Walks

The year's activities started in January with a rather damp walk in the countryside around Twynning, near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, when 20 of us met for coffee at The Fleet Inn beside the River Avon. After coffee we were led by Robin Butler, who knew most of the way around the very pretty village and finally along the banks of the River Avon back to The Fleet where we all had an excellent lunch.

In March another beautiful and interesting walk was arranged by Alan Baker. The walk took us along the Coventry and Warwickshire canal and centred around Lowsenford where, once again, we met at the pub for coffee and returned for an excellent lunch.

Our next outing in May was to Croome Park, a National Trust property on the outskirts of Worcester. The weather was a little challenging but we nevertheless enjoyed a happy day together exploring the grounds, museum, house and finally the cafe for lunch. Once again the outing was well attended.

July took us to Worcester where John Turner showed us around the sights of the city, filling us in with all sorts of interesting information about the parts of the city we visited. This included a comfort stop at the Worcester Cricket Ground where a county game was in progress. There were some who would have happily stayed there and missed the visit to the beautiful cathedral.

Further outings are planned for the rest of the year to include a golf match, a day at Stratford Races and a skittles match before ending the year with our usual Christmas lunch in Cheltenham.

Sheila Heath



Maidstone

Pocahontas

In May I took a party of 29 on this river trip from Gravesend to Chelsea. There was an extremely interesting commentary detailing specific items during the journey toward London, which was comprehensive and delightfully delivered. I'd ordered a specific buffet luncheon for our group which was completely fresh and tasty. The return journey was without a commentary allowing time to sit back, relax and enjoy the trip and the company. I would thoroughly recommend this to anyone who enjoys a boat trip.



Tempsford Garden Party

This year we hired a mini bus to take us to the Garden Party at Tempsford Hall. We all enjoyed our excellent lunch and there was time for dancing before we had to return. A lovely day out!



Mystery Tour: Now Revealed!

Twenty-nine of us took the Mystery Tour in July. We drove through the Ashdown Forest and stopped at Heaven Farm, a delightful farm with the Stable Tea Rooms and licensed restaurant which blended in with the charming rustic atmosphere.

We left the farm and arrived to catch a train for the final leg of our mystery tour.... the first station was the oldest, each station gradually getting younger as we continued on our way. We had a very smartly dressed guide who talked us through our journey.

Half an hour after boarding we had our ploughman's lunch, with a cup of tea or coffee. Upon our return, we visited the museum which was very informative and well worth a look while others in our group had a drink at the bar! Our engine had been newly restored and was last in service during the 1990s. Our carriage was reserved and took us back in time... Where did we go???

... On a delightful trip on the steam train on the Bluebell Railway from East Grinstead to Sheffield Park and return.

Everyone enjoyed the trip and many members asked if we could do this again. Of course we will!



Anne Ransley

Long Service Luncheon

Friday 27 March

Thirty-two Maple Cross Fellowship members finally toasted the outgoing Area Organiser Terry Delany and his wife Pam at the St Patrick's Day Luncheon on 27 March 2015 (I know St Patrick's Day is 17 March but we were late!!). This was Terry's last organised event after 18 years of event organising. Well done Terry, I have a hard act to follow.

I commenced my reign on 1 April 2015 (what a fool!) and have organised a few different events for the year to give the local members something different from the traditional lunches. I have also enlisted help from Gill Ball, Jeff Taylor and Bill Heyes and formed a social committee.

St George's Day Luncheon

On 23 April 24 members attended an excellent lunch at Freddie's in St Albans as the inaugural event. The event went off without a hitch and was acknowledged by all as a success and good venue for future events.

Bletchley Park Visit

On 26 June 16 members met at Bletchley Park and went back in time to the Second World War and entered the historical surroundings and parkland of the wartime decoding centre at Bletchley. The weather held off and a good day exploring and avid listening to stories of how 12,000 people including 8,000 women came to work every day and worked three eight hour shifts to decode the daily changing German messages being encoded by the Enigma machines to give instructions to the U-boats and German Officers.

Planned Events

Thu, 10 Sep

Site visit to St Bernard's Mental Health Facility at Ealing

Thu, 24 Sep

Late Summer Luncheon at Shendish Manor, Hemel Hempstead

Thu, 17 Dec

Christmas Lunch at Latimer Place, Chesham

Runnymede to Windsor Boat Trip

On 9 July 15 members gathered in the National Trust Car Park under the Magna Carta memorial at Runnymede to board a boat to travel from Runnymede Boathouse to the centre of Windsor. We boarded the boat to find that we had the vessel to ourselves for a one-and-a-half hour journey up the Thames through two locks looking at some fabulous waterfront properties owned by the rich, some worth many millions, but now uninsurable following the floods of 2013/14.

