

iCONTACT

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

No. 58, December 2013

In this issue

Sunshine Fund memories



Memories of the 90 years of Reckitt's Sunshine Fund trips to nearby Withernsea when Northern's next get-together visits Hornsea (P3)

Billionaires – you do meet up with them



High Wycombe's Paul Gilliam met Nepal's first billionaire Arun Choudhary (his fortune came from Pot Noodles) twice during his doctorate research visit (P4)

Humber crossing



A Derby pensioner indulges his "photographing habit" as he pilots his way to Hull (see P5).

PENSION FUND GETS ITS PROMISED £155m BOOST

With Reckitt Benckiser reporting continuing international trading growth (see P6) and the company making the final payment this month to complete its £155m three-year boost to the Pension Fund, members of the RB Pensioners' Association can feel more reassured as the world economy enters another uncertain year.

Reflecting the changes brought about from the start of 2013 by the old DB (Defined Benefit) scheme giving way to the newer, and now larger, DC (Defined Contribution) scheme, the annual *Update* report now has separate DB and DC editions with *Contact* readers receiving the DB version with this issue.

On P2 of this *Update* is an outline of the many factors that have to be considered in the financial health check carried out in this 'valuation year' from the valuation date of April 5, 2013.

Valuation report

In 2014, we will report on the results of the latest valuation and whether any further contributions are required by the Company.

NB: The *Update* carries a warning (P6) on what is called "pension liberation fraud". This will not apply to our RBPA members receiving a pension but we realise many of them have families saving in pension schemes and may find it useful guidance.

Stoneferry QC reunion



Front (l to r): Keith Parkin, Carl Tyson, Dave Bedford, Mike Sharp. Back: Tony Bakes, Janice Anson (partly hidden), Phyllis Welsh, Lynne Goundry, Phil Slater. Report on web pages.



Three re-elected

As reported in our last issue (*No.57, August 2013*) the three RB Pensioners' Association committee members due to retire this year, Trevor Clark, Chris Eagleton and Alistair Stewart, were willing to continue and, with no new nominations received, the Committee duly approved their re-election at the October 30 meeting.

Extra Digital Supplement pages on <http://www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk>

New venues for get-togethers

Elegant country house or traditional farmhouse



DIARY DATES 2014

Forthcoming get-togethers:

DERBY

at 10.30am at The Orangery

Markeaton Park on:

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

LEICESTER

at 11.30am at The Oadby Owl

Glen Road, Oadby on

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Contact Brian Bradley

Tel: 01526 321575

for Leicester and Derby

HULL

11am at Cafe Chocolat

Newbegin, Hornsea

(Opposite the museum) on

January 22, 2014

11am at Kingston Theatre Hotel

Kingston Square, Hull on

February 19, 2014

11am at Norwood House

Norwood, Beverley on

March 19, 2014

Contact Phil Mayor

Tel: 01482 862563

HIGH WYCOMBE

Wednesday 14th May 2014

12 to 3pm Venue to be confirmed

Contact Paul Gilliam

Tel: 01494 562843

NORWICH

at 10.30am at the White Horse

Trowse on:

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Contact Ken Herbert

01379 852854



Northern Region Autumn get-togethers took on an entirely new look, both by accident and design. The new Beverley venue in the elegance of Norwood House went as planned on September 18 but the Derby meeting the previous day amounted to little more than a chat in the park for the 29 who turned up when The Orangery in Markeaton Park was found to be unexpectedly and inexplicably locked and closed.

There was no option but to call it off and it was later learned the closure was due to the death of the proprietor's mother. Brian Bradley found an alternative venue close by at Bryer's Heritage Farm in Markeaton village and 24 members had their own taste of traditional surroundings on October 29.

As the pictures above and below show, our members enjoyed contrasting environments with fine

Georgian architecture and antiques in the north and red brick and wooden roof trusses further south.

Encouraged by the 28 pensioners and partners at Beverley, many of them old friends who had not seen each other for a long time, more new venues are being tried, starting with a trip to the seaside (see Diary, left)

That will revive memories of the Sunshine Fund whose seaside trips

Continued on next page>



EASTERN MARKS 15 AND 50 YEARS



The Soft Drinks cricket team, who won the inter-departmental competition for the first time. Left to right (standing). R. Noller, B. Jones, B. Parker, R. Yellop, W. Barber, G. Golder. (Sitting) M. Walker, D. Trett, M. Fuller (capt), G. Fisher, R. Rogerson

After Eastern Region's October get-together at the White Horse Ken Herbert presented the ever-helpful landlady Pam Colman with a bouquet to mark the 15 years the association has been meeting (80 present at the first one) at the Trowse hostelry.

