

# iCONTACT

for pensioners of the Reckitt Benckiser (formerly Reckitt & Colman) Pension Fund

No. 56, April 2013

## IN THIS ISSUE

### The blue launch



Photographs of the latest style of get-together (the well attended launch of the Morley Street history – right and p2) taken by Alan Tennison arrived at Contact on this customised CD.

### Ted's overseas heritage



The Bronze Age ships found on the Humber by Ted Wright, former chairman of Reckitt & Colman's overseas business are linked to similar build ships found by the Pyramids (p6).



### The good old days

Digital get-togethers - our members, and former colleagues, are using social networking to keep in touch (p3).

## MORLEY STREET HISTORY GETS A WARM WELCOME

# The Blue Makers

**It was well worth waiting for. That was the verdict of around 120 former Reckitt's Blue employees gathered for the well-attended launch at Hull History Centre of *The Blue Makers*, the history of ultramarine blue manufacture in Hull.**

The many generations of Hull families who worked at "The Blue" probably never fully realised the immense world-wide impact of this iconic product, manufactured for well over 100 years by Reckitts, and now recorded in fascinating detail in this well illustrated and handsomely presented book.

Everyone at the February launch received a complimentary copy of the book and copies have been sent to former employees who were unable to attend.

### Clive and Frank presenters

Former Reckitts Colours managing director, Clive Fieth, opened the proceedings and introduced author Frank Davies who gave a short presentation on the book.

Cheshire-born Frank started his career with Geigy's Pigments Division while studying for a degree in chemistry and joined Reckitts Colours Ltd in Hull in 1980 as applications research manager. He subsequently moved to sales, travelling widely around the world as well as serving overseas. Industrial history is one of his interests.

*The launch was organised by Joanna Houldridge, Holliday Pigments' Hull-based marketing manager, pictured right on the "bookstall."*

Reckitt's Blue was a household name in Britain throughout the first half of the 20th century. It was used by millions of housewives and also by commercial laundries to improve the whiteness of the weekly wash.

From the 1950s the usage of this blue pigment in the laundry declined but this was more than compensated by its rapid growth as an ideal colorant for plastics. The product, known also as ultramarine blue, was manufactured at a large factory in Morley Street, Hull which, after 120 years of production, closed in September 2008. At the time of its closure, the factory was the largest of its kind in the world.

The publication and launch was sponsored by Holliday Pigments, the former owners of the Morley Street factory, who now operate the ultramarine blue business

*continued on P2 >*



## A book as much about people as products

>continued from P1

from a sister factory at Comines in northern France.

Former employees from as early as the 1950s attended the launch and the occasion provided an opportunity for reunion for several generations of workers.

In addition to the personal reunions, memories were recalled by product displays from the Dansom Lane Heritage Centre in cabinets loaned by the History Centre and by the display boards, pictured below, which made a point of featuring people who are in the book.

On-line readers can see more pictures of those attending the launch in the Digital Supplement to the *iContact* version of this issue at [www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk](http://www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk)



Young and old and a true family atmosphere for the launch, above. Former Reckitts Colours managing director Clive Fieth, below left. Author Frank Davies, below right, making his audio visual presentation.

Copies of *The Blue Makers* have been sent to those who were unable to attend the launch with a covering letter including a report and photographs of the event and an invitation to comment on the book.

The letter adds "If you know of any former colleague who might not know about the book, please let

us know as we would like as many as possible to have the opportunity to receive a copy."

Contact Frank Davies on 01482 650449

Email: [francisvdavies@live.co.uk](mailto:francisvdavies@live.co.uk) or Joanna Houldridge on 01482 640208

Email: [Joanna.Houldridge@holliday-pigments.com](mailto:Joanna.Houldridge@holliday-pigments.com)

**It was the people who worked for the Company that were responsible for its success. Here are just a few of them.**



**Blending and Packing Department 1986**

Left to Right:  
Back Row - Norman White (Supervisor), Graham Watson, Andy Wilkins, Joe Drewery, Robin Smith;  
Middle Row - Jeff Dannatt, Ian Kirby, Paul Jackson;  
Front Row - Paul Shepherdson, Kelvin Young



**Pilot Plant staff 1962**

Left to Right:  
Back Row - Fred Bolton, Tom McCullough, Bob Dixon, Hilary Dixon, Jill Tucker, David Cowie, Jim Leaf.  
Front Row - John Gray, John Hale, Tony Groizard, Peter Bone, Maureen Blades.



