

Fellowship matters

A report from the Trust chairman John Stamford

In a moment of reflection, following the fourth annual Kier Group Fellowship Trust golf day at Braintree, it brought home to me the fellowship values. We all enjoyed each others company and whilst the event was competitive, it also had a wonderfully relaxing and friendly atmosphere, which set it apart from other similar golf days. It really was an enjoyable event for everybody and that is what we are about.

As chairman, I have always been concerned about numbers and finances and the good news is that currently our membership stands at 977. I am looking forward to the day when we can announce that we have 1,000 members, so if you know of any former Kier employees who are not members and would like to be, then please ask them to contact me or our secretary Brendan O'Boyle at Kier Southern. I am pleased to report that with a better stock market our 'loss' has been reduced. We are still not out of the woods but there has been a significant improvement.

We are not a building society, we are a fellowship and as such, activities are our life blood. We hope that we give all areas sufficient support and encouragement to arrange a number of events.

This year the Chairman's Award will go to the group which puts on the most innovative event. This is to give all groups an equal opportunity of winning. (Did I hear that some groups are contemplating bungee jumping or razor wire hurdling?)

I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible at our sixth annual luncheon on Sunday 30th November at Tempsford. Last year 282 members and partners attended. Will this year be yet another record?

John Stamford – email jsassoc@kbnet.co.uk

Editor's note

It is very encouraging to see that our membership is on the increase and I endorse our chairman's request to encourage everybody to seek out and recruit former employees!

On the subject of readers' letters, there has been a modest response, more details in the section 'People and places'.

We've also had a suggestion for an 'I remember when' section to enable readers to share experiences during their time with Kier Group. For example, Wisbech correspondent Andrew Pallant recalls working on a large railway project at Barking in the 50s where in order to give a 19RB crane additional lifting capacity, a ½ ton of cement in bags was placed on the counter weight - it worked perfectly! If you have a story which you'd like to share, please send it to:

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Area organisers - please note copy deadline for next issue is 29th February 2004 (yes it's a leap year!)

Around the regions

MAIDSTONE & BROMLEY

The hibernation period has continued into the summer months as many members have been away on holiday. They are quietly confident of having something organised fairly soon. Alan Munday (editor's suggestion - an evening of comparing holiday experiences!)

NEWPORT & BRISTOL

Thanks to Kier Western for a superbly organised event at the Imperial Hotel, Torquay, where members of the trust were invited to share an evening with Plymouth, Bristol and Newport staff at their annual Spring Ball. Special thanks to Shirley Riddle who organised for Easter Eggs supplied by those attending to be donated to a local children's charity.

Another successful day was held at the Dewston Golf Club in May. Ten members enjoyed fine weather and a good day of golf on the alternative park course. A second golf day was held at Lansdown Golf Club in September.

In June a shopping and sightseeing outing to Salisbury took the place of the Stonehenge trip which had been inadvertently arranged for the day of the summer solstice.

This year's annual five-day tour using Carlisle as a base included an excursion to Edinburgh - a chance to explore the delights of the Castle, Holyrood House and the Royal Mile. Another day was spent in the Scottish borders through beautiful scenery and historic countryside, visiting the abbey towns of Jedburgh, Melrose and, of course, Gretna Green. The holiday was rounded off with wonderful scenery along Derwent

Waters in the Lake District National Park.



Newport & Bristol members enjoyed a trip to the Scottish Borders, Edinburgh and the Lake District.

A warm welcome to Diane Bamford who retired recently from the Bristol office accounts department. Sadly, our colleague Ron Ferguson, a member of the Trust, passed away in April after a long illness. Ron worked at the Newport office as an estimator for many years before his retirement. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

David Orr

DEVON & CORNWALL

Eight members attended the inaugural luncheon of the Devon & Cornwall branch in August. The combined age of the attendees was approximately 500 with over 232 years' service between them! The majority were from the Plymouth area with the exception of the branch secretary Steve Tyson who flew in especially for the lunch from Cyprus! A very pleasant few hours was spent and another get-together is planned for the end of the year or early 2004.

