

KierLink

The Magazine for Kier Group Fellowship Trust

FELLOWSHIP MATTERS

Reports from
Trust Chairman Dick
Side and Group
Chief Executive
Haydn Mursell

FEATURES

The Wisbech Story
Tempsford Garden Party

NEW MEMBERS

Who has recently
joined?

REGIONAL REPORTS

What has everyone
been up to?



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Welcome



Welcome to the 29th 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 the KierLink.

Kind regards
Marel Strydom
(KierLink Designer)

Editors' notes

Welcome to the autumn edition of Kierlink which contains the first contribution from the new Group chief executive, Haydn Mursell, together with the area reports which demonstrate how busy you have all been through the summer months.



Our feature article is about the history of the Wisbech Office and its successful and long period as a major employer in the Fenland town of Wisbech.

The Tempsford Garden Party in June was once again very successful and was blessed with beautiful weather and enjoyed by all who attended as can be seen from the photographs of the event.

We are also pleased to welcome the new company representative on the Trustee Board, Alan Smith, who takes over from Paul Sheffield. We have an article in this edition to explain his new role.

Our crossword competition was again popular and the winner of our £50 prize this time is Rose Taylor from Halifax. Congratulations Rose and your cheque will be on its way very soon.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to hearing of your exploits through the winter period in time for the spring edition of KierLink.

John Simson & Geoff Brown

John Simson: johnsimson@live.co.uk

Geoff Brown: geoffbrown42@sky.com

Our front page

Guests at Tempsford Garden Party enjoying an aperitif in the sunshine before lunch was served in the marquee.



Features for the next edition of the KierLink

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

19 January 2015

Many thanks!



Chairman's Fellowship matters



Many of you will be aware that it has been a year of change and reorganisation for Kier with probably the most significant change being the resignation of chief executive Paul Sheffield and the appointment of Haydn Mursell as his successor.

Paul had been a director of the Fellowship Trustee since my retirement in 2008 when I became chairman of the Trustee board. He was always an enthusiastic supporter of the Trust and I am sure you will join me in thanking him for the keen interest he has taken over the last six years and wish him well for his future beyond Kier.

I think it was very reassuring for those of us present at the Tempsford annual Garden Party to hear the new chief executive, Hadyn Mursell, indicate that we can rely on the continuing support of Kier Group.

An important element of that support is the company's nomination of Alan Smith to join the board of the Fellowship Trustee and perform the liaison role previously covered by Paul Sheffield. Alan is now the director responsible for promoting corporate responsibility across the Kier Group and therefore the Group's relationship with the Fellowship Trust falls naturally within his ambit.

I am also very pleased to confirm that Viv Chesterfield is continuing as a member of the Trustee board following her departure from Kier after 31 years' service. In recent years she held the role of group communications manager working with Alan Smith.

Whilst the downsizing and reorganising of the Regional offices has been quite significant there has been little change for ourselves other than our Wisbech area now deals with the new Kier Construction Waterbeach office since the closure of the Wisbech office.

Robin Butler the ex MD of the Regional business based in Cheltenham has taken over from Hugh Sweet as area organiser.

Hugh was the original Trustee director responsible for administration and accounts until handing over to Brendan O'Boyle in 2001.

He became the Cheltenham area organiser in 2007 when Len Gaylor stepped down after nine years in the role.

I trust you will all join me in wishing Hugh the very best of good health in his "retirement" and thank him for the many hours he has devoted to the Fellowship Trust.

I would also like to thank my fellow Trustee directors and all our Area Organisers and their supporters for their efforts in delivering another successful year during which 104 events were staged that attracted over 3,000 attendances, 350 more than in the previous record year.

The number of Fellowship members is being maintained at around 1,250 and we continue to operate on a break-even budget with gains on the disposal of selected investments off setting our operating losses.

However, as always, we are only able to achieve this by virtue of the financial and practical assistance we continue to receive from those Kier businesses that have supported our local area organisations since the inception of the Fellowship in 1998.

I do hope this help and support will continue to be freely given as without it we will not be able to maintain the number and quality of events that our members are able to enjoy at reasonable cost to themselves

Dick Side



Administrator's report

I am pleased to report that for the first time since the Trust was established in 1998 we have recorded over 100 events in a year across our thirteen areas. Over 3000 members have attended those events which is a 12% increase on the previous year.

Our seventeenth annual garden party was held at Tempsford Hall on 22 June 2014 with 230 members in attendance as well as the executive Directors of Kier Group Plc. The Chairman's award for area organiser of the year went to Brian Hill of Rushden who had sold out a number of his events during the year.

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 have maintained the original sum placed in the Trust some 16 year's ago and continue to operate on a brake-even basis. We still hold 80% of our funds on the stock exchange in investment trusts & unit trusts with the remainder on short term cash deposits. These investments have provided a good level of income to subsidise all our events.

A recent review of our membership database revealed that over 70 new members had joined us in the year ended 30 June increasing our total membership to a new record high of 1,260.

As our membership continues to grow we are always looking for volunteers to help organise events or become area organisers of the future so if you have recently joined the Trust and would like to get involved please contact me by e-mail or at the address shown below.

New members should be aware that the Kier website includes a section for the Fellowship Trust with 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.

Previous editions of our Fellowship magazine Kier Link are also available on the website for members to read. The 'short cut' address of www.kier.co.uk/about/fellowship-trust.aspx will take you direct to the Trust section of the Kier website.

Members wishing to join or re-join the Kier Plus Benefits Scheme will need to provide their area organiser or myself with their full name, date of birth and National Insurance number. Our lists are uploaded once a month to the Rewards Team on the 20th of each month and become 'live on the system' by month end. The rewards team are not able to deal with applicants direct.

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

As previously, may I remind members to advise us of any change of address or circumstances so that they continue to receive invites to events and copies of our Trust magazine.

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

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Regards

Brendan O'Boyle

Message from the Group chief executive



It was a real pleasure to attend the Fellowship Trust Garden Party on Sunday 22 June and I was pleasantly surprised to see how many people had travelled a considerable distance to be there. In my new role as CEO I'm looking forward to learning more about the Trust and meeting members in the months ahead. It was particularly pleasing to learn of the energy and enthusiasm that exists within the Fellowship for keeping in touch through a full programme of social activity.