## Get-togethers in a new light



Page 2 usually reports our regional get-togethers but, with around 150 attending, *The Blue Makers* launch was the biggest get-together yet – usual reports on p5.

# HOW SAFE IS MY PENSION?

"This is the question that I am always asked," says Kevin O'Berg, the Trustee elected by your Pensioners' Association Committee.

The Pension Fund's Actuary carries out a detailed valuation every three years, where he compares the assets of the Fund with the liabilities and produces the estimated deficit or surplus at that particular date.

Over the last few years there has always been a deficit, mainly due to investment markets performing poorly and people living longer. The Company is legally obliged to make up any deficit resulting from the Actuarial Valuation.

You may remember that at the last Valuation the Company agreed to pay £155m over three years to

remove the deficit. The term over which they make the payments is agreed between the Company and the Trustees.

If the Company became insolvent and there was a deficit in the Fund then there could be a shortfall problem as the Company would not be able to make the deficit payments. For this reason, the Trustees look at the solvency of the Company on a regular basis.

Needless to say, the Company is currently financially strong and therefore your pension is safe.

The next Actuarial Valuation is at 5th April 2013 and the results will be available around October 2013. If you have any queries regarding the Pension Fund, Kevin O'Berg can be contacted at [oberg@oberg.karoo.co.uk](mailto:oberg@oberg.karoo.co.uk).

## Contact cues up snooker table rivalry after a 50 break

After the Class of 62's very successful reunion reported in our last issue (*Contact No.55, December 2012*), three of the former apprentices who attended have picked up where they left off fifty years ago.

"Back in the sixties Dave Bodecott, Mike Sowerby and Steve Roberts (pictured, l to r) were regular users of the Men's Club snooker tables housed in the Francis Reckitt Institute and, as they all live in the Willerby area, have found two snooker tables in a room above the Willerby library.

"We now renew our competitive spirit on a weekly basis!" writes



reunion organiser Steve Roberts who, as a result of the article in *Contact*, also met up with his cousin Alf Cook who, with his twin brother Bob, spent all of his working life in the Dansom Lane offices. They traded many stories of their days at Reckitts.

*(Any former FRI snooker rivals of 60s vintage ready to challenge them at the new venue? - Ed)*



Poster advertising of Sissons' distemper turned the plank men into national celebrities.

Steve Roberts posted the packing line picture we used in the last issue on to a local Facebook site called *Hull, the Good Old Days*, and had an immediate reply from Marlene Adamson telling him the photo was of the girls in Cardboard. Marlene was on the photo and mentioned Marlene Ingleson, Beryl Hurdley, Jenny Ayscough, Olga Russell, Wendy Brunton, Jean Oliver, Rita Jackson and Rose Broadbent.

If you have any memories to share Steve invites you to contact him on his Facebook account – Stephen Roberts, or post them on *Hull, the Good Old Days*.

*On the above site we found this picture (left) of two Sissons' ladies pushing a barrel of varnish. We have never published pictures of Sissons' people because although it was R&C's oldest company (founded 1803), it was bought (and sold) in the 1950s.*

## MAKE CONTACT

Although most pensioners in the Northern Area enjoy busy and active lives and do not wish to be visited, there are still a few who would very much wish for a visit. A mail-shot to all 1000+ pensioners over the age of 70 in our area would be wasteful and expensive so we are using *Contact* to ask any pensioner who would like to be visited to telephone, write or e-mail to:

Chris Eagleton, 2 Dominican Walk, Beverley, HU17 0HF Tel: 01482 872765

[christopher@eagleton.net](mailto:christopher@eagleton.net)

Philip Mayor, 18 The Croft, Beverley, HU17 7HT Tel: 01482 862563

[pamayor@pamayor.karoo.uk](mailto:pamayor@pamayor.karoo.uk)

## Centenarian Edith's enviable 'down under' holiday plan

**Edith Morton**, who celebrated her 100th birthday in January, started work at Reckitts in Dansom Lane at the age of 14 and, since her retirement in 1973, has enjoyed an enviable transworld life by spending six months every other year in Australia.

Edith never married, looking after her father who lived to be 99. Her brother and family live in Australia but the biennial breaks have ended now she is less active and living in a residential home.

Starting in the Disprin packing department, Edith and other workers were seconded to work at Saltend during the war. She then returned to Reckitts, working in various departments and rising to the post of supervisor by the time she retired.

Edith's century was marked by a bouquet of flowers from the Pensioners' Association and, of course, a card from the Queen.