Looking back 15 years motivated Ken to dive into his archives to see what memories a 50-year old copy of the works magazine would turn up. Issue No.3 of Carrow magazine in 1963 carried this picture, left, of the Soft Drinks team with R.Noller, D.Trett and Capt M. Fuller recognised as still being with us. Let us know of any more. The next page of Carrow Weddings included current pensioners Michael Platten and Brian Cooper and a certain Kenneth Herbert!

>Continued from page 2 **3,300 attendance is the record to beat**

concentrated on the nearby resort of Withernsea in the final years of its 90-year history. The Sunshine Fund ran country and seaside trips for pensioners as well as children – but there's no chance of matching the record old folks' attendance of 3,300 in 1968.

If you (and your partner) would like to join in for coffee/tea and a bun on any or all of these dates, please make a note in your diary and let Phil or Chris know so they can give you a reminder nearer the time and arrange the catering:

Chris Eagleton, 2 Dominican Walk,
Beverley, HU17 0HF Tel:01482 872765
christopher@eagleton.net
Philip Mayor
18 The Croft, Beverley. HU17 7HT
01482 862563
pamayor@pamayor.karoo.uk

The appeal of the Beverley venue obviously detracted from the already planned meeting at the usual Goodfellowship venue a couple of weeks later with half the usual number attending (picture in the digital supplement).

As reported above, the Derby pensioners again gave their excellent support at the re-arranged venue. A good day at Bryers Farm tearooms ended with a raffle and all looking forward to next year when it is back to the Orangery.

With 42 members attending Eastern Region's October meeting there was a warm welcome for trustee Kevin O'Berg, RBPA secretary Trevor Clark and *Contact* newsletter producer

John Davis, visitors from Hull.

Ken Herbert recalled that he and Kevin had first met after he had set up the Colman Pensioners' Association in 1991 and Kevin, with Elizabeth Groves, had helped enormously in tracing the lost pensions of the very early elderly Coleman pensioners who had not been in receipt of a pension.

Trevor Clark met old friends from his Norwich days before he left to make his career with Reckitts, retiring as Healthcare's Regional HR Director in 2009.

Following his attendance at the Beverley event earlier, John Davis, who has produced the newsletter since 1994, was making his first ever visits to get-togethers.



**No liveried
flunkeys at
High Wycombe
but posh chocs
nonetheless**

High Wycombe's early Christmas lunch on October 23 saw each of the 22 guests receive a special individual Christmas pudding – not the real suet version but a Ferrero Rocher chocolate (the ones served up by liveried flunkeys from piled trays in the TV ads) with a personal touch.

The seasonal covers, pictured, had been handmade by Carol, wife of



SEE p5 for story of John McLinden, pictured first left, at the Derby get-together.

organiser Paul Gilliam, to be served up with the tea and coffee. On the menu the guests enjoyed turkey and ham, sausages, a rice dish and salad, followed by trifle, mince pies and Christmas cake.

Paul, our pensioner visitor recently returned from Nepal (see separate story on P4), was delighted to be joined at the Reggie Goves Centre by 22 former employees of Reckitt Industrial living mainly in and around High Wycombe. Carol Gilliam is pictured, below, serving up her home-made fare.



**MORE GTG
PHOTOS
ON OUR
WEB PAGES**

Paul's 5.2 Richter Scale welcome to Kathmandu

The earth really shook for the arrival in Nepal of High Wycombe's Pension Visitor Paul Gilliam (68). After the flight Paul settled into the Kathmandu Guest House, the original stepping off point for those trekking or mountaineering, when an earthquake (5.2 on the Richter scale) struck.

To the amazement of most guests and staff Paul slept through it. Thousands had lined up in the street at 3am in the morning to avoid falling debris! Fortunately nothing fell on him. He took his usual shower using Dettol antiseptic soap, of course.

Paul is undertaking a four year Education Doctorate programme. He decided to go to Nepal to interview graduates from British Universities for the research stage of his degree.

Surprisingly, his approach of asking the customer what they thought of their UK education, after they had returned home, has been enthusiastically received by academics. He has presented some of his work to universities in Germany and France as well as in the UK.