I know many of you retain a keen interest in Kier. Mindful that our full results for the year ended 30 June 2014 were announced on 18 September, I can quite simply say that Kier continues to go from strength to strength.

On the back of the May Gurney acquisition, the enlarged group is making its mark winning new and bigger contracts in the services sector which further add to our strength. Not only can we build, design and engineer, but we are increasingly able to offer our clients a broader range of capabilities that are highly competitive and attractive.

The breadth of our capability in our market sectors is second to none and with a clear vision - to be a world class customer-focused company that invests in, builds, maintains and renews the places where we live, work and play - I'm really excited about the future. We have a strong platform for growth.

Some of you may be aware of the consultation process that was initiated in July concerning the proposed closure of the Final Salary Section of the Kier Group Pension Scheme. I would like to take this opportunity to assure existing Kier pensioners that they will not be affected by this proposal and their pensions in payment will continue to be supported by the company servicing the considerable deficit relating to pensions already earned.

For those wishing to keep up to speed with the Group's progress, the corporate website is the best means of doing so - particularly the latest news section - and if you are a user of social media, you can follow us on twitter.

My very best wishes to you all.

Haydn Mursell

Welcome to the new Director of the Fellowship Trustee

Alan Smith, director of corporate responsibility for Kier Group plc, has been appointed as a director of the Fellowship Trustee, taking over from Paul Sheffield as the company representative director for the Trust.

Alan joined Kier in 2007 as director of corporate communications and was appointed to his present role in 2013. Prior to that, he worked as director of communications within the Royal BAM Group for 17 years, including 10 years with civil engineering company BAM Nuttall and then 7 years with BAM Construct UK (then HBG Construction). Much of his experience at Nuttall included several joint ventures with Kier, such as two major CTRL projects, a relationship which continues at the Crossrail and Hinkley Point C nuclear power station contracts today. He also served as director of communications on the main board at the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).

His present role includes managing and co-ordinating the Group's Corporate responsibility/sustainability programme, ensuring that the Group addresses the social and environmental impact the business has upon society, as

well as issues of governance and ethics. This includes wide stakeholder engagement, liaising closely with customers, shareholders and investment analysts, NGOs, staff and supply chain partners on sustainability issues that are material to their relationship with Kier.



Alan is also chairman of Trustees of the company's independent charitable trust, The Kier Foundation, which has just completed a formal partnership with the national children's charity Barnardo's, for which it raised £250,000, and is now in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support for the next two years.

A graduate of the University of Leeds, an Incorporate Member of the Chartered Institute of Building and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations, Alan is co-author of several books and papers on corporate communications and corporate responsibility in the construction industry.

We look forward to working with Alan and his support for the Fellowship over the coming years.

Name	City / Town	Area	Worked For	Years of Service
Catherine Armitage	Maidstone	Maidstone	Kier Construcion Southern	6.5 Years
Marilyn Bott	Bedford	Tempsford	Kier Ltd	32 Years
Vivienne Chesterfield	Riseley	Tempsford	Kier Group	31 Years
Ann Margaret Davies	Offord Darcy	Tempsford	Kier Ltd	14 Years
Marry Dillon	Eaton Socon	Tempsford	Kier Major Projects	38 Years
Philip John Docherty	Newark	Tempsford	Kier Infrastructure/ Overseas	3 Years
William Evans	Chislehurst	Maidstone	Kier Wallis	38 Years
Susan Mary Flemons	Rushden	Rushden	Marriott	19 Years
Jacqueline Gordon	Buckden	Tempsford	Kier Ltd (Group Services)	17 Years
Alexander Halford	Maghull	Lverpool	Kier Construction Northern	13 Years
Phil Hornsby	Stockport	Liverpool	Kier Construction Northern	10 Years
Linda Christine James	Maidstone	Maidstone	Kier Construction Southern	12 Years
Denis Lawler	Yate	Bristol & Newport	Kier Central (Cheltenham)	12 Years
Graham Linney	Woolton	Liverpool	Kier Construction Northern	28 Years
Michael Moran	Doncaster	Boston Spa	Kier Construction Northern	32 Years
Grace Nurr	St Neots	Tempsford	Kier Build etc.	14 Years
Tim Ogdon	Wisbech	Wisbech	Kier Construction Eastern	31 Years
Royston John Perkins	Evesham	Cheltenham	Kier Central (Cheltenham)	25 Years
Colin Philips	Wigan	Liverpool	Kier Construction Northern	20 Years
Jeff Pickering	Reading	Cheltenham	Kier Moss / Kier Construction Central	24 Years
David Pinn	Northwood	Tempsford	Kier Ltd	4 Years
Brian Reece	Bedford	Rushden	Marriott / Kier Eastern	38 Years
Ray Shaw	Harrogate	Boston Spa	Kier Construction Northern	29 Years
Gordon Tartaglia	Cardiff	Cheltenham	Moss Construction etc	18 Years
Susan Vanessa Tartaglia	Cardiff	Cheltenham	Moss Construction etc	19 Years
Graham Tillet	Willington	Tempsford	Kier International	8 Years
Sinnathamby Uthayakumar	Ilford	Loughton	Kier Construction London	14 Years
Christine Young	Hitchin	Tempsford	Kier group / Kier Build	7 Years

Welcome to New Members

Boston Spa

Head Office Football Team 1958

Revie Morris is keen to identify the missing members in the photograph. Can anyone help name them?



Milford Lodge Lunch

Once again we held our spring lunch at the Milford Lodge Hotel on 23 March and 21 members enjoyed the meal and catching up with everyone's news.

Jean Gratten

Sadly, Jean Gratten, the wife of George Gratten who was an estimator, has died after her long battle with cancer.

Jean was a keen member and attended many of our events and raised over £5000 for cancer charities before her death.



Katherine Leadley

Moss

Sezincote House

About 30 members of Kier Moss Fellowship enjoyed a lovely day early in July at Sezincote House near Moreton-in-Marsh.

We were treated to a private tour of the house, which everyone found quite fascinating. The house was designed in Indian style and was the inspiration for the Brighton Pavilion.