*Photos in IContact Digital Supplement*

## Emerging markets give RB promised growth

The new focus on fast-growing emerging markets and a move away from the company's roots as a maker of household cleaning goods to higher margin health and hygiene products has seen operating profit rise 2 per cent to £2.4 billion on revenues up one per cent to £9.6 billion.

Announcing full year results for 2012, Rakesh Kapoor, who took over as Reckitt's chief executive from Bart Becht, said the company now aimed to derive half of its net revenue in its core business from emerging markets by 2015, a year earlier than it had previously targeted, while its health and hygiene products would account for 72 per cent of net revenue.

As part of the company's focus on health and hygiene, former Smith &



Nephew executive Adrian Hennah, left, took on the chief financial officer role from January, shortly after the successful bid for US vitamin maker Schiff Nutrition for \$1.4 billion (£894 million), gaining access to the vitamin and supplement market for the first time.

This has been followed by a \$482 million (£307 million) deal with Bristol-Myers Squibb for Latin American OTC health brands. The three-year collaboration agreement will license six medications: Naldecon, a cough medicine; Luftal, an anti-flatulence treatment; Dermodex, a nappy rash cream; Tempra, for pain relief; Picot, an antacids brand; and Graneodin-B, a sore throat remedy.

Bristol-Myers Squibb will continue to make the brands for a further three years, at which point Reckitt has the option to buy them. The initial \$482 million payment includes supply contracts, personnel and the option to acquire the legal title to the intellectual property.

### NETWORKING WORKS

China has a very digitally engaged population. RB has larger sales online of Durex in China than anywhere else. The brand now has a 43 per cent share of the Chinese market, according to Nielsen data, up from 10 per cent three years ago. Bestsellers in China are the Durex Fetherlite Ultima series and the "Jeans" range – "a trendy blue condom for cool lovemaking". Durex is also one of top brands on China's main social media sites Weibo and Renren, with more "fans" than Coca-Cola and KFC.

# AN END-OF-YEAR RISE IN OUR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

**There is a small increase in the print run for this issue of *Contact* due to a recent change linked to the Defined Contribution section of the Reckitt Benckiser Pension Fund.**

You may be aware that Defined Contribution (DC) pension schemes have become more prevalent in the last ten years or so and Reckitt Benckiser (RB) has operated such a scheme for all new employees for some years.

There are now more employees in the RB DC scheme than in the Defined Benefit (DB)/final salary scheme

As from 1st January 2013, members of the DC scheme will no longer take their pension through the RB Fund. Instead, the Company will pay for advice so that they can choose a pension from an outside provider and this will give them more flexibility.

So it was not totally unexpected when there was a small surge, 75, to the number of pensioners, and thus our Association, at the end of last year.

### Gradual reduction

What effect does this change to the DC section have on the RB pensioner group? It will lead to a gradual reduction in the number of pensioners within the RB Fund, albeit over many years.

This is now normal practice in the pensions industry so there is nothing to worry about and, of course, the Pensions Department will still be around to help with any queries.

The Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association gives members the crucial democratic voice in the running of the Fund via the Trustee we elect (currently Kevin O'Berg) to express our views.

### Focus on communication

As communication and contact is a crucial part of the Association's role this continues to be a focus of attention.

The committee meeting just before we went to press gave the green light for an August issue of *Contact* to provide the three a year that members have requested.

That has been achieved through good housekeeping in the face of continually rising costs.

We will now be seeking members' ideas and experiences (especially those who have maintained contact with former colleagues) as we continue to concentrate on this important communications role.

## NEW VISITORS

The appeal for Pensioner Visitors in the last *Contact* (No.55, December) had an encouraging response and two new appointments are expected to complete the coverage for the southern area.

Members interested in visiting, particularly in the Northwest and North of England, are invited to contact our Vice Chairman Tony Swell, who is our Visitor Co-ordinator on 0118 969 1390

e-mail: [patsytony.swell@googlemail.com](mailto:patsytony.swell@googlemail.com)

## YES, THERE IS AN INCREASE

**A rise of 3.1% in your RB pension was reported to the committee this month.**

## Committee elections

*Elections for the RB Pensioners' Association Committee are due this autumn. The current nine members are: David Saltmarsh, chairman; Tony Swell, vice chairman; Trevor Clark, secretary; Allan Chandler, treasurer; Brian Bradley; Chris Eagleton; Freddie George; Kevin O'Berg; and Alistair Stewart.*

*Trevor, Chris and Alistair are due for re-election for 2014 and are willing to stand again, but nominations can also be made on a nomination form obtainable from the Association's secretary or by submitting the name of the nominee with his or her signature and the addresses and signatures of five nominating members.*