Paul's picture, below, shows one of the staff (13 years in the job) proudly holding his tin of Mansion to polish up the floor of Paul's bedroom.



Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. It receives billions in aid from all around the world, including our Government, and yet, as pictured on our front page, Paul met Nepal's first billionaire Arun Choudhary twice. Although Pot Noodles were the foundation of his success, he has in fact set up more than 80 businesses.

Typically a hotel waiter is paid \$10 a week and rents one room for his wife and any children for \$3 a week, reports Paul. Of course there is no running water in the room and no electricity – and don't ask to use the loo. There isn't one in the building.

Paul managed to interview 24 graduates, seven major employers and various consultants. He took some time off (three days out in fact) from his six



week schedule for a quick trip around several monasteries and a 4am hike up a mountain to see the sun rising over the high Himalayas.

"Shame I just didn't have the time to climb Everest. I settled for a flight around it instead." he told *Contact*.

He abandoned a car on a precipice on his way to take the above picture of the Peace Pagoda in Pokhara – a gift from Japan.

"Apparently sliding off the so called roads by buses and cars is one of the most frequent causes of death. You may have seen the TV documentary



The entrance to the Monkey Temple, Kathmandu

on the most dangerous road in Nepal. I was driving on it." said Paul.

But perhaps the scariest moment was driving at 90mph through a Maoist demonstration in the centre of the capital. Paul and his driver were working on the theory that hitting a moving target was more difficult.

Paul says he did meet the most fabulous people. He went to see the Ghurka museum in Pokhara and Sir Edmund Hilary's gear in the mountaineering museum.

It took him some time to adjust to having electricity round the clock on his return home. Power cuts were every day for eight or nine hours. The one thing there was plenty of was water, untreated of course and with no sanitation. It all runs downhill swiftly away into the rivers flowing into India he thinks but didn't ask too many questions. He had to get back for that lunch party.

Paul hopes his research will meet the expectations of his examiners in 2015!



OUR SEASONAL TRADITION



Roast pork was a traditional Christmas dinner for the families of workers at both the Reckitt and the Colman family firms because the meat was cheap or even free – the size of family determining the size of the free joints. Country of origin labels were not needed; it was grown next door.

In both companies the pigs were fed on the starch by-products made in the adjoining factories. The Reckitt business was founded on starch production in 1840 and Isaac Reckitt is recorded as dealing in pigs, selling 32 in 1841 and 45 in 1842.

In the late 1800s an employee by the name of Stephenson was keeper of more than 160 pigs at Dansom Lane.

At Norwich the free Christmas joints were seen as a hospitable survival of a practice at the starch factory in Stoke. The starch-fed pigs were killed off for Christmas with the hams smoked to be used for sandwiches at the annual tea and appropriately sized joints cut up and distributed to the men. As starched collars went out of fashion meat tickets came in.

FROM AQC TO ATC

(that's aerosol quality control to air traffic control)

John McLinden pictured, left, with his favourite aircraft, a French machine called a DR400/160 made by a company called Pierre Robin. It's well known for the superb visibility from the cockpit (good for photography!) and excellent handling characteristics. The photo was taken at Gamston Airfield.



With his 30-year Reckitt & Colman career nearing its end before he was quite ready to stop working, Derby pensioner John McLinden found an ideal solution by making his hobby a full-time job.

So the day John left the Derby aerosol factory in 1996 he started work in the Air Traffic Service control tower at Derby Airfield, building on his 15 year experience in amateur aviation and the pilot's course he had started in 1995.

He has now been flying for 17 years; had a licence for 11; has more than 600 hours in his logbook; and is signed off with (i.e. can officially fly) 15 types of single engined aircraft.

John started with R&C Chiswick in 1966, working for Mike Urry in the packaging lab before moving to Hull to work with Colin Ross on aerosol development. This led to his transfer

to Derby in 1985 to join Arthur Speed on aerosols before becoming Technical and QA manager in the Derby Aerosol FFU.

He made a number of overseas trips, trouble-shooting at various R&C sites including Brazil. Appearing as a witness in court in Eire in absolutely freezing weather, after a rather unusual flight to Dublin in the company plane with then chief executive John West, did not dampen his enthusiasm for flying.

John's first ever flight in a light aircraft had been in an Auster from Ipswich Airport in the early 1950s. In 1995 at Derby Airfield he finally

decided to try for his pilot's licence. It was one of the things he had wanted to do for many years. After what is known as a Trial Lesson he enjoyed it so much that he carried on for the full course.