After the tour and a wander round the beautiful gardens we all crossed the road to Batsford Arboretum where we had lunch and then explored the Arboretum for the rest of the afternoon all in beautiful sunshine.



Robin Butler

Bristol & Newport

Forester Oaks

Our March meal was at the Foresters Oaks, near Newport, a return visit for us. After another excellent lunch Members stayed to enjoy a good social catch-up and chat.

Boat trip on the MV. Conway Castle

We also had a boat trip in June from Upton-upon-Severn down the river to Tewkesbury on the 'MV. Conway Castle' the largest passenger vessel on the River Severn, where we had a two and a half hour stop over lunchtime. Most explored the town centre and visited the fine Abbey.

We had a beautiful, hot, sunny afternoon for the return and the trip was much enjoyed by all, as can be seen by the end-of-trip smiles all round!



Woodchester Mansion

In August we visited Woodchester Mansion and an opportunity for an introduction to Bowls.

Planned Events and General News

Our Golf Day will be in conjunction with Kier Moss and a meal is planned in South Wales in the autumn.

Alan Jones has joined our Committee. Our area, despite having the tidal River Severn forming a somewhat difficult 'great divide', continues to thrive.

Berkeley Castle & Edward Jenour Museum

In May we visited Berkeley Castle, still owned by the Berkeley family after 900 years, for a guided tour. This Norman fortress has evolved through the years but still retains the keep and cell where King Edward II was murdered.

It has the 'feel' of a family home with its furnishings, many paintings and tapestries together with the great kitchens, all available to see. Some Members visited the adjacent Edward Jenour Museum afterwards with its highly informative displays of how the Smallpox Vaccine was developed there.



David Priddis (Secretary)

Wisbech

The history of the Wisbech office

In February, Ivor Pollington and Andrew Pallant delivered an illustrated talk of the history of the Wisbech Depot to an invited audience at The Wisbech Institute, which followed a solo presentation on the same subject by Andrew at The Octavia Hill House. Both were well received and sparked much reminiscence in the audience.

Lunch at The Woolpack Inn

In May a lunch was held at The Woolpack Inn near Wisbech with the usual stalwarts attending as they did at a curry night at a local Indian restaurant in June.

Tempsford Garden Party

A small group attended the garden party at Tempsford which was much enjoyed.

Andrew Pallant

Tempsford Garden Party

Sunday, 22 June 2014

We were again extremely lucky with the weather which was even sunnier and warmer than last year. The marquee was erected on the Tempsford Sports field which proved an ideal location for all the services. There were three gazebos serving Pimms and soft drinks which members were able to enjoy in the sunshine whilst renewing friendships and acquaintances.



I was privileged to be MC for the day and after the necessary announcements invited Alan Smith to say Grace. Alan has recently been appointed by the company to be the Trust Board member to continue the role previously undertaken by Paul Sheffield.



Our three course lunch was enjoyed by all with many commenting it was "the best yet". As a talking point during lunch there was a trivia quiz and whilst we thought the questions were difficult no less than seven tables had all the answers correct and so once again we had to hold a tie breaker to find the winner.



After lunch members welcomed Haydn Mursell, the new Group chief executive who admitted that some difficult decisions had to be taken during the recession, but said that Kier had weathered the recent times better than most contractors. He went on to say that the Group was in a healthy position following the takeover of May Gurney and was now in a position to offer an unrivalled range of services to clients. The company are being very selective in the work it is undertaking.

Of particular interest to those present, Haydn said he had recently agreed new funding for the Group Pension Scheme with Paul Staniland who is the new chairman of the scheme. Also of interest, Haydn said the company would continue to support the Fellowship Trust including the annual Garden Party.



Thanking Haydn for Kier's continuing support of the Trust, Dick Side, Trust Chairman, gave him our best wishes for success in his new role as Group chief executive. Dick also thanked Paul Sheffield for his input and support as a Trustee and wished him well for the future.



In reviewing the Trust year Dick said that both attendances and the number of events were up on last year. He noted the wider activity of the Tempsford and newly reformed Solent area and a resurgence in activity of the Bristol and Newport areas.

The runners up for the Chairman's award were the Loughton and Witham Area and joint area organiser Geoff Brown accepted the prize. The winners however, were the Rushden Area which had increased attendances by almost fifty percent and so to the huge cheers from the eighty members present, Brian Hill stepped up to receive the award.

"Resident" raconteur John Hebblethwaite followed with a number of amusing tales told in his own style which he has been performing for many years at the Garden Party.

The formalities over Jenny and the Mantas, a four piece band, had many of those present dancing whilst some sat outside listening to the music. During the interval to the music the raffle prizes were drawn with the main prize being a TV Combo.

Many of those present had expressed a wish to see the newly remodelled Tempsford Hall. Because of the large numbers involved this was impossible to arrange. It was decided on the day that the public areas would be opened to view and those that took advantage of this were suitably impressed.

During the afternoon it was good to see Paul Sheffield call in to say goodbye to many old friends.

It seemed that the function could have gone on all night, but by 5.30 pm it was time to bring the event to a close and thank all those who had helped to make another successful Garden Party. So here's to next year.

John Stamford



Tempsford Garden Party

(Continued)



Loughton - Witham

Royal Naval College at Greenwich

We finished 2013 with a visit to the Royal Naval College at Greenwich for an evening of carols in the Chapel of St. Peter and St. Paul followed by a traditional turkey dinner in the Painted Hall. Sixteen members had a wonderful evening.



Royal Air Force Museum

We started 2014 with a visit on the 12 February to the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon. Commencing with refreshments in the Echo, Alpha, Tango (EAT) restaurant, thereafter at their own leisure members wandered around the awe inspiring collection of aircraft.



Cutty Sark and the Royal Observatory

On 19 March 58 members visited the Cutty Sark and the Royal Observatory in Greenwich.

Spring Buffet

Our annual Spring Buffet was held on the 3 April as usual at The Metropolitan Police Sports Ground, Chigwell and was attended by 110 members who enjoyed a buffet lunch whilst reminiscing with colleagues about past times.

A raffle was held, which raised £220 for the Kier Foundation.



Loughton - Witham

(Continued)



Newmarket and the Fens

Wednesday 14 May saw 51 members leave Chigwell for a tour of Newmarket and the Fens before arriving in Ely for lunch. After lunch they had a memorable tour of the Cathedral. Those that had time also visited Oliver Cromwell's house (from 1636 – 1647). We had an excellent guide who made the day very interesting.