*Send to: The Secretary, Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association, c/o Pensions Department, Reckitt Benckiser plc, Dansom Lane, Hull HU8 7DS, to arrive before the end of July.*

## Heritage Publications

We mentioned this "Hull's Heritage" book for children in the Digital Supplement of our last



*i>Contact. A revised issue is now being printed and will be on sale at Hull Central Library. More in our next issue but readers can request and reserve a copy of the new edition by e-mail:*

[kingstonpress@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:kingstonpress@hullcc.gov.uk)

# The RBPA committee meeting, your regional gtgs and our deadline date

**Eastern Region led off the year's get-togethers with its usual January meeting, followed by Hull in March. Norwich attracted 30 for coffee and sausage rolls, with several staying on for lunch at the White Horse at Trowse, and a dozen were at Hull's usual lunchtime meeting at The Goodfellowship.**

This month's Norwich meeting saw an unusually low attendance of 22 and High Wycombe's 22 was also down a little; but Derby declared a good start to the year with 25 as we went to press on April 17.

We delayed our deadline for this issue until that date to cover the April 10 committee meeting deciding on whether to give the go-ahead for an August issue, as well as ensuring we had reports on the April get-togethers.



*Get mardling in every region*

The 22 at the Norwich meeting was below the agreed discount figure so organiser Ken Herbert had to fork out a modest room hire fee.

Fortunately some stayed for a meal as usual so a return to normal numbers at the July and October meetings should restore the balance – especially if more want a bite as well as a good “mardle” (that's Norfolkese for a chat).

As the catering trade is feeling the squeeze everywhere, there's probably a message here for all our regions – get mardling.

## Reggie Goves closing

Pensioners from the former Reckitt Industrial Division faced two disasters at their lunch meeting at the Reggie Goves Centre, High Wycombe.

First Paul Gilliam our Pension Visitor mislaid his camera and for the first time ever was unable to take many photographs. Second the Reggie Goves Centre – a favourite for many years – is likely to close and a new venue needs to be found.

Paul assured everyone events would continue. John Rolls suggested a pub. No comment.

All 20 guests were treated to a splendid lunch provided by Carol Gilliam, with service delivered by Katie and Matthew Carr, Paul and Carol's

*A good start for the year at the Derby get-together, above, and a satisfying first attendance for Mrs Anne Cooney, who worked at the Derby factory. Anne enjoyed meeting her old friends again and is looking forward to the next one in September. As ever the raffle was popular, especially with the winners, and also pictured this time is John Timmins Derby visitor seated in the forefront on left [with arms folded].*

grandchildren. The glorious spring flower table decorations seamlessly ended up with the ladies present.

All agreed it was a great social event. Please keep in touch with Paul (01494 562843) and join us next time, probably towards the end of October just in time for a pre-Christmas catering surprise from Carol.

The picture below at Hull's get-together at the Good Fellowship shows (l to r): Phil Shearsmith, Hugh Christmas (often taking the pictures at these events) Richard Bays and Bob



## DIARY DATES

2013 get-togethers:

**HULL**

11am at The Goodfellowship

Cottingham Road on:

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Contact Phil Mayor

Tel: 01482 862563

**NORWICH**

at 10.30am at the White Horse

Trowse on:

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Contact Ken Herbert

01379 852854

**DERBY**

at 10.30am at The Orangery

Markeaton Park on:

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

**LEICESTER**

at 11.30am at The Oadby Owl

Glen Road, Leicester on:

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Contact Brian Bradley

Tel: 01526 321575

for Leicester and Derby

**HIGH WYCOMBE**

End of October 2013

Date, time and venue TBA

Contact Paul Gilliam

Tel: 01494 562843

Allison. Below right, at High Wycombe are Meg Lambert with Bert Childs. More get-together pictures in the *iContact* Digital Supplement.

# The heritage that truly extends over the seas



**A new link between the village of North Ferriby on the River Humber and Giza, site of the Great Pyramid on the River Nile, is creating international awareness of intriguing constructional similarities between the 4,000-year-old Bronze Age ships discovered by the late Ted Wright, former chairman of Reckitt & Colman Overseas, and early planked ships built to sail the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific.**

A lecture given in February to the Ferriby Heritage Trust, the village charity inspired by Ted, marked the start of an exchange of knowledge and information and a long term investigation of the remarkably similar methods developed around the 20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> centuries BC for the building of ocean-going ships.

## Inspector of Antiquities

The lecture by Afifi Rohim Afifi, Chief Inspector of Antiquities at the Giza Plateau and Project Supervisor of the Second Kufu Boat Project at Giza, followed a surprise visit by him in January to find out about the Bronze Age ships discovered by Ted in the mud of the Humber foreshore.