Photography habit

As indicated on our front page, photography is part of the flying experience, but John told *Contact*: "It's not even really a hobby. I just have a habit of taking photos of where I've been and what I've seen. If you asked me what exposure time and aperture I'd used I couldn't tell you! There are five cameras about the house somewhere and I just pick one up and use it. None of the cameras are special. If anyone wants to look at what I've taken they are on:

www.panoramio.com/user/944704

www.flickr.com/photos/fogey03/

John now works as a part-time volunteer at Tatenhill Airfield in Staffordshire where he is the weekend operations manager. This former RAF base is the home of Tatenhill Aviation Ltd. which has been operating for 20 years providing pilot training, aircraft hire, aircraft maintenance and avionics installation and design.

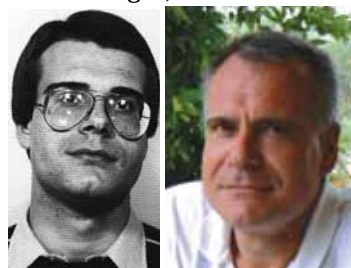
Who lived in a house like this

Pensions Department rightly receives regular praise from our members for its service so, although he worked at Reckitt and Colman for only two months nearly 40 years ago, it came as no surprise to learn a former employee has been guided towards his State Pension – in this case a French State pension.

Philippe Vigouroux, who lives in Palaiseau, France, used the e-mail link on our *iContact* site to say he was 18 years old when he worked in July and August 1975 at Reckitt & Colman Industrial Division at High Wycombe.

"I'm today preparing my retirement with the National French Pension Fund. I asked Reckitt Benckiser England to find my personal data, but they did not find me." he wrote. "I remember that I met Mr Peter Knee, he was the manager, and I remember that I went with a Reckitt & Colman representative to the High Wycombe registration desk for social security, National English Pension Fund, and Taxes – but I didn't keep my pay slip!

"So the National French Pension Fund is asking me the proof that I worked in England during the year 1975. But I don't know where and who that I have to contact? Do you think that you can help me?"



Phillipe as he is now, right, and in 1975



We consulted our key link, Senior Pension Administrator (and *Contact* proof checker) Carol Irvin, who confirmed they would have had records if Philippe had been a member of the Fund, but back then temp workers did not join and in any case the minimum age for joining the R&C Pension Fund was 20.

But if he had paid National Insurance the Tax Office might have a record and she gave us the most likely of the many links to HMRC. It worked. We passed the link to Philippe, the NI office found his record – but they needed the address where he lived in High Wycombe. He logged on to High Wycombe on Google Earth for the area, found the housing estate where he lived and recognized the house on Merlewood Close. He could not remember the family name, but HMRC were able to match this address in their files and provide the statement the French national fund required.

Good news on Health and Hygiene

In current economic conditions good trading results can give pensioners some of the reassurance they need, so Reckitt Benckiser's focus on Health and Hygiene and emerging markets is delivering results which should encourage RBPA members.

The third-quarter interim management statement issued at the end of October showed a 5 per cent increase in third-quarter sales to £2.55 billion, driven by buoyant sales for health products like Dettol and Mucinex cough medicine. But what gave the shares a five per cent boost was chief executive Rakesh Kapoor's comment that the US-based pharmaceutical business is to be reviewed.

"We are commencing a strategic review of the business and will consider all options for maximising value for our shareholders. We expect the review to take some time and will update shareholders during the course of 2014," he said.

With recent acquisitions performing strongly, the Company believed that the full year net revenue growth (excluding RB Pharmaceuticals) would be in line with expectations. One of the options under review will be to value the RBP company to see if a sale would be suitable.

Analysts have put a £3 billion price tag on the business, recognising that RB's great skill lies in marketing big brands. The new patent protected Suboxone film now has a 68% market share, even with the launch of the generic tablets

Fresh shoots

After rejecting the Irn Bru merger proposal (Contact 57, August 2013) Robinsons Barley Water manufacturer Britvic, which also makes Pepsi Cola and 7UP, reported a revenue rise in September (its fourth quarter) of 12.8 per cent to £366m; helped by rising sales of Robinsons Fruit Shoot, back on the shelves after a recall because of faulty caps.