Golf Day Hainault Golf Club

Our annual Golf Day this year was held on 21 May at Hainault Golf Club. Fourteen members played the hilly upper course, with the overall winner being Neil Meixner.

A Chinese meal brought the day to an end.



Woburn Abbey

On 11 June 45 members visited Woburn Abbey. It was a beautiful day and after morning coffee members enjoyed a guided tour around the Abbey.

Lunch was taken in the Duchess Tea Room, and there was still time for a walk around the extensive gardens which concluded a most interesting and enjoyable day out.



Woburn Abbey (Continued)



Tempsford Garden Party

Tempsford Garden Party was held on 22 June and 30 members attended.

Ascot Races

On a very hot and sunny Friday 25 July, 41 members visited Ascot Races for an afternoon of relaxation and the opportunity to lighten their wallets. We started the day with a behind the scene's tour, followed by lunch in the Bandstand Restaurant.

Unfortunately just after the first race, a thunderstorm and torrential rain covered the course and lasted for about an hour, but as most of our members were installed in the Grandstand propping up a bar I do believe they did not notice.

Geoff Brown & John Simson



Liverpool

Houghwood Golf Club

A lunch was held on 19 June at one of our favourite restaurants, Houghwood Golf Club with 25 members in attendance. The weather was lovely and the food, once again, was exceptional.

The usual raffle took place which was started by the late Norman England and has remained a Fellowship tradition.

25 year Service Dinner

The Fellowship was again invited to the 25 Year Dinner which was held on 7 March at The Liner Hotel. For many years it had taken place at the Suites Hotel in Knowsley, but last year the meal was not up to standard so a decision was taken to use another venue.

The dinner was attended by 39 members and the feedback for new venue was that the food and atmosphere were excellent.

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Lunch:
12 December – The Liner Hotel

Sharon Jenkins

Maidstone

Adelphi Theatre - The Bodyguard

On Wednesday 23 April, 37 members went to see "The Bodyguard" at the Adelphi Theatre and everyone enjoyed the show. I warned everyone that in the opening scene there would be an unexpected loud bang, but when it actually happened everyone seemed to jump and let out a gasp!

The lead role was performed exceptionally well by Carole Stennet who was Beverly Knight's understudy and songs included many well-known classics. It really was a dynamic show!

60's Show at Brick Lane

Thirty nine members made the journey to the Brick Lane Theatre on Friday 30 May to see Vincent Hayes, Paul James and cast in a lively and entertaining show. Before the performance we enjoyed a three course meal in this unusual theatre which is a converted church.

Ken and Betty's 65th Wedding Anniversary

As part of our day out at Brick Lane we celebrated the 65th wedding anniversary of Ken and Betty Brook, which was on 18 June, by stopping just short of our destination and everyone on the coach toasting their upcoming anniversary with a glass of Prosecco and many more years of happiness together.

Not to be out done, the theatre management announced their anniversary during the performance and a bouquet of flowers was presented to the very surprised couple which concluded a delightful day.



Annual Hog Roast

On the 16 July we again we held our Hog Roast in the grounds of Hadlow Manor Hotel and 56 members enjoyed the beautiful weather and food and the shade of their large chestnut tree!, a very successful day.

Anne Ransley

Solent

Summer BBQ

On 12 June 17 members & partners, one grandchild and a dog attended the summer BBQ held at the Royal Victoria Country Park on the banks of Southampton Water. The country park is set in the grounds of the former Royal Victoria military hospital dating from the 1860's; at the time of construction it was the largest brick building in Europe at a quarter of a mile long. The event was blessed with wonderful weather, being the hottest day of the year to date it seemed to inspire hearty appetites. Needless to say sun cream and hats were the order of the day. It was good to catch up with old friends in a wonderful setting with the day being enjoyed by all who attended.

Gary Mackie



Skittles Evening

Not to be outdone by Kier Group joint ventures (JV's) we decided to hold our own JV with the Southampton office in the form of a skittles evening at the Kings Head in Wickham on the 16 May.

We had a good turnout of 27 'athletes', 13 unwaged Fellowship members/partners and 14 in paid employment. It would be good to think that we were the star attraction but possibly the thought of a drink or two (for the non-drivers) and a chance to eat good food prepared by someone else may have been a factor.

The 2 teams were evenly matched if not highly skilled. Nobody failed to miss with all three balls but two low rollers managed only to unsettle 1 skittle. At the other end of the scale no single ball strikes were achieved although a couple of clearances were managed.

The Southampton office supplied the individual ladies and gents highest scorers, who were suitably rewarded by a bottle of wine, and also the lowest scorer who seemed well satisfied with a bumper bag of Skittles sweets.

Despite having one less team member and one lady on crutches, as a result of her project manager husband failing to carry out a proper risk assessment when taking down a fence, the Fellowship players amassed the highest number of skittles talked into submission. Alas we were only rewarded by a well done, it's the taking part that really counts!

Now we have 'mastered' the art of aiming for, but mainly missing, 9 skittles perhaps we should transfer our skills to 10 pin bowling next time.

Peter Wallbank

Rushden

Lunch at John White Golf Club

We started the year with an enjoyable lunch at John White Golf Club in February which was attended by 49 members including three past managing directors of Marriott.

Royal Albert Hall

On Saturday 15 March a full coach of 50 attended the Royal Albert Hall in London for the annual concert by the massed bands of the Royal Marines, always first class entertainment.

Savill Gardens, Windsor

Our first real excursion of the year was to Savill Gardens in Windsor, with a river cruise on the Thames and time to explore the area. Fifty six members attended and we were joined by Brendan O'Boyle and his wife Catherine.

Potters Leisure Resort

A four day week-end break at Potters Leisure Resort on the East Coast was enjoyed by 37 members who ventured into forgotten sporting activities, and listened to the ramblings of Chas and Dave in cabaret, which was not everyone's cup of tea.

Golf Day at Pavenhan Park Golf Club

Golf at Pavenhan Park Golf Club in conjunction with Tempsford area was again enjoyed by all those that attended.