Mr. Afifi visited the Riverside Walkway site of the discovery with its "pavement" outline of the Ferriby



*The first Khufu Boat in the Giza museum, above, will be joined by the second which will also have a replica for wider display.*

ships built by villagers and inspected the half-scale replica owned by the Ferriby Heritage Trust and currently based at the Welton Waters Adventure Centre.

His illustrated talk at Ferriby Village Hall outlined the current boat project at the Khufu Boat Museum where an international team is rebuilding a second stitched plank ship (plus an exact replica for international display) found in a sealed chamber alongside the pyramid.

The reconstructed first Khufu boat is pictured in the museum, below left.

The Egyptians are particularly interested in the Ferriby ships because most of the remains of early vessels found around the world have been fragmentary whereas the Ferriby remains, while not complete, were sufficient to allow a realistic reproduction.

## More than 1,000 pieces

The Cheops boat is complete but in more than 1,000 separate pieces so there could be useful exchanges on the Ferriby reconstruction experiences.

The greatest interest, however, lies in the fact that all these ships were designed as much as evolved.

While archaeological findings of skeletal remains have traced the physical evolution of homo sapiens, these ships are among the earliest evidence of intellectual development, suggesting thoughtful, creative,

*Ted Wright, left above, on the foreshore where he found the ships' remains and the pavement outline, above, built by villagers and opened by his late son Rod Wright. The new BMW, advertised for its "fluid" lines, was pictured with the pavement to emphasise the Bronze Age technology. Sea trials have shown the Ferriby Heritage Trust's replica, part funded by Ted, to have near perfect fluid dynamics.*

*Below, Afifi Rohim Afifi at Giza.*



skilled and venturesome beings as opposed to the commonly portrayed warlike tribesmen.

Proving that the Ferriby ships were **designed** and built has always been a problem and the international exchanges will help illustrate the technical advances that were made (Bronze Age man had learned how to use heat to bend wood).

The Khufu Boats (with Ferriby reference) can be seen on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMaritimeHistoryOfAncientEgypt>

**FOOTNOTE** We featured Colman's record-breaking *Crossbow* in our last issue. Ships obviously attract grocery manufacturers.



The focus on Morley Street in this issue has underlined yet again the true "family" nature of the Reckitt & Colman businesses. Coincidentally former Colours' personnel manager Martin Craven was contacted by Mrs Barbara Evamy of Bridlington seeking more information about the career of her father Walter Wood, whom Martin remembered as Electrical Supervisor at Morley Street. Their chat revealed Walter's father, Robert, also worked at Reckitts and resulted in the following little-known story in a letter from Barbara:

## When "doing up" a family castle was all part of the job

**At some point, wrote Barbara, grandfather Robert was sent to "do up" Keldy Castle near Pickering and took his family (including her father) with him, lodging with a farming family called Pearson at Cropton. She remembers being taken there once, just after lambing time when she was about 12 years of age.**

"Daddy obviously held the Pearson family in great affection," wrote Barbara.

Keldy Castle was a gentleman's residence bought by Sir James Reckitt in 1903 for his second son Philip at a cost of £25,000. The estate was of 7,000 acres with 50 farms and smallholdings and over 3,000 acres of grouse moors.

They decided to rebuild the main property and the work was completed just before the start of the 1914-1918 war. The architect was Mr. J Bilson of Hessele and the builder was Mr. Anelay of York.

### Luftwaffe bombs missed

During the Second World War Keldy became an army training camp. There was an attempt by the Luftwaffe to bomb the camp but they missed their target and the bombs exploded on the Roman camps nearby.

Following Sir Philip Reckitt's death in 1944 the property passed into the hands of his daughter, Mrs Barbara Pollock, who sold it to the Forestry Commission in 1948. They had plans to turn it into a Forestry College but that never happened and in 1956 some of the buildings were demolished.

Grandad Bob would often speak of his time working there as it must have been the highlight of his career! The photo shows the team of men sent from Reckitts to rewire and replumb the place.