Following our report on the new book *The Life and Times of Sir James Reckitt* in our last issue, it was clear that, like Contact, our readers had not heard of the James Reckitt Library Trust which funded the book. Dr Richard Heseltine, right, Chair of the Trust and University Librarian, University of Hull, has written the following article for us:



A PHILANTHROPIC PASSION

As is well known, libraries were among Sir James Reckitt's many philanthropic passions. He campaigned tirelessly for the establishment of public libraries in Hull by an initially reluctant City Corporation, and at his own cost built the first free library in the City, the James Reckitt Library in east Hull.

The opening of the Western Library in 1895, the first to be established from the public purse, was a direct result of his campaigning efforts.

The James Reckitt Library Trust was established by Sir James in 1892. Originally intended to support just the James Reckitt Library, the Trust now helps to develop library provision throughout the City.

It is completely independent of the City Council and has no connection with today's Reckitt Benckiser. Its funds, which come from the initial endowment, and which now amount to several million pounds, are managed to provide an annual income for investment in library provision.

It has five Trustees, and I have been privileged to serve as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the past four years.

The projects and activities which the Trust funds are designed to stimulate a love of reading and learning, particularly among children and young people, to encourage

those who might not normally use public library services to do so, and to raise awareness of what modern public libraries can offer.

Examples of recent projects funded by the Trust are the annual Children's Book Awards, the Summer Reading Challenge, in which many Hull schools participate, a series of oral literacy events at this year's Freedom Festival, and the superb redevelopment of the Western Library.

Other building projects funded by the Trust have included the work in the Central Library to refurbish the rooms that previously contained the Local Studies Library (now moved to Hull History Centre) and to create the new Music Library.

At a time when many public library services are faced with cuts and closures – and in Hull there are similar pressures – the city is indeed fortunate to benefit from Sir James Reckitt's foresight.

I know of nothing like the Trust anywhere else in the country.



MEMORIES AND MARZIPAN FOR JACK'S 100th

Memories are invariably the most precious thing a 100-year old retains, as four of our Eastern Region members discovered yet again when they paid a birthday visit on November 21 to Norwich's latest centenarian, Jack Harrison.

Pam Gulliver presented the 10-inch square by three inches thick cake, specially made by a good friend of hers and covered in Jack's favourite – marzipan.

Eric Howes, pictured with Jack, Alan McConnell and Neville Starling, who all worked with Jack in the trades department found him in fine form in his residential home in the city and, although he has lost his sight, he certainly has not lost his memory.

In a thoroughly entertaining two hours he went through all the names and stories of those with whom he worked. Neville said he certainly does not look his age and is lively and coherent.





We have mentioned in previous editions the limitations that legislation imposes on us in using employee information from company records. So we depend on memories, house journal back numbers and, above all, families and colleagues contacting us. Here we are indebted to Mrs Jean Gillon for a reminder of her late husband Michael, left, who not only provided a much appreciated personal service to employees and contributed to product development but maintained an historic tradition - outlined, right, in the 1924 welfare book.

From: Mrs L. Gillon, Billingham, West Sussex

Michael A Gillon BDS LDS RCS 1925 - 2013-09-23

Some of your Pensioners who remember him will be sorry to hear of the death of Michael Gillon, aged 88, the Company Dentist at Reckitts for 21 years. He was appointed in 1965 after years as a Registrar at Guys Hospital, London.

He ran a very busy surgery treating everyone from new recruits to Directors. He also treated Pensioners living in Garden Village.

Michael had a full staff! Mr Barrass and Clive Ward, who worked in the Labs., Receptionist Mrs Pearson and Dental Nurses, including his wife Jean.

Michael also worked with the Pharmaceutical Labs in the production of Steradent denture cleaner and toothpaste.

Many a patient developing toothache at the weekend will remember he would always turn out and open up the surgery in Dansom Lane, his wife and three children bundled in the back.

No service like that today!!

Loss of amenities

Fom: barry.allison@hotmail.com

Great mag as always (Contact No.57, August 2013). On page 5 an article mentions "Reckitts employees had playing fields, a swimming baths, social club, squash courts etc. etc."

I would imagine James and Thomas Reckitt must be turning in their respective graves at the state of these amenities nowadays.

The recreation field situated on Chamberlain Road is a disgrace and I believe the swimming baths is now defunct.