We disembarked in Windsor and all went our own ways to explore, eat lunch, sightsee and shop for three hours before returning to our personal boat and having a substantial cream tea on the journey back to Runnymede.

Maple Cross



Norman Elliott

Bristol & Newport

Romeo and Juliet at The Tobacco Factory, Bristol

In March a group attended a performance of Romeo and Juliet at The Tobacco Factory, Bristol. This interesting theatre has been constructed, GlobeTheatre-style, 'in the round'. It was an interesting production, in modern dress; somewhat too graphic for a few of us, but very well performed.

Tortworth Court

Later in March, 24 members attended another excellent meal when we returned to Tortworth Court on the edge of the Cotswolds.

After catching up on each other's news in the bar with a welcome drink, we enjoyed the three-course meal in the hotel's majestic surroundings.

Brunel's SS Great Britain

April saw us 'aboard' Brunel's 'SS Great Britain' in its permanent dry dock in Bristol where she was built. This is now an excellent and highly informative ship and exhibition; a far cry from the rusting hulk brought back from the Falklands in 1970 which a few of us witnessed on a barge being towed up the Avon.

Our guided tour took us all round in the ship where we enrolled a statue of I. K. Brunel as an Honorary KFT Member for one of the group photos. We then went 'below the water' into the dry dock to inspect the propeller and massive rudder.



Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

Twenty members attended our summer trip to Eastnor Castle in Herefordshire set in magnificent grounds with a large lake and ancient trees.

The castle, the home of the Hervey-Bathurst family, is full of art and armour. It has a large library and the rooms have very informative interpretations and guides on duty.

A few members were unable to attend as they were on 'grandparent duties', two were visiting a week-old granddaughter but two others were able to each bring a grandchild on the visit. It was a most enjoyable day with something for everyone.



David Priddis (Secretary)

Tempsford Garden Party



Once again the weather was favourable and although not as hot as for the previous year, it was pleasantly warm.

Members were greeted with a Pimms on arrival outside the marquee where they were able to renew acquaintances and catch up on memories and past experiences before lunch.

Director of Corporate Responsibility, Alan Smith, opened the formal proceedings by saying Grace which was followed by an enjoyable three-course meal and coffee.

Group Chief Executive, Haydn Mursell, was then invited to speak about the company and he outlined recent developments in Kier Group including the recent takeover of Mouchel and accompanying rights issue which had been well received. Haydn said that following the election the economy was set fair and gave an update of the construction, housing, property and services divisions within the company. Of particular interest to those present was that Haydn had agreed company contributions to the pension scheme over the next few years.

Dick Side had asked me to announce at the garden party his decision to step down as chairman



because of health issues and said that Neil Meixner had accepted the appointment as the new chairman of the Kier Group Fellowship Trust.

Speaking on behalf of Dick I responded to Haydn's speech by thanking him for being with us and sharing his thoughts and, as always, for the help and support we receive from the company.

During the last year the Fellowship Trust had grown with 108 events overall compared with 104 the previous year. Membership now stood at a record of 1,270 and the Trust had operated within its budget.

Dick Side presented two awards: the first for the Most Improved Area went to the Solent Area and Peter Wallbank collected the award. The overall winner of the Best Performing Area was once again received by Brian Hill of Rushden who had staged 17 high quality events with an average attendance of 45 members.

New chairman, Neil Meixner, made a presentation of tickets for the theatre and lunch at the Ritz to Dick Side in appreciation of his six and a half years as chairman and his time as the company's designated Trustee for the Trust since its inception in 1998.

After the speeches, quiz answers and raffle, music for dancing was provided by Jenny and the Mantas who managed to keep dancers on the floor until I finally had to bring proceedings to a close at 5.30... Yet another very enjoyable day.

John Stamford



(Continued over...)

Tempsford Garden Party (Continued)



Wisbech

Three lunches have been held in recent months in local restaurants and were attended by our dedicated regulars. Several 'get togethers' have been held in our local Wetherspoon pub for a pie and a pint which have proved very popular with retired site staff and some office staff.

We will be arranging further lunches through the year as well as more 'get togethers'.

Andrew Pallant

From the Archives...

Fond Memories of London

Being a school leaver in '66 it was instilled in us all that retirement kicks in when you reach the ripe old age of 65. Having passed that mark last October I agreed to see the rest of the year out and take retirement at Christmas. Receiving my first KierLink magazine in the spring brought back some fond and well cherished memories.