Barcelona Trip

Early in October ten members flew to Barcelona and joined a cruise ship for an eight day all inclusive sail around the Mediterranean – plenty of sun, food and drink at a bargain price.

Tempsford Garden Party

The Annual Tempsford Hall Garden Party was attended by a record number of 81 from our area and we won the prize for the most improved number of members attending all of our events through the year.

Italian Dolomites

Our big event of the year was undoubtedly the week-long trip to the Italian Dolomites, Forty places were booked for the extravaganza which included some home Italian cooking, plenty of drink, wonderful scenery and good friendship, with all of the hotel family joining in and making us feel at home. Our guide Marzia was full of enthusiasm and learnt some new English words. A week to remember.



Unfortunately, John and Deirdre Stamford weren't able to join this fantastic trip due to illness but perhaps they can make next year's big trip to SENSATIONAL SICILY OCTOBER 2015.

After an extremely early start of 3.00am on Friday 27 June we left a rainy Rushden for Gatwick to be transported to a sunny, hot Verona where we were greeted by our enthusiastic guide called Marzia.

As our journey began her very informative commentary was somewhat wasted on us as the early start had taken its toll and she was faced with a group of very sleepy passengers. However, we did manage to stir ourselves for a delicious lunch stop where we enjoyed an Italian feast where the wine and conversation flowed.

On the way to the hotel we called at the pretty town of Lazise where we encountered our first view of the beautiful Lake Garda. We arrived at the hotel in the early evening to be greeted by our friendly host Fausto and his family.

The following day we headed for the picturesque Merano where we braved the single seat cable cars to a viewpoint where we enjoyed the local apple strudel. Later we visited a local winery to taste samples of the local fare.

On Sunday we set off for Verona with its large plazas and narrow streets the centre of which is dominated by the Roman Amphitheatre. We visited the must see attraction of Juliet's balcony and the statue of Juliet who has a very shiny right breast as it supposed to bring true love to those who touch it. Although traditionally this only applies to women there were a couple of men who just couldn't resist !

In the evening we tried the delights of grappa - not to everyone's taste but an enjoyable evening all the same. On Monday the weather was perfect for our trip up to the Dolomites. Again we went cable car riding up to the snowcapped



mountains at a height of 2,950m where we were spoilt to stunning panoramic views of outstanding natural beauty.

Tuesday was a more relaxing day around the village with Fausto and a picnic in the park. The evening however was party time as it was gala night the entertainment was provided by a local musician. The next two days were spent in various towns around Lake Garda. Riva, Limone and Sirmione all charming, scenic towns with the beauty of the Bougainvillea in full bloom. The speedboat ride on the lake at Simione was an exciting end to a thoroughly enjoyable holiday.

Planned Events

Dates for Your Diary:

- 19/10/2014 Coach mystery trip
- 22/11/2014 Christmas shopping at Stratford London
- 07/12/14 London Christmas lunch and Carol service at the Guard's Chapel

Brian Hill

Tempsford

The History of St Pancras Station Presentation

The presentation on 4 February by David Wood (one of our members) entitled "The History and Reconstruction of St Pancras Station" was very interesting and informative, and the 28 in attendance were treated to an excellent buffet lunch at the Anchor Great Barford.

Lunches

Lunches in March, April, May and June were held at the Tempsford Wheatsheaf, the Eaton Oak, The Danish Camp and the Five Bells (Henlow) when between twelve and fifteen attended each event.

Annual Golf Day

The annual Golf Day with Rushden Area on 29 May is reported separately by John Stamford.

Tempsford Garden Party

53 of our members had a wonderful day at the annual garden party on 22 June at Tempsford Hall – our grateful thanks to all involved in the finely tuned organisation of the event.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry

Eleven of us went on the visit to Whitechapel Bell Foundry on Saturday 7 June, when we joined others to make up the 25 maximum for each tour.

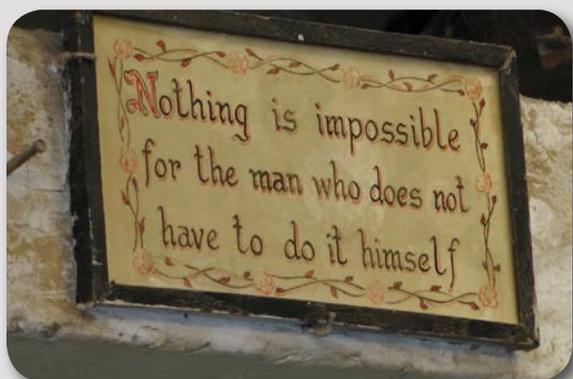
We had an informative and humorous guide in a descendent of the founder who told us all about the bell-making process in the course of the 90 minute tour and the accompanying photographs show some of what we saw.

Considering the almost Dickensian working conditions, it is not surprising that tours are not undertaken during working hours. We followed the tour with a pub lunch near Spitalfields market after which some of the group visited the market.

The lunch was not without its moment – they forgot John Stamford's food and he had to remind them after the rest of us had finished.

Harold Thompson





Rushden / Tempsford Golf Day

Thursday, 29th May 2014

Prior to the Golf day at Pavenham Park there had been 4 days of continuous rain and with it cold weather, but one hour before our tee time the skies cleared and the sun shone which made the bacon baps and coffees seem to taste even better. Although rather wet under foot, a good days golfing was enjoyed by all the participants.

Overall winner: Richard Fogg

Best Front nine: Mike Ross

Best Back nine: Terry Holland

Longest Drive: Terry Holland

Nearest the pin: Neil Meixner

John Stamford

The Wisbech Story

The Fenland town of Wisbech sits astride the River Nene, some five miles inland from the Wash and has been a port since the middle ages.