Editor's comment: Regrets that many of our readers share, Barry, although on Contact we see our main task as the older generation to ensure the heritage, the social conscience which drove our founding families, is not lost. It's that Big Society which we had and the politicians seek. Some of the things you mourn have been superseded rather than lost whilst things like universities, libraries and art galleries endure.

Red carpet treatment Carrow style

This letter was sent to us by its author but first appeared on Talk Back, the web pages run by Archant, the publishers of the Norwich morning and evening newspapers. The newspaper group, founded by the Colman family, has been in the forefront of new ideas to combat declining paper sales, but this story may not have made Carrow News at the time!

From: Tony Grey, Norwich

Stories of Colmans on the 40th anniversary of the Mustard Shop (Let's Talk, August), my mind went back to the day it opened in Bridewell Alley.

Everything was organised to get VIPs from Thorpe station to the alley walking on two lengths of red carpet



for the grand opening by Fanny and Johnny Craddock.

The police called wondering why Bridewell Alley had a red carpet - they say the best laid plans etc., forgot to arrange to have the carpet removed.

I arrived with Peter Mace (wonder if he remembers) and with the help of two policemen we somehow rolled it up and got it in the back of a 35cwt Ford Transit. The story does not end there. Manager Ben Cooke asked us to take two Victorian hat stands back.

We took all carpet and hat stands back to Carrow Works, they in turn had many phone calls, one was from the Compass in Upper King Street, now one of the many estate agents, the other was from the Maids Head.

I took Peter home to Acle, he was pleased, as he came to work at the time by train. I went home for tea then went back to work, clocked us both out. All above board, four hours overtime at time and a half.

Hot stuff for Norfolk TV mustard Humber now in full flow

Another Archant venture is Mustard TV which was awarded a local TV licence in September 2012 and broadcasts local video news and features about Norfolk and Norwich. Mustard videos can be seen on the EDP website (<http://www.mustardtv.co.uk>) and will start broadcasting on Freeview - channel eight next March, although it has been beaten to it by Estuary TV, which started broadcasting from Grimsby to 350,000 homes in East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire as we went to press.

Estuary, which was launched by home-grown TV star Patricia Hodge, has been running on Virgin cable under the name Channel 7 for the past 15 years. Local TV stations have been tried in the past (and most failed), but this time the government has got behind the idea and secured the stations a prominent slot on Freeview - channel eight (between BBC Three and BBC Four).

Estuary as a name is evident but why Mustard? The station says: "Jeremiah Colman, of Colman's Mustard fame, was one of the original founders of Archant. We liked the name and the many things it stands for: - It is something spicy, tasty, sharp and with a number of varieties. It's a condiment, something to add to make food more interesting. It definitely isn't bland."



MORE ATTEND CARROW HOUSE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

An increased attendance at Eastern Division's annual Remembrance Day service at Carrow House on November 11 raised hopes that the future of the memorials to the Colman employees who died in the two world wars could become more secure now the county council has withdrawn the house from sale.

The 13 Colman pensioners who attended were joined by Graham Ray, property manager at Norfolk County Council, two of his staff and three researchers from The War Memorials Trust, illustrating the investigations now under way into the limitations on removal or development around a listed war memorial.

Names read out

At this year's service, conducted by the Rev. Janice Scott, the one minute's silence was observed and the names of those appearing on the memorial plaques were read out by Pam Gulliver, Neville Starling, Ken Herbert, Derek Smithson and Judy Allan.

The wreath was laid by Pam Gulliver and Nigel Riley read the

poem, reproduced right, written at the end of WW1 by John Burton, then at the Cannon Street London office. The poem was reproduced in *Carrow Works Magazine* as a dedication to all those of the staff who had fallen. John Burton moved to Carrow when the London office closed.

The verse captured the feelings of working people of the time, also evidenced by the photograph in our August issue of the dedication of the memorial plaques at Carrow in 1921.

The size of the crowd meant the service had to be outside and the plaques (pictured above) were then moved into the house and joined in later years by London office and WWII memorials. The framing of the plaques and craftsman woodwork created a high quality chapel.