Keldy is in a really remote area of forestry land, down a long single track lane. Over 100 years ago the workmen from Sculcoates in Hull would have found the experience of working in the silence there

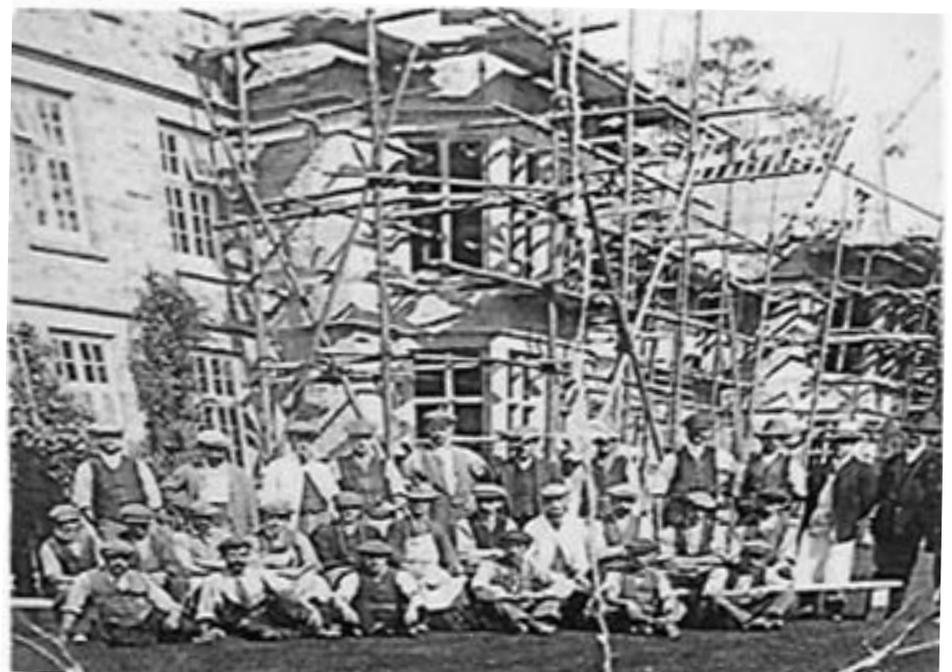


"Done up" Keldy Castle, above, and the Reckitt refurbishers of 100 years ago, below.

very strange. There is now a large development of log cabins where the house used to be.

The only remaining parts of the house are some columns and part of a crenellated wall.

Apparently the Reckitt family donated two brass candelabra holding 12 candles each and a third



01482 582987  
01482 582883

What to do in the event of a pensioner's death is a question that often comes directly to us and we have no hesitation in advising, as we have before, that one of the first things you do is contact the RB Pensions Department - numbers above.

Not only do they need to have certain information to take their own actions, they are used to dealing with relatives and older people stressed by the event.

They know from experience many of the things that may be worrying you and can give you helpful advice and guidance.

Chris Little, Group Pensions Manager, Debra Wardill and Carol Irvin, Senior Pensions Administrators and Teresa Gould, Pensions Administrator are always ready to help:

RB Pensions Department,

Reckitt Benckiser

Dansom Lane

Hull HU8 7DS

e-mail: [hull.pensions@rb.com](mailto:hull.pensions@rb.com)

holding 6 candles to St Gregory's church in Cropton. The two large ones are installed above the altar.

Sir Philip's only son James Reckitt, who died at the age of 16, was buried in the churchyard. Barbara found his grave and would have liked to tidy it up as there was moss overgrowing the pedestal. James' mother was buried nearby in the same graveyard.

## Untimely death of Liz (55) ends a typical workplace partnership

The family business nature of the Reckitt and Colman companies meant many couples met at work, married and became company pensioners together, so friends and former colleagues will be saddened to hear of the untimely death of Liz Wilcock (previously Liz Ritchie) who died of cancer at the end of January. She was 55.

Liz started her career at Reckitt & Colman in the early 1980s, working initially in Operations at Stoneferry. She met her future husband Jeremy Wilcock after moving to IDD. They married in 1990 and in due course adopted three children from Guatemala, Annie (Annaliese, now 12 and pictured on Liz's right), Madi (Madeleine, now 10, on Liz's left) and Ben (now 5).



Her time in IDD brought Liz into contact with senior managers from all over the Reckitt world, whether in correspondence or during

their visits to the UK. During this time she studied for a BA and later a DMS. With these qualifications she was able to move into Marketing, working in product management in categories such as air fresheners, window cleaners and furniture polish.

Her last job in Reckitt & Colman was with the Shoe Care Division where she held a senior marketing role. After leaving Reckitt & Colman, she worked for a hosiery company, a travel business and then her own travel consultancy.