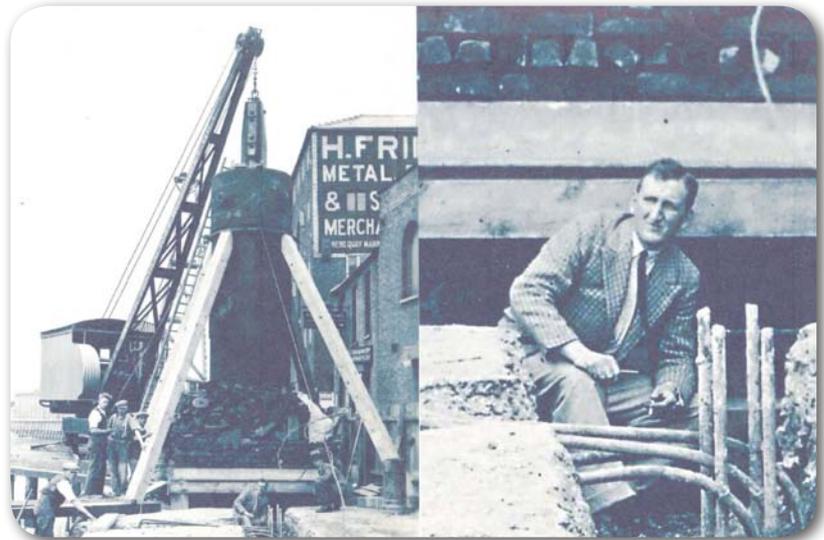
In 1929, W&C French were awarded a contract to construct Nene Quay, which was a road running adjacent to the river in Wisbech. The agent in charge was a Charles Newman who later became chairman of the company. During the Second World War he led the daring commando raid on St. Nazaire, for which he and four others were awarded the Victoria Cross for "outstanding bravery".

Other piling and construction contracts followed which resulted to the setting up of a permanent office and depot on the outskirts of town which became the base for carrying out work within an approximate 50 mile radius of Wisbech.

During the War, the construction of airfields became a national priority, particularly in East Anglia, with the company getting more than its fair share, ranging from RAF Duxford to RAF Waddington and many bases – both RAF and USAF in between. This work has been on going up to the present day. At RAF Alconbury we even broke up concrete laid by us during the war to facilitate new structures!

Due to the low lying nature of the Fens, much flood protection work has been carried out over the years for various river authorities and drainage boards – including the Royal Estate at Sandringham. In time of drought, surplus can be transferred from the River Great Ouse in Norfolk down to Essex by means of tunnels and rivers. We built the "tap" at Denver comprising of impounding dams and by-pass channels.

After the war, much emphasis was placed on rebuilding and improving the infrastructure of the nation. Railway bridges were built at places like Hatfield, Bury St. Edmunds, Corby, Cambridge and Thetford. Much of the work was carried out at the weekends during "track possessions" from Friday night to Sunday night working round the clock in shifts. Sufficient labour, plant and material had to be available on site to ensure that you did not overrun your allotted time. These were often complex projects which took a lot of



Colonel Newman, Agent at Wisbech 1929, later to become Chairman of W&C French Ltd

organisational skills by the staff together with a hardworking and knowledgeable labour force.

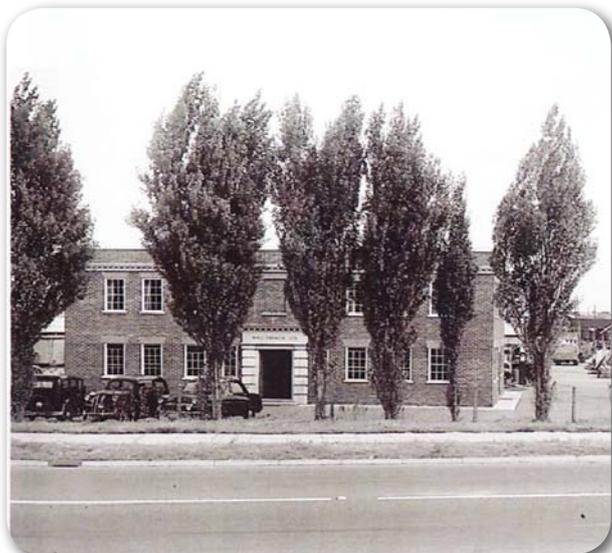
With the growing popularity of the motor car, major road works were undertaken in building by-passes at places like King's Lynn, St. Neots, Mepal and Chatteris whilst inner relief roads were built through Peterborough and Wisbech.

As towns expanded, the facilities required to support the growth in population and industry, had to keep pace which resulted in us building roads and sewers in places such as Peterborough, King's Lynn and Wisbech whilst major sewerage schemes were undertaken in Cambridge, Whittlesey, Peterborough and Wisbech.

Pipelines were constructed for the Cambridge Water Company whilst several reservoirs, both above and below ground, were constructed for the Anglian Water Authority. At Grafham Water, a large reservoir near Huntingdon was built by the company in the 60's and we constructed the new pump house. This enabled surplus water to be pumped from the reservoir via a pipeline into the river Great Ouse some 2 miles distant. This also allowed water to be transferred from the river up to the reservoir in times of need.

In 1974, W&C French and JL Kier joined forces to become French Kier. This came about by Olaf Kier, who was worried that his company could be swallowed up by a larger company, approached Jimmy Wignall, the then Chairman of W&C French with a view to a joint merger. This pragmatic attitude resulted in two companies with similar turnover and skills becoming the foundation of the major integrated construction, services and property group we see today.

Right up to the 90's, major work has been carried out across the whole spectrum of construction ranging from a new control tower at Luton Airport, to working at various British Sugar factories to assuage those with a sweet tooth! With the advent of North Sea gas, we became involved with the building of gas compressor stations and pipe bridges to carry the supply into the Midlands.



Wisbech Offices in the 1950's we think!

Over more recent years, general building construction has dominated the workload such as the £58m Police Investigation Centres built at 6 locations in East Anglia to uphold the law whilst major work has been carried out at HM Prisons located at Norwich, Wayland near Watton and Whitemoor near March, to accommodate the miscreants accordingly. Both Norfolk and Cambridgeshire County Councils, together with Peterborough City Council have undertaken a major school building programme in which we have played a significant role.

Whilst the foregoing achievements have been a significant element of our workload, the private sector has not been neglected. Our clients have included the Marshall Group, Perkins of Peterborough, Tesco, Smedleys, Nestle Purina, Metal Box, Dow Chemicals, Ketton Cement, both Travis Perkins and Ridgeons. Many of the foregoing involved a large element of in-house design and construct using the Tempsford Design Office.

In 2013, it was decided to establish a regional office at Waterbeach, to cover the whole of East Anglia and the East Midlands. Unfortunately this meant closing the office and depot in Wisbech and relocating most of the staff to Waterbeach.