The article on the History of William Moss & Sons Ltd was made all the more poignant by the appearance of one of the images. In the group photo was John Bower who interviewed and offered me my first appointment in the Cheltenham office, Ernest Woods who offered me a position in London whilst my (now wife) trained at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and whilst in London I worked under Tony Jackson & Bob Baker. Following the birth of our first child it was Len Gayler who offered me a position back in Cheltenham. Not forgetting Nicholas Moss whom I met during his numerous visits around the regions. Six men it has been a pleasure to know & work under.

Having learnt the basics working for Wm. Moss in Cheltenham from 1973 I transferred to the London office at Staples Corner in 1976. My first post was as Assistant General Foreman working under Bob Farmer with Alan McDonald & Charles Walsby at the Metropolitan Police Headquarters on Putney Bridge Road. This was followed by two years on the Vauxhall Bridge Road project working under Joe Cahill with Eric Colbran, Mick Cotter, Tom Sawyer and Eugene Burke. My final project in London was teaming up again with Alan McDonald, now Site Agent, on the refurbishment of the N.A.A.F.I. Headquarters Building at Imperial Court, Kennington.

As for 'The Rolling Stones Club' all I can say is that Joe Cahill and I sipped a few lemonades together!!!

Four good years that laid the foundation for a long working relationship. As for the future Jan and will just grow older disgracefully (see image).

Water, water, everywhere.....

Although the history of the William Moss Group has been one of steady expansion, the development has not always been trouble-free.

Around the turn of the century, the Moss brickmakers turned up for work at the backyard off William Street, Loughborough one Monday morning, only to find that the large clay quarry there was full to the brim with water.

An underground spring, too copious to pump, had been struck and the whole enterprise had to be abandoned. The lake can still be seen today.

Another flooding of a different kind took place more recently, in London, with a rather more satisfactory ending for the family firm. The incident happened about 30 years ago when William Moss & Sons were engaged in building a deep underground sewer. Excavation by miners would take place all day, while at night-time bricklayers would take over and build supporting arches.

One day, however, the mixing party struck running sand which poured into the tunnel and might, if unchecked, have endangered properties above. The peril of striking running sand cannot be foreseen. The firm acted swiftly. Deep holes were drilled into the sub-soil which was then filled under pressure with liquid concrete. Once the concrete had set, there was ample support for the work to continue.

MALCOLM MOSS

Even today (left) a lake can be seen filling what was once the William Moss Brickworks at William Street, Loughborough.



The London Branch has recently commenced work on the £1.5m refurbishment of the N.A.A.F.I. Headquarters Building at Imperial Court, Kennington, London. The works are being carried out under the direction of the Institute's Property Services Department and the Site Agent is Alan McDonald.



LONDON BRANCH NEAR COMPLETION OF £4.5m CONTRACT

London branch have nearly completed the second phase of development for Westminster City Council in Vauxhall Bridge Road, London. It comprises 174 dwellings and nine shop units contained in three blocks, and is valued at approximately £4.5 million. The final handover is expected in July.

The blocks have a reinforced concrete structure with brick cladding, varying roof levels and projecting balconies. They harmonise excellently with the surrounding blocks of previous contracts.

Architects: City Council, Quantity Surveyors: Robinson & Roddy, Engineers: Clarke, Nichols & Marcel, Site Agent: Joe Cahill.




Nigel Pain

Loughton & Witham

Middle Temple Lunch

In February 47 members enjoyed a wonderful three course lunch in this prestigious hall which dates back to 1562 and remains virtually unaltered with a magnificent double hammer beam roof. The hall has seen many famous guests through the ages including Sir Francis Drake and was the venue for the first performance of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

Golf Day

In May we held our annual golf day at the West Essex Golf Club near Chingford on a demanding and hilly course. After a meal and some liquid refreshment our winners were presented with their prizes, the overall winner being Colin Busby.



Spring Buffet

This year our annual April Spring Buffet was held at the Maylands Golf Club near Romford. Ninety nine members and guests attended and we raised £250 for Macmillan Cancer Support which is the Kier Foundation's nominated charity. Once again the day was a chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues.



Secret London

We met our blue badge guide at the Melton Mowbray pub in Holborn and after coffee walked to the London Silver Vaults which was originally opened in 1876 for the wealthy to rent underground rooms to store their valuables. The rooms are now occupied by traders selling all sorts of fine jewellery.