Steve Tyson

LOUGHTON & WITHAM

Attendance at the Spring luncheon at Sir James Hawkey Hall, Woodford in May was up this year to 140 with several new faces including Geoff Lindsey-Smith,

Peter McMeekin, Ray Noakes, Stephen Binning, Brian Pegrum, Tony Willitt, Fred Mack, Ken Barker, Reg Beagle and June & Ruth Faux. Fellowship Trust chairman John Stamford and his wife Deirdre were welcomed as guests.

Thanks to Geoff Brown, Kier London and French Kier Anglia for all the help received throughout the year.

Ken Stoneman

BOSTON SPA

Membership is growing slowly and now stands at 33 members. A Sunday lunch in March was attended by 18 members and partners and another is planned for the autumn.

Revie Morris

WISBECH

In July the intrepid Fenmen and women left Wisbech depot by coach to explore the Norfolk Broads, home of Coot Club and the Big Six as recounted by author Arthur Ransome many years ago.

Although the heavens opened on our approach to the Broads, fortunately, the rain stopped while we explored the environs of Horning before meeting up at the Swan Hotel for lunch.

After an excellent meal, we proceeded the short distance to board the 'Southern Comfort' Mississippi river boat for a trip down river taking in the scenery and many varieties of birds, pointed out by our captain.

We continued down the River Bure as far as Ranworth Broad, where we turned and made our way leisurely back to Horning and our coach. All in all a very enjoyable event.

Andrew Pallant

MAPLE CROSS

The annual spring luncheon held in April at St. Michael's Manor Hotel, St. Albans, 27 members and partners attended what was a most enjoyable occasion. Several new members were present including Christine and Duncan Mort, Sheila Brown and Jim Connor.

The golf day at Braintree golf club was supported by a small party of members who enjoyed nine holes in the sunshine and excellent hospitality.



Maple Cross members at the annual spring luncheon.

Since the last newsletter Phil Durrigan has been appointed by the trustees to be our new director, replacing John Yates who has moved to French Kier Anglia. We hope to welcome Phil at our next luncheon.

Members will be saddened by the death of Joe Cahill who was for many years a site agent with Moss and Kier Southern. Future events in the planning stage include a visit to the Swan Theatre, High Wycombe and a supper at the Bedford Arms, Chenies.

Don Robinson

CHELTENHAM

Approximately 30 members and friends enjoyed a cruise from Upton-on-Severn to Worcester back in July, all of whom voted for a repeat trip next year.

Plans are under way for our

Christmas party at Cotswold Hills Golf Club on 19th December.

Len Gaylor

RUSHDEN

A weekend in Brussels with plenty of sightseeing (in the rain) was attended by a party of 25 in April. Highlights included a tasting session at the brewery and Waterloo through a storm.

The mystery tour organised by June Holland took us to Harrogate then on a train from Keighley to Haworth finishing at a tavern for liquid refreshment.



Rushden members on a mystery tour.

The trooping of the colour rehearsal in May was tip top as usual as was the picnic in the park. A full coach party had an enjoyable day at Windsor in June doing their own thing and in July the family outing to Clacton was enjoyed by 73, babies to great grandparents. The dismal start to the day soon gave way to plenty of sunshine, sea and fish & chips.

Other coach trips included Hampton Court, Shrewsbury flower show and a day in London taking in a show - the Rat Pack.

A Mediterranean cruise is planned for October followed by usual shopping and London sightseeing trips in November and December. The New Year break will be to Aachen in 2004.

A big thank you to Brian Hill for his hard work in organising these events.

Frank Furlong

We are survivors! (for those born before 1940)!

We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, Frisbees and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens; before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes... and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?) We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'big mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house-husbands, computer dating, dual careers; and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for the bus.

We were born before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, and a chip was a piece of wood, or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you had on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a grandmother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice cream and a 'gay' person was the life and soul of the party.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today.