So when one travels from the dank depth of the Fens past the gleaming spires of Cambridge into the uplands of Anglia, you will be in close proximity to locations where the Fen Tiger has left his – and her – mark over the years for posterity.

Andrew Pallant

Some musings from Andrew Pallant and Ivor Pollington

So, whilst the depot now looks forgotten and forlorn, lest we forget those who worked in and out of the Wisbech depot and were, in the main, 'Fen Tigers'. These folk were born in the Fens, strong, dependable, mistrustful of strangers and reputed to have webbed feet!

Because they were born in the Fens, they had a wealth of local knowledge, skills and folk law, which had been passed down through the generations.

They were also very aware of which side of the river or drain they came from through close family relationships, which often threw up feuds with other hamlets. This close-knit relationship was also prevalent in the gangs of labourers who tended to stay and work together for many years. Each gang had its 'tea boy', often an elderly labourer close to retirement whose task was to look after the welfare of the gang besides making tea.

Retired foreman, Pete Burrows, recalls sending his tea boy to the local shop to purchase some Mars bars. Three hours later, he returned with the purchase having made the 26 mile round trip to Kings Lynn by bus because the local shop had run out!

Another tea boy, working with a gang casting piles in the depot, having run short of tea money, reused the leaves from an earlier brew and augmented the mash with a pair of old brown leather gloves. Apparently, nobody noticed any difference in the taste!

The depot blacksmith was always on the lookout for a bargain and, on one occasion, readily swapped a pair of old binoculars he had for a very old petrol lawn mower. When the mower was delivered to his terraced house, it was discovered that he had no garden at all, let alone grass to be cut!

Vans would return to the depot every evening to fill up with petrol ready for the following days' work, often 40 miles away. The pump was operated by the night watchman who would refuel the van whilst its occupants would discharge to wend their weary way home.

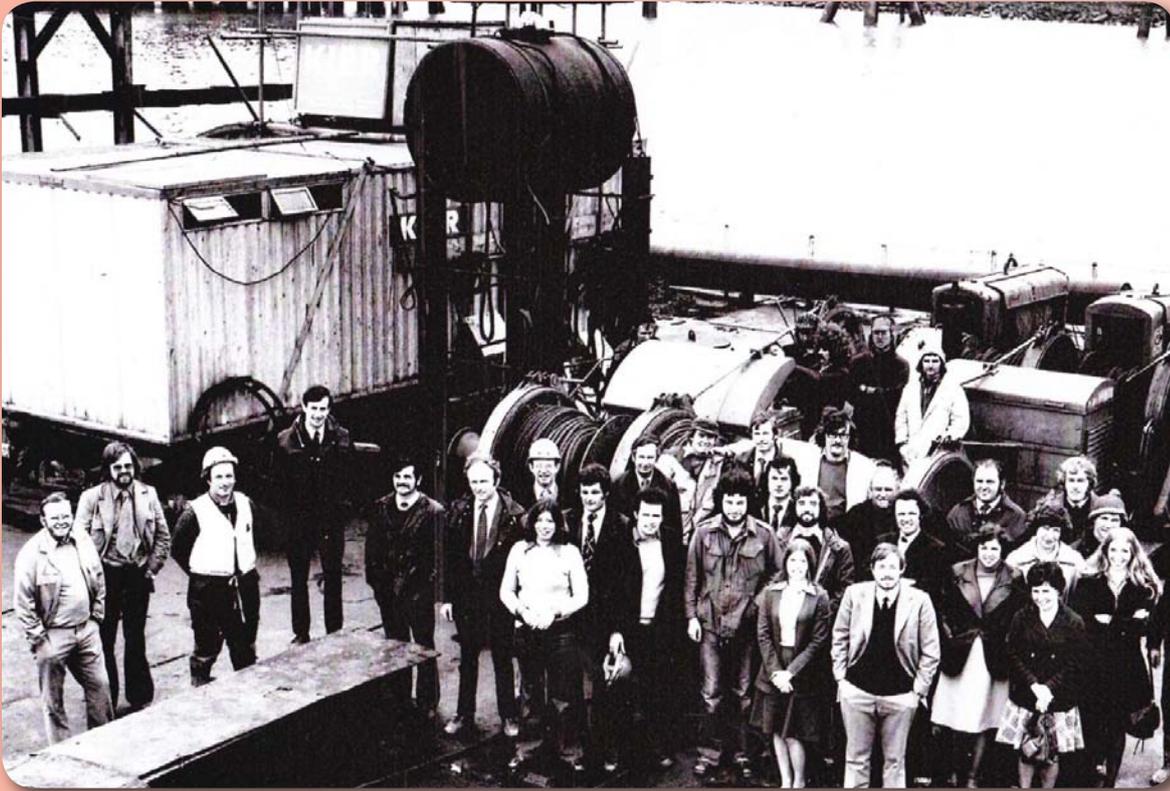
On one dark, November evening the watchman was refueling a van, when he noticed that the front seat passenger was holding, what appeared to be a side of lamb wrapped in muslin. 'What's that?' asked the watchman sensing an opportunity for a deal. 'It's a side of lamb, got it for five quid', came the reply. 'Bring me one tomorrow', demanded the watchman.

The following evening the van drew up in the gloom and the purchase was duly transacted. The watchman felt the bundle and became suspicious. 'What's this?' he shouted as the van drove out of the depot. The reply was heard, 'It's an old window display salvaged from the tip behind a butcher's shop near where we are working'!

Sealand Teeside 1974 / 1975

Do you recognise anyone in this photo?

Jim Leslie from the Bostom Spa Office is asking "Where are you now?" to anyone who appears in this picture. Please get in contact if you appear in this picture or if you are still in touch with anyone that appears in this picture.



Date

3 September 2015
12:00 noon for a 13:00 tee off

Golf Course

Bedford and County Golf Club
Green Lane
Clapham
Bedford
MK41 6ET

Cost

£40 pp. usual format including coffee and
bacon roll, 18 holes of golf, dinner and prizes.