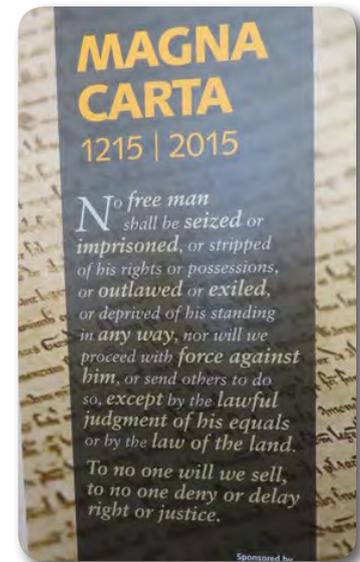
After visiting the gardens of Staple Inn where wool used to be weighed and taxed we moved on to the diamond district of Hatton Garden and Ely Place, the only privately owned street in London. After lunch we visited Leighton House, a spectacular example of Victorian artistry. It was a very interesting day in some of the old parts of London.

Tempsford Garden Party

The number of our members attending this year increased to 48 and we all enjoyed the sunny weather and drinks outside the marquee before lunch, which gave us time to meet and greet old friends and acquaintances. All the arrangements for the day were excellent and we look forward to next year's event.

Power to the People - The Magna Carta

On 17 June, two days after the original Magna Carta was signed by King John 800 years ago, 42 of our members arrived at the Tower of London by coach to meet our blue badge guide and have coffee before a walk to the public execution site now set in amongst gardens facing the River Thames. Our coach then took us to the British Library to view the special exhibition, Law, Liberty, Legacy, which included two original copies of the Magna Carta.



After lunch we visited the Banqueting House of the Palace of Whitehall, a magnificent dining hall with a ceiling painted by Rubens and the site of many infamous events in the seventeenth century. Finally, we crossed the road to Horse Guards to witness the changing of the guard, or 'punishment parade' introduced by Queen Victoria who was not amused to find her Guard incapacitated by drink and gambling! A great day out enjoyed by all.

Blenheim Place

Under grey skies our coach arrived at Blenheim, but we were lucky, and the weather improved allowing us to explore the gardens and palace. This stately home was built in the 18th century and is the birthplace of Winston Churchill.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Churchill's death and the 75th anniversary of him first becoming Prime Minister and the 75th anniversary of his "Finest Hour" at the Battle of Britain. We were able to visit a fascinating new exhibition about Churchill and a new garden commemorating these anniversaries.



John Simson & Geoff Brown

Rushden

Lunch

Since our last report we have been as busy as usual. We started the year with a lunch at John White Golf Club, which was attended by 81 members with plenty of lively banter and five ex-directors present.

Potters

In early March ten members took a short four-day break to The Potters Leisure Resort in Suffolk. Plenty of sport, entertainment and drinking; well worth a visit by other area groups.



Ascot

On Sunday 29 March a full coach of fifty attended Ascot Horse Racing including a tour of the facilities followed by a cafeteria lunch. Unfortunately the weather was cold, wet and windy. Some people won and others lost their shirts!

Concert

Our annual visit to the Royal Albert Hall was as usual a spectacular success with 46 members attending the concert by The Bands of H.M. Royal Marines.

Bruges

In mid-May a long weekend to Bruges in Belgium was enjoyed by 40 members, a memorable trip with plenty of drink and friendship.

Garden Party

Seventy-two members attended the Annual Summer Garden Party at Tempsford Hall and were impressed by the occasion and the organisation throughout.

125th Anniversary Hog Roast

On Sunday 19 July we celebrated the 125th Anniversary of Marriott with a hog roast, music and cabaret at Rushden Town Cricket Club. A total of 326 members and guests gathered for the event and the weather was warm and sunny and it continued well into the evening.

Romsey

Brilliant sunshine greeted our trip to the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in Romsey, Hampshire and although a full and tiring day it was enjoyed by all and it is recommended to other groups. The lunch and hospitality was second to none.



Planned Events

- 4/5/6 September 2015 European Senior Golf Tournament at Woburn Golf Club Tickets available.
- Sunday 13 September 2015 Mystery Trip
- Tuesday 1 Oct- Tuesday 6 October Sensational Sicily 38 members booked
- Sunday 18 October 2015 Coach Mystery Trip
- Saturday 21 November 2015 Christmas Shopping
- Thursday 26 November 2015 Christmas Lunch at John White Club.
- Sunday 6 December 2015 Christmas in London. Lunch with Carol service in the Guards Chapel.
- Wednesday 30 December 2015 to Saturday 2 January 2016 4 Days 3 nights New Year Break in Bruges - fully Booked with 46 persons.

Solent

Quiz Night

In the spirit of modern construction practice we held a JV (joint venture) event with the Southampton office on 10 March. The event, in the form of a quiz, was held at the Fleming Park Lawn Bowling Centre in Eastleigh. The cost of the room hire, beverages (of the non-alcoholic variety) and a selection of mind-changing nibbles were generously provided by those who still work for a living.