**We regret to record the deaths of the following Reckitt Benckiser pensioners**

### **NORTHERN REGION**

*(Hull, unless otherwise stated)*

**Dorothy Borthwick**, aged 78, 13 years' service; **Ellen Ogier** (91), 9; **Gladys Knight** (92), 9; **Doreen Roberts** (73), 13; **Nina Purchon** (78), 8; **Charlotte Coleman** (91), 33; **Gladys Brown** (86), 17; **Margaret Tunley** (80), 14; **Dorothy Maltby** (89), 23; **Alan Ward** (72), 4; **Edwin Martin** (87), 25; **Brian Horsfall** (71), 21; **Frederick Graby** (89), 25; **George Mawer** (97), 42; **David Hannah** (83), 30; **Gordon Sanderson** (82), 31.

**Derby** – **Frances Janiec** (83), 13; **Peter Rice** (57), 10; **Derek Young** (77), 23; **Frederick Warrick** (88), 12.

**Shoecare** – **Elizabeth Wilcock** (55), 12; **John Major** (66), 15.

**Services Division, computers** – **Enid Prince** (91), 11.

**Peterborough Depot** – **Richard Pearson** (80), 14.

**Poynton Depot** – **James Kirkham** (84), 18.

**Batley** – **Zilla Ainley** (97), 7.

**Colours, Morley Street** – **Sheila Holgreaves** (77), 14; **Peter Osborne** (86), 48; **James Gilroy** (86), 38; **Kenneth Farnill** (90), 25; **Frank Hopwood** (95), 22.

**Colours, Backbarrow** – **Thomas Wilson** (87), 3.

**HQ, Hull** – **Dorothy Croft** (90), 5.

**Household, Stockport** – **Thomas Rigby** (87), 7.

**Industrial Div, Bolton** – **Geoffrey Walker** (66), 8.

### **EASTERN REGION**

*(Norwich, unless otherwise stated)*

**Betty Smith** (84), 11; **Brenda Powles** (88), 34; **Ian Fraser** (85), 10; **Frank King** (89), 26; **Peter Corbyn** (85), 32; **John Dolman** (83), 13; **Arthur Long** (65), 27; **Brian Richardson** (83), 29; **William Deeley** (83), 27; **Maurice Woods** (81), 46.

It is with special sadness we record the death on April 13 of Florence McLaren of Norwich, our oldest pensioner, whose 108th birthday we reported on in our last issue.

### **SOUTHERN REGION**

*(Chiswick, unless otherwise stated)*

**Dorothy Scarbrow** (92), 29; **Dorothy Jackson** (92), 18; **John Sowerby** (79) 35.

**Fine Arts and Graphics, Wealdstone** – **Paul Trigg** (63), 2.

**Page of London** – **Frances Graham** (72), 13; **Roy Ashby** (86), 31.

**High Wycombe** – **Lorna Pollard** (96), 10; **Annie Hardman** (93), 19; **John Wigley** (92), 11.

**Reckitt Cleaning Services** – **Ethel Holt** (84), 11.

## HOW ABOUT AN 1893 PENSION?

Our report (p4) on the last entrants to the Reckitt Benckiser Pension Fund inspired us to take a brief look at our Fund's century-old origins.

With Welfare now top of the Government's agenda it seems appropriate that we can open with this extract from the 96-page *Reckitt & Sons Welfare Book* which we were able to reproduce digitally in *iContact* two years ago (*No.51, June 2011*) in a response to the Big Society debate then raging:

"The Company started a Non-Contributory Pension Fund in 1890 wherein Employees on attaining the age of 60 years were granted a pension equal to half their wages. This Fund was continued until the end of 1910, when owing to the large increase in the number of employees it was considered necessary that the Scheme should be amended. The principal change was the advancement of the retiring age from 60 to 65 years, with the exception of the Male employees who were in the service of the Company prior to 1898.

### **Contributory Scheme 1918**

"In 1918, the Directors recognized that owing to the alteration in the economy, the provision made hitherto was inadequate, and as a new Scheme was desirable, an Actuary was consulted.

"After serious consideration, the present Contributory Fund for Male Employees in the United Kingdom was evolved and put into operation."

At September 30, 1924 membership was 2,103 and Funds were £423,164 19s 6d.

In its April 1923 edition the *Carrow Magazine* reported a Works Council meeting called to consider revisions to the Colmans Pension Scheme introduced in 1899.

Figures were presented showing the liability the company had accepted in respect of the 300 pensioners who had died in the ensuing 23 years, the current 200 pensioners and 1,070 members of varying ages who would ultimately become entitled to the Company's pension.

The Company's pension would be increased from 8s to 10s a week and an increase in Members' contributions from 2d to 4d per week would result in another 4s on top of that.