Contact

Please contact John Stamford for further
details on: 01234 823 041
or email:
admin@johnstamfordassociates.com

Date for your Diary! National Golf Day 2015



John Stamford

Obituaries

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

Name	Date Passed Away
John Abrahart	12-Mar-14
Geoffrey Alderton	07-Feb-14
Arthur Gordon Allen	08-Aug-14
Eric Baker	25-Mar-14
Mary Billingham	26-Feb-14
Richard Burrell	27-Jan-14
Peter Bygate	21-Jan-14
Harry Challis	09-May-14
Fredrick Clarey	18-Feb-14
John Craig	05-Feb-14
Les Crouch	04-Aug-14
Dick Curr	13-Jul-14
David Darch	04-Apr-14
Pamela Dickenson	25-Mar-14
Maureen Finn	17-Jan-14
John Gosling	23-Apr-14

Name	Date Passed Away
Roger Greenwood	18-Jan-14
Marjorie Greeves	20-Apr-14
William Hearn	13-Feb-14
Leon Hildore	17-Apr-14
Richard Hill	15-Apr-14
Malcilm Holmes	11-Feb-14
William Kerswell	26-Jan-14
Dave Kew	04-Jan-14
Fred Killen	29-Jan-14
Dennis King	19-Jan-14
Margaret Langford	02-Mar-14
Stanley Langley	18-Apr-14
Lucy Llewellyn	20-Jan-14
Lena Mackay	27-Feb-14
Leslie Markham	21-Dec-13
David Martin	16-Feb-14

Name	Date Passed Away
Raymond McArdle	19-Mar-14
James McGinley	18-Mar-14
Ralph Millington	31-May-14
Raymond Owen	26-Apr-14
David Rhoden	19-May-14
Elsie Richardson	05-Feb-14
William Rook	09-Jan-14
Frederick Smith	23-Jan-14
Michael Smith	09-Feb-14
Richard Tecza	31-Aug-14
Jeanette Tomlin	18-Mar-14
Charles Walsby	26-Dec-13
Jessie Watt	27-Jan-14
Peter Weeks	22-Jan-14
Derek Wolstencroft	16-Apr-14
John M Yates	04-May-14

Arthur Gordon Allen

Sadly we have to record the death of one of our oldest and most distant members, Arthur Gordon Allen. He worked for W&C French at Dedham, Loughton and Sheffield as a surveyor and project manager after which he moved to Canada where he recently celebrated his 70th wedding anniversary. He unfortunately died a week later following a stroke at the age of 92. His son Graham tells us that he was an avid reader of each edition of KierLink and the Kier Journal to keep up with news of past friends and colleagues. Our sympathies are offered to his wife, son and their families.

Crossword Competition

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

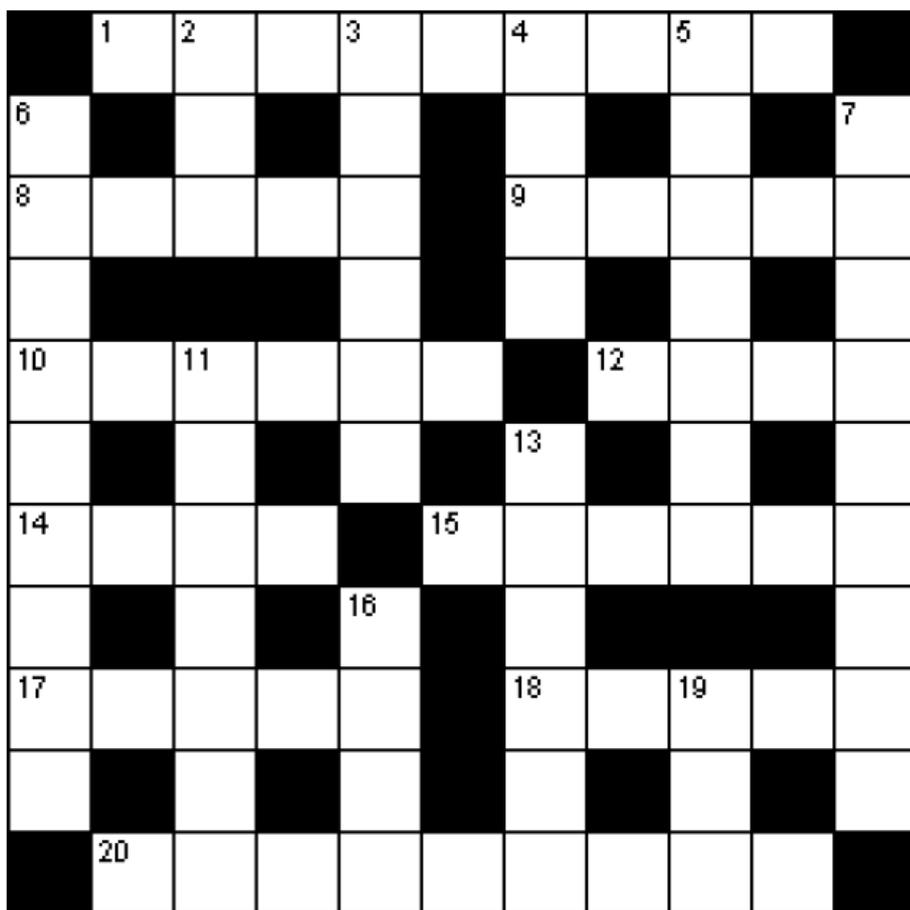
Last edition's winner
and the recipient
of £50:

Rose Taylor
from Halifax



Deadline Date:
1 January 2015

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



Across

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Direction on clock hands (9) |
| 8. | Wrath (5) |
| 9. | Gravy (5) |
| 10. | Child who has lost both parents (6) |
| 12. | Consituent (4) |
| 14. | Wander (4) |
| 15. | Picture theatre (6) |
| 17. | Name (5) |
| 18. | Emblem (5) |
| 20. | Women in general (6, 3) |

Down

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| 2. | Fall behind (3) |
| 3. | Breakfast Food (6) |
| 4. | Desire (4) |
| 5. | Tubular ground meat (7) |
| 6. | Member of political party (9) |
| 7. | Person who makes tents (9) |
| 11. | Chatter (7) |
| 13. | Bite gently (6) |
| 16. | Hire (4) |
| 19. | Decease |

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 2RF
OR: johnsimson@live.co.uk