Twelve teams took part; alas only one was from the Fellowship (the

4 F's) plus yours truly who acted as quizmaster. There were eight rounds on a variety of subjects including a picture round of birds and one of musical intro's. The scores were entered onto a spreadsheet on a laptop so they could be shown on a large screen at the end of each round. The leader changed on a regular basis and amid mounting tension, the 4 F's finished a creditable 5th equal.

A good time was had by all with a lot of head scratching and

doubting of the quiz compiler's parentage and state of mind. It was also good to catch up/ sympathise with former work colleagues.

The magnificent sum of £754.00 was raised thanks to prizes being donated for a raffle and the entry fee. The money was passed on to the Brain Tumour Charity which was the charity nominated by the family of a work colleague who sadly succumbed to his tumour in February.

Peter Wallbank



Kier Southern Fellowship Summer Barbecue

On 16 June, for the second year running, 23 members, their partners and 3 four-legged friends attended the summer barbecue. This year's proceedings took place in Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley - a beautiful setting in acres of grassy parkland situated by the shores of Southampton water. The sun shone from dawn 'til dusk and the barbecue was expertly manned by head chefs, Gary and Tony. All food was heartily consumed by everyone present - not a burger or sausage remained at the end of the day! We look forward to making it a hat-trick in 2016!

Gary Mackie



Brownsea Island

In early July a small group from Solent region enjoyed a visit to Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour in Dorset on a lovely sunny day.

The island is 500 acres (200ha) in size, about 1.5 x 1 mile and owned by the National Trust. It is accessed by a 20 minute ferry crossing. Arriving on the island, a guided tour was provided which gave an insight into the history of the island and its wildlife.

Brownsea was the first camp for the Boy Scout organisation arranged by Lord Baden Powell in 1907 and is still used regularly by the Scouts from all over the world.

The island has lovely walks with views over Poole Harbour and neighbouring Studland and Sandbanks. We were privileged to see a red squirrel spotted on a footpath whilst we were walking back to the ferry.

Ian Burrell



Tempsford

Illustrated Talk by David Wood

The first event of this calendar year was an illustrated talk by member David Wood, on the Dutch Delta flood defence system, on which he worked for a while as a young man. The scheme was designed and installed to prevent recurrence of the disastrous floods in 1953 that also affected the east coast of England. The talk was given at The Anchor Hotel in Great Barford on 3rd February when our group of twenty enjoyed a lovely buffet lunch.

Royal Albert Hall

We combined lunch with a visit to London for two guided tours of the Royal Albert Hall and its surroundings. Our group of twenty was enthralled by the entertaining and knowledgeable guide who told us about the history and development of the surrounding area. We had a break for lunch in the Verdi Restaurant where our pre-ordered Italian meals were beautifully prepared and served before our second tour, which was of the interior of the Hall. I must admit that I found the minibus ride through London rather tedious but it was a most enjoyable day.



Danish Camp Lunch

On 12th May our group of twelve gathered on a rather wet day for lunch at the Danish Camp in Willington.

Five Bells Lunch, Henlow

On 11th June we had a lovely lunch at the Five Bells, Henlow. Unfortunately, owing to members' conflicting commitments, we had a group of only six present.

Golf Day

The local golf day with Rushden area at Pavenham Golf Club, organised by John Stamford, took place on 3rd June.

The winners were:

- Overall winner - Julian Armitage
- Longest drive - Mike Ross
- Nearest the pin - Roy Murphy
- Best front nine - Cyril Carter
- Best back nine - John Stamford



Tempsford Garden Party

On 21st June we had, of course, the annual garden party in the grounds of Tempsford Hall and our thanks are due to all involved in organising it, both beforehand and on the day, for giving us such a wonderful time – 45 from the Tempsford Area attended.



Greyhound Inn Lunch

A good attendance of eighteen met for lunch at The Greyhound Inn, Haynes, Bedfordshire on 16th July when, once again we enjoyed our food in good company.



Harold Thompson

From the Archives...

A Short History of the Newport and Bristol Office

The origins of this area, divided by the tidal River Severn, are firmly rooted within G.E. Wallis & Sons which was founded by George Ephraim Wallis, a bricklayer and mason, in 1860 in Maidstone, Kent. G.E. Wallis became a private company in 1904, owned by his three sons. After the Second World War a branch office was opened in Truro and in 1955 the South Wales office was established in Cambrian Chambers, Newport.