Anon

Postscripts

Back issues of KierLink are available from Brendan O'Boyle or Hilary Edmunds at Kier Southern:
telephone 01923 721277

At a loss for a Christmas or Birthday gift? Kier Fellowship Trust ties are available at the subsidised price of only £5 - contact Brendan O'Boyle or Hilary Edmunds at Kier Southern:
telephone 01923 721277

Chartered Institute of Building

Readers may already be aware that Kier Group chairman Colin Busby was recently appointed president of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB). He was invested at the CIOB's annual general meeting in June. Succeeding Stuart Henderson, Colin will hold the position for the next year.

We would like to extend our good wishes to Colin on his appointment.

During his inaugural speech Colin highlighted the construction industry's need to embrace change. Not surprisingly, improving health & safety was high on his list of priorities and he also stressed the importance of getting new and gifted youngsters into the industry.

"It is important in these times that we remember why the CIOB is here," said Colin. "We must make sure that we are providing our members with what they need from us - we need to consult with them and we need to listen to them."

Visit www.kier.co.uk to view a copy of Colin's inaugural speech.

Cheltenham & District Sports Association for the Disabled

Cheltenham area organiser Len Gaylor has been involved with Cheltenham & District Sports Association for the Disabled for nearly 40 years. He is currently chairman and the voluntary members of the association were recently honoured as winners of a Queen's Golden Jubilee Award. The glass award was presented by Gloucestershire's Lord Lieutenant together with a message from Her Majesty the Queen who had personally signed the certificate.

Obituaries

Mogens Kier	Cuckfield	25th February 2003
Roman Zmuda	Reading	7th March 2003
Brian Philpot	Wareham	23rd March 2003
Eileen Bunney	Loughborough	24th March 2003
Kathleen Buxton	Westcott	1st April 2003
Vivienne Davies	Manchester	17th April 2003
Charles McCartney	Rushden	17th April 2003
Evet Lynton	Gravesend	18th April 2003
Kevin Illingworth	Featherstone	21st April 2003
Ronald Fergson	Rhondda	7th May 2003
Charles Carter	Loughborough	8th May 2003
Patrick Cahill	Cricklewood	12th May 2003
George Robin Isles	Kettering	16th May 2003
Trevor Peachey	Gt Yarmouth	17th May 2003
George Robinson	Loughborough	17th May 2003
Francis Blick	Braintree	24th May 2003
John Turner	Rushden	30th June 2003
George Foster	Evesham	7th July 2003
Alan Frane	Eastleigh	21st July 2003
Albert Bower	Queensland, Australia	27th July 2003
Ronald Bishop	Shoeburyness	18th August 2003

people and places

Fourth annual golf day

In near perfect weather, 27 members (five more than last year) took part in the fourth annual golf day at Charles Cutting's course at Braintree - notorious for its bunkers! Areas represented were Tempsford, Wisbech, Loughton, Witham, Maple Cross and Rushden. Following a superb meal, the prize winners were

announced. This year three ladies won prizes, with Frances Bagley winning the competition overall.

Runner up: Richard Turner

Best first nine: June Holland

Best back nine: John Stamford

Ladies prize: Carol Bangs

Nearest the pin: Dick Saunders

We are hoping that next year's golf day will take place at Oundle.



Blue skies at Braintree for the fourth annual golf day.

Congratulations to Kevin Moylett who celebrated his 80th Birthday on 23rd August. He writes: "I started with JLK & Co after working as a fitter with K G Minter on the wind tunnel at Bedford. Kier needed a crane driver urgently on that site for one job and my induction was to keep the hopper full during a 24-hour pour. I went back to Howard Farrow and one day a Kier driver came on to the site I was working on, went back to Setch and told Jack Coleman he had seen me and the rest is history. In 1952 I was working on 3-12-4-14 Smiths. All had seen better days working on the flood defences from Boston to Yarmouth, then on to Hams Hill power station and all the other power stations Kier worked on, getting my feet wet at Jettys Northfleet, West Thurrock and Tilbury. Back inland then to pipelines and work for the Coal Board, Creswell Viaduct and the breakwater on the Isle of Man. I ended my working days with Jeff Taylor at Hampton for Thames Water after 36 years with the company, retiring in August 1988. I enjoyed my time with Kier and now enjoy retirement - gardening, reading and holidays."