*Rest on brave spirit, now thy task is o'er,
Thy goal is won, the sacrifice is made;
Though we on earth behold thy face no more,
The memory of thee shall never fade.
For thou didst count thy life a little thing,
When duty called to fight for land and king.*

*No lordly grave or monument is thine,
No proud memorial marks thy resting place,
But in our hearts thou ever hast a shrine,
Enthroned amongst the grandest of our race.
For England's gift of freedom thou hast bled,
And Death's dark valley hast not feared to tread.*

*Rest on in peace, and take thy last long sleep;
The sacrifice has not been made in vain.
In grave on foreign shore or trackless deep,
Await the call for thee to rise again.
Thy deathless deed shall ring the ages down.
Thy head shall wear the victor's fadeless crown.*

OBITUARIES

Talented engineer who came with Apollo

Harry Knight, who died at the end of November, will be remembered as the man who helped bring soft drinks manufacture to Colmans and also as an extremely talented engineer and very likeable character.

He moved to Carrow from Farrows in Peterborough specifically to work on the Apollo Project as the soft drinks venture was known.

Sailing was Harry's great interest and he had his own yacht on the Norfolk Broads.

A specially well-known Carrow personality Tom Jackson completed 26 years with Colmans when he retired in 1987 and equalled this service record with another 26 years in retirement when he died in July.

His years as works personnel manager gave him an immense knowledge of Colman people both as workers and pensioners and he used this knowledge and experience in a sensitive way when dealing with employment and personal issues.

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

NORTHERN REGION
(Hull, unless otherwise stated)

Mary Young, aged 80, 12 years' service; Audrey Hawksworth (78), 27; Ernest Balderson (81), 11; Albert Johnson (85), 21; John Malton (84), 33; John Kennell (78), 27; Douglas Lowthorpe (93), 46.

Derby – Yvonne Tyler (63), 15; Paul Frederick Tier (64), 10.

Poynton depot – Harry Neild (75), 11.

EASTERN REGION
(Norwich, unless otherwise stated)

Eric Wooles (82), 12; Thomas Jackson (88), 26; Frederick Kett (84), 36; Tony Bell (78), 18; Henry Frank Knight (85), 25; Peter Wilfred Wheeler

(68) 25; Joseph Paul Jenkinson (59), 30.

SOUTHERN REGION

(Chiswick, unless otherwise stated)

George William Burgess (91), 17.

Fine Art & Graphics, Wealdstone – Phyllis Hale (87), 10.

GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT



First it was the cricket ground at Lakenheath; now the Deal Ground at Carrow is another former Colman site under house building pressure, leading to this protest march pictured in the Eastern Daily Press.

iCONTACT

DIGITAL SUPPLEMENT

The astonishing rise in the sales of smartphones and tablets means more and more of our readers are joining the millions around the world able to take photographs and view them on the web. We have put more photographs of get-togethers in this issue to encourage you to use this means of reporting events as a bonus to the printed newsletter where, like all the print media, we are increasingly constrained by print and postage costs.



Going “posh” at Beverley but staying down to earth at Derby



...but the Emperor still got a look-in, goodfellow that he is

Contrasting surroundings above for Northern's Autumn get-togethers and still smiles, left and right, at the regular Goodfellowship meeting despite reduced numbers due to the country house attraction. The “Who’s that?” question called for the snap (inset above left) of John Davis, making his first appearance at a get-together (and in Contact) since he started producing our newsletter 19 years ago – fashionably tieless for such a posh occasion.



take away
TIME!

...but
NO TAKERS

Once they get "mardling" (Norfolk- speak for gossip) it can be a job to get rid of former workmates attending the Eastern Region get-togethers so with a little digital doctoring of the White Horse wall sign this picture of the October meeting gave us headline and story.



The editorial team was also suited to the occasion, with *Contact's* John Davis on Trustee Kevin O'Bergh's right and Norwich correspondent Ken Herbert on his left the only two tie-wearers present. With them is Audrey Beaulieu.

Ken Herbert updated the meeting on the Carrow House war memorials and said Sir Michael Colman 'phoned him to talk about the situation and the Remembrance Day Service (reported on P8).

All the trimmings - but no oven!

Turkey and ham, sausages, a rice dish and salad, followed by trifle, mince pies and Christmas cake were on the menu for the 22 former employees of Reckitt Industrial, living mainly in and around High Wycombe, who came together on October 23 at the Reggie Goves Centre to celebrate an early Christmas. Only the lack of a working oven in the Centre stopped roast potatoes and vegetables!



Our pictures show the winner of a hamper in the raffle and various guests with runner up prizes of cyclamens. The highlight though was the reminiscing, the leg pulling, and the happy times spent at Floor Treatments, Progress Floor Treatments and Reckitt Industrial. Several regulars unfortunately were unable to attend including: Peter Knee, Anne Fiander, Meg Lambert, Bob Waite, Ken Pewsey and John Bazin. Everyone sent their special wishes to Mrs Bazin for John and Paul later took a small gift to her.