The Newport office moved in 1964 to its present location, Cathedral Chambers, an old converted Tythe Barn within the shadow of St. Woolos Cathedral on Stow Hill, overlooking the town. Many of the earlier contracts undertaken were within the residential sector, particularly local authority housing, although later, private housing schemes were also developed for sale, several winning awards for design and construction.

Meanwhile, a growing portfolio of contracts were undertaken from within both the public and private sectors, including a new Polytechnic College at Treforest, the Cardiff AFC Grandstand, a Police training centre and a wide selection of health

and education projects. The prestigious contract to construct Britain's first integrated 'floppy disc' plant was awarded in 1984 by the Welsh Development Agency, and the following year the Prince of Wales opened Cartwright Court, new halls of residence for the University of Wales in Cardiff. The company also had its own newsletter, started some 21 years earlier, in which articles about staff and contracts were regularly published whenever local interest stories could be extracted from reluctant staff to meet copy deadlines - some things never seem to change! Jim French was appointed MD of the

Western Division in May 1985, with a remit to grow the business on both sides of the Bristol Channel, and Stephen Bowcott joined the company shortly after to introduce a design & build capability and to manage future contracts won in the Bristol area.

On the English side of the River Severn, another building company, C.H.Beazer, was started by Cyril Beazer in Bath in the early 1930s and grew rapidly in later years under the leadership of Cyril's son Brian, eventually going public in 1973. 1985 was a year of great change for G.E.Wallis & Sons Ltd, which by then had a turnover of £50 million and employed 600 staff and operatives, as it was bought by the highly acquisitive C H Beazer Holdings PLC, which shortly after, in the same year, went on to acquire a controlling interest in the major publically listed contractor, French Kier Ltd.

There followed a period of major upheaval and reorganisation for all construction-related businesses from Beazer and French Kier based in the south-west. In effect, G.E.Wallis Western Division, French Kier Bristol, French Kier Plymouth, Beazer Construction, Beazer Builders (small works division) and George V. Williams (stone masons) were all brought together under the collective banner of Wallis Western Ltd, a newly formed subsidiary company, within the much enlarged Beazer Regional Construction Division (later to become Kier Regional) based at French Kier's Head Office in Tempsford Hall, Bedfordshire.

A new management contract to refurbish the HTV Studios in Bristol was secured by Wallis Western, whilst French Kier Bristol won contracts at Gloucester Royal Infirmary, Gloucester Prison and a major extension at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol. All local Bristol based staff were relocated to larger offices in Apsley Road in Clifton, and the old French Kier Bristol office in Clare Street was closed.

For a while in 1986 the several merged businesses were all still operating under their old names whilst finishing existing contracts, and chief buyer Glyn Morris, now a KGFT Member, recalls that he had to select 'G E Wallis', 'French Kier', 'Beazer' or the new name of 'Wallis Western' letterheads and order forms for the various different contracts, before they all became integrated! Doug Elliott joined the company as Area Manager for Plymouth and Exeter, and as workload grew, new offices were found to replace the old French Kier Plymouth office. Several staff from this area would go on to hold senior managerial positions, two notable examples being Peter Young and David Snell, whilst Doug Elliott became MD of Dudley

Coles (previously a Hanson subsidiary) and eventually, Kier Western before leaving the Group.



Workload continued to expand in and around Bristol, with a growing proportion arising from the private commercial sector. During the late 80s a series of D&B contracts with a combined value in excess of £30m were negotiated with Arlington Securities in Bristol, which led on to a partnering relationship being developed by Moss Southern with Arlington in Cheltenham, Oxford and elsewhere.

In 1990 the Bristol office moved to 'The Old Mill' at Warmley, in an eastern suburb which conveniently also allowed the relocation of Beazer Builders staff from their previous offices in Bath. This old three-storey flour mill, originally powered by large diesel engines, had been decommissioned and was used for storing Corona drink bottles before being acquired and refurbished by Wallis Western. Fortunately, it was possible to preserve much of the character of the building, especially the exterior, and internal features within the new top floor Board Room and offices.

Further corporate change was on the way with C H Beazer holdings being acquired by Hanson in 1990/91. This was followed rapidly in 1992 by the successful employee buyout from Hanson by the new Kier Board led by Chief Executive, Colin Busby. The Kier Group, much as we know it today, was finally born! In more recent times it was the Bristol Office that developed the special relationship and partnering successes with J Sainsbury's.

Retail work became a large part of Bristol's turnover throughout the 90s and beyond, as well as providing significant volumes of supermarket work for other companies within Kier Regional. Other contracts included health centres, an Ibis Hotel and work at HMP Guys Marsh.