# iCONTACT

## DIGITAL SUPPLEMENT

*With e-books advancing fast and publishing costs soaring there had been growing concern about the eventual appearance of the Morley Street history, even in paperback format. In the event both **The Blue Makers** book and its launch were an undoubted success. Author Frank Davies and Holliday Pigments are to be congratulated on a first class product. The quality of paper, cover and reproduction by Wyke Printers of Hull makes it a near equal of a conventional hardback while the range and depth of the content puts it well ahead of most company histories. Definitely something to be treasured by those who qualified for a copy at this memorable event in a most appropriate venue.*



*Familiar faces at the launch included Peter Adamson, top left; Dr. Mike Garrett, Alan Hitchcock and David Cowie, top right; Karen Houghton, Chris Tripp, Susie Fish and Alison Bisby, above.*

*Garry Selvage, above, with Joanna Houldridge and Clive Fieth; Malcolm Booth and Dave Calvert, below.*



*Steve Moody, Gary Walters, Mike Bayston, Alan Tennison and Martin Craven, left.*

# The Blue Makers launch

A full set of photographs placed on the relaunched iContact site will remain for a short period after this edition has gone live before being removed.



## BYOD to your regional GTGs

**BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) is currently one of the big issues in corporate IT as companies get to grips with the security and potential misuse of their systems and networks while allowing employees to use their own increasingly widespread digital communications, notably smartphones.**

The phenomenal rise in smartphone sales, with millions being bought by older people, makes a case for BYOD at our get-togethers, especially as the taking of photographs and their circulation is so quick and easy.

It is those not at the get-together we have to think of. Memories and news of former colleagues are the essence of these meetings and BYOD is the ideal medium to pass them on to friends and family – and, of course, *Contact*.

You can, for instance, capture the attendance of a special guest, as we are able to this month with Senior Pensions Administrator Carol Irvin, right, at the Hull get-together. Carol is some way off

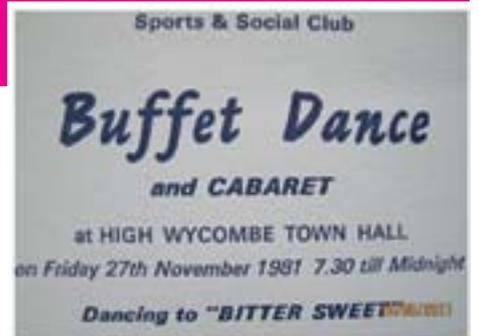


becoming a Pensioners' Association member but, as she has a key role in running the Fund, we will be doing all we can to encourage her to join when she qualifies to become one.

There's a lot of knowledge and experience there we would like to have on board.

As another example you can share the pleasure this month of Toni Citroni, pictured left, who has reason to smile – he won the raffle at the High Wycombe lunch!

There are always the memorabilia that members take to meetings – such as the dance ticket above cherished by Bert Childs, a true dancing professional pictured on p3,



who was at the High Wycombe lunch.

Apart from personal memories there's also the topicality of a continuing conversation piece such as Strictly Come Dancing.

Finally, without quoting particular instances, there's always Backup On Your Own Device, should cameras not work or be forgotten.

## Centenarian Edith



Edith Morton, whose 100th birthday is reported on P3, pictured (left) in retirement and above as former colleagues will remember her.

When she worked nights at Saltend during the war the only way to get home was by bicycle, a distance of about five miles, and that was in the blackout!

Always a great traveller she was in France on the day World War II started. Naturally her parents were worried that they may never see their daughter again, but she managed to get home OK.

The future of the Carrow House war memorials is still uncertain as meetings are sought with Norwich City Council

## The Carrow memorials

to consider possible sites, ideally with good public access, this month's Eastern Region get-together was told.

Rod Spokes, who was at Carrow from 1969 to 1984 and is now a city guide has written a letter with suggestions that are being considered.

Rod writes: "Have you asked Unilever if it could be housed in Carrow 'Abbey' either the prioresses house or the 1899 extension? These buildings have a powerful and enduring Colman association, are listed and in an open space that will not be developed

so ensuring that the memorial will have a near permanent home and are accessible subject to Unilever permission.

As a City Guide I have done tours around the 'Abbey', it would be a perfect site for the memorial.

"Failing that Jeremiah James worshipped at both St Mary's Baptist Church (now Central Baptist) Duke St and what was a Congregational Church now URC in Princes St opposite St Peter Hungate.

"As a final shot Jeremiah James did help the Cathedral financially during his lifetime. The building contains several war memorials and honours Samuel Bignold of the Norwich Union – a contemporary of JJC."