(Continued over...)

From the Archives...

A Short History of the Newport and Bristol Office (Continued)

In South Wales too, retail was of major importance, supplemented by exacting hospital and schools projects. Major ongoing phases of work were also undertaken at the DVLC, Swansea.

Various subsequent management changes have taken place and the flourishing business now continues under the remit of Kier Construction Director, Peter Young, with Area Manager Jason Taylor at Newport and David Snell, Operations Director at Bristol.

Compiled from archives and research by: Jack Laughton, Claire Veale, Glyn Morris and others



Save the Date! Summer Garden Party 2016

The summer garden party 2016 is scheduled for Sunday, 26 June. It's always well attended. Good food, plenty to drink but best of all, great company! Put the date in your diary now.



Obituaries

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

Name	Date Passed Away
Michael Aston	15 Feb 2015
Josephine Badman	12 Feb 2015
Maurice Bailey	03 Apr 2015
Reginald Beagle	08 Apr 2015
Pamela Botting	05 Dec 2014
Graham Bush	27 Feb 2015
Alan Doherty	06 Nov 2014
Ingeborg Evans	06 Dec 2014
Geoffrey Foster	14 Mar 2015
Sharon Fuller	19 Apr 2015
Leonard Garner	12 Dec 2014
Joseph Gearing	22 Feb 2015
Michael Gillard	09 Mar 2015
Jillian Gillard	04 Jan 2015
Gladys Goodacre	27 Jan 2015
William Green	19 Feb 2015
Grace Greenfield	15 Mar 2015
Alan Harris	05 Feb 2015
Herbert Hewett	05 Nov 2014
Mary Hewitt	18 Nov 2014
Jean Horner	14 Jan 2015
Patricia Murr	04 May 2014
George Howard	26 Mar 2015
Audrey Hughes	19 Nov 2014

Name	Date Passed Away
Maud Lamb	01 May 2015
John Larholt	28 Dec 2014
Desmond Licqourish	21 Nov 2014
John Lucas	01 May 2015
Daphne Lynch	21 Dec 2014
Laurence Machan	31 Jan 2015
Frederick Mizen	26 Feb 2015
Sheila Nicholls	25 Jan 2015
Maurice Packman	09 Jan 2015
Ole Palmann	07 Feb 2015
William Roach	27 Nov 2014
Nellie Ryder	02 Apr 2015
David Shephard	30 Dec 2014
William Smith	02 Jan 2015
James Steadman	10 Jan 2015
Frederick Stoker	29 Jan 2015
Peter Sykes	13 Mar 2015
Jacqueline Turner	18 Jan 2015
David White	19 Mar 2015
James Wilkinson	22 Dec 2014
Pamela Willis	26 Jan 2015
Michael Woodstock	26 Dec 2014
Olive Wynn	04 May 2015

Features for the next edition of KierLink

Please send all features to Viv Chesterfield by no later than

Monday, 18 January 2015

Many thanks!



From the Archives...

Hard Graft at Grafham Water

aka Diddington Reservoir

A haven for wildlife and offering a variety of leisure pursuits, Grafham Water attracts hoardes of visitors every year. The sprawling reservoir, ten miles in circumference, along with the ancient woodlands that surround it, is designated as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and offers a tranquil setting for a pleasant stroll, bike ride or picnic. Also home to popular sailing and fishing clubs, Grafham Water is without doubt a sparkling jewel in the Cambridgeshire crown. In practical terms, the reservoir serves the Anglian Water treatment plant for drinking and also has the capacity to take in extra water to prevent flooding along the River Great Ouse.

Walking around Grafham Water today, it's hard to imagine the landscape before the reservoir was built – a valley with a small brook meandering through it – Diddington Brook – which gave the reservoir its original name. Back in the early 1960s however, this was exactly what the W&C French construction team faced as they embarked on one of the most demanding engineering projects of its time – to cap off the valley and create a new reservoir to meet the demands of the new town of Milton Keynes and the expansion of Beds and Northants. It was about to become the biggest manmade stretch of water in England with a capacity of 14,000 million gallons – all held in place by an 80ft high, 1 mile long dam.

There was a massive amount of earth to move. Three crews of earthmover drivers worked 24/7 in rotation for a year to shift two million cubic yards of clay. It's hard to imagine the sheer volume of this but to put it in perspective, it would have filled a one foot wide, one foot deep trench across the Atlantic and back!



A Myth:

Contrary to popular belief, an entire village does not lie submerged beneath the reservoir. So local tales of the church bell sounding when the waters are choppy – while fascinating - simply aren't true. There were a few farm buildings and houses which were demolished.



Once the earth was moved, there was much more to do. The £12m contract not only comprised construction of the reservoir, but also of the water treatment works, the pumping station and other associated infrastructure. The treatment works was one of the most advanced schemes in the world and was both complex and demanding. Water from the reservoir was to be pumped to the treatment works and from there the purified water would be distributed through some 40 miles of steel trunk mains.

By December 1964, ten months ahead of schedule, the pumps were put into operation to move the water from the River Great Ouse through three miles of pipeline to the reservoir, 100ft above the intake. It took fifteen months to pump the 14,000 million gallons of water to fill the reservoir – worth a thought next time you're waiting to climb in the bath! The widely-acclaimed scheme was officially opened by HRH Prince Philip in July 1966.

Extract from a report as the project neared completion: "By this time next year, grass will be growing where mud now prevails. The reservoir will be dotted with sails and visitors enjoying the view will converse in a far gentler language than that which accompanies present activities! Another water shortage problem will be solved and we will be away tackling something else. But we have left a permanent and worthwhile mark at Diddington; something that will influence the lives of a great many people for many years to come." How right they were.

Diddington Facts

Contracts manager: Bob Hare

Site Agent: Jack Thompson

Reservoir length: 3 miles

Reservoir width: 1.5 miles

Max depth: 70ft

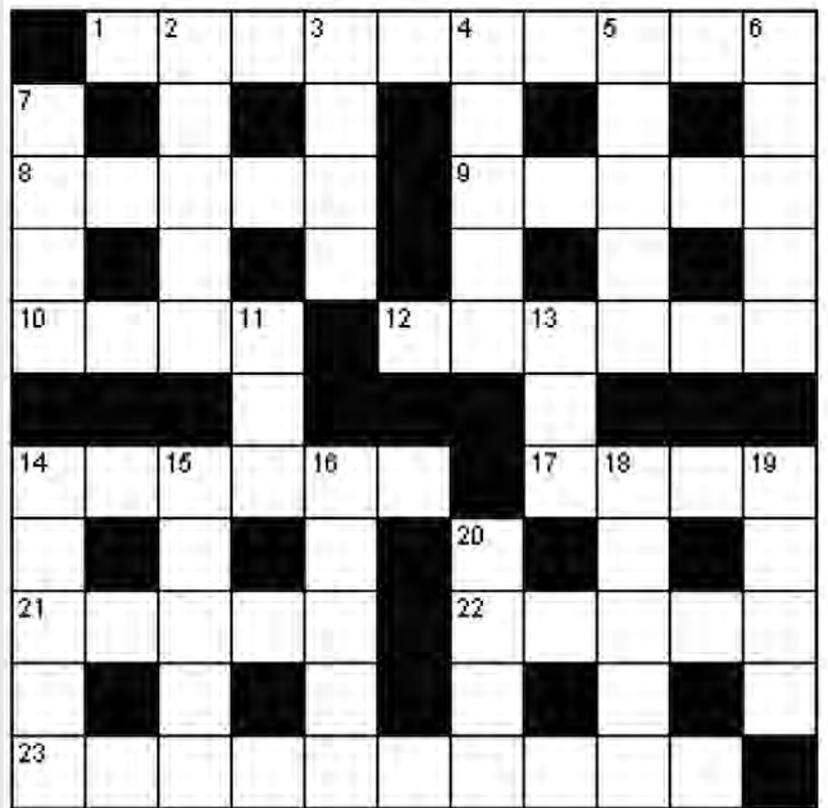
Work began 1963



With thanks to Jack Thompson for the background information and historic images

Puzzle Page just for Fun!

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1.	Achieving success (10)
8.	Person who rides (5)
9.	Moray Firth town (5)
10.	Cat sound (4)
12.	Absence of passion(6)
14.	Vegetable (6)
17.	Female servant (4)
21.	Hog (5)
22.	Pale bluish purple (5)
23.	Shetland village (10)

Down

2.	Mammary gland in cows (5)
3.	Thin rope (4)
4.	Sunrise (3 - 2)
5.	Hard stone (5)
6.	Tall and thin (5)
7.	Snare (4)
11.	Floor covering (3)
13.	Upper limb (3)
14.	Urns (5)
15.	Dirt (5)
16.	Standard of perfection (5)
18.	Entertain (5)
19.	Contest between 2 persons (4)
20.	Little devils (4)

Sudoku

3					1			
6	9	4					5	
			3				7	
	2	9			3	1		
	6		2	4		5		
9	7				2		4	
			7					8
			1					

Solutions to all Puzzles
will appear in the next
edition!

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