BLUE BOOK GOES IN BRITISH LIBRARY (and locals)

The Blue Makers, the book telling the story of Morley Street and ultramarine blue, is starting to appear on local library shelves. Copies were given to Hull libraries at the launch at Hull History Centre in February (*Contact* No.56, April 2013) and East Riding Council has also asked for a supply.

Author Frank Davies says a copy has gone to the British Library and requests from former employees, here and overseas, have been met. There are still a few copies available for former employees, contact Frank on 01482 650449 Email: francisvdavies@live.co.uk or Joanna Houldridge on 01482 640208 Email: Joanna.Houldridge@holliday-pigments.com

Selling well too is *The Life and Times of Sir James Reckitt* (Kingston Press £6.95), aimed primarily at children, which pensioners have called into Hull City Council's Central Library in Albion Street to purchase. Call 01482 210000 for postal details.

When Reckitt's Colours was sold to Holliday Chemical Holdings in 1994 it was entering the world of the big American-owned chemical giants.

Holliday Pigments as it was called was subsequently sold to Yule Catto who, in turn, sold to Rockwood Holdings, Inc. Rockwood wants to focus on its booming lithium business and is now selling Holliday and its Titanium Dioxide Pigments to Huntsman International.



The sporting memories recalled in these pages nearly always feature men's teams and the Soft Drinks cricket team of 50 years ago shown on P4 of this issue is no exception. However the same page of the 1963 Carrow Magazine also carried this picture of the players at one of that year's American mixed doubles tournaments.

The mixed doubles were run every month of the season and the report by Tony Metcalf says they are very well supported with very welcome snacks served by lady members of the committee (Miss A.Coleman, Mrs J.McNamee, Miss M.Oakes and Mrs M.Webb).

Tony is still with us, as is Jean King, author of the adjoining Ladies Hockey report, who took the meal orders at the last get-together. Others in the same issue identified by Ken Herbert as being still around are N. Riley and H.J.Schofield.

WHAT'S HIDDEN ON THE FRONT PAGE BRIGHTENS UP THIS ONE



The caption to the Stoneferry QC reunion picture on P1 read "Janice Anson (partly hidden)." We couldn't let that sparkling smile go unnoticed, so here's another shot from the same evening showing Janice and Phyllis Welsh plainly enjoying the occasion. For a first attempt the night went well and a further reunion is planned for next year.



UNWELCOME DEAL AT THE DEAL GROUND

A week after conducting the Carrow House Remembrance Day service (see P8) the Rev. Janice Scott, the newly appointed Vicar of Trowse, was back in the village to lend her support to a growing concern over further housing planned around Carrow.

The additional impact of up to 600 new homes at the former Colman's Deal Yard and the May Gurney site on the other side of the river have raised worries among villagers. The Vicar is in the centre of the group in the

Eastern Daily Press picture, left, and is quoted as saying the villagers fear they will be swamped.

About 80 people marched through Trowse, carrying their "Keep Trowse Special" banners to County Hall.

The march enabled villagers to show their concern about planning applications for 231 homes in the village, in addition to 670 already given outline planning permission for nearby sites.

Meanwhile there are continuing rumours that demolition of the historic L a k e n e h a m cricket pavilion is imminent despite the posters (right) and Norwich City Hall demonstration reported in our last issue.

In previous issues we have published pictures of the original thatched roof pavilion but Ken Herbert has found the article, left, on the £1.5m sports and leisure complex built following the disastrous fire at the old building.

Talk about covered Wimbledon! The Lakenheath complex had four indoor courts under huge canvas domes which dominated the site. The courts each had an eight layer surface, putting them tops for quality.

Additional outdoor courts had a five layer surface and, with coaching available, were promoted as ideal for learners and those looking to improve their game.

Squash, badminton, snooker and bowls were also available.

All new Lakenham rises from the ashes

Lakenham is open again and the news is it's better than ever before.

Some £1.5m has been spent to give the rebuilt sports and leisure complex the best facilities possible — and there is more good news, special rates for all Colman's employees.

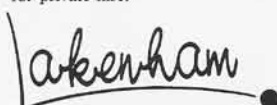
The site is now dominated by the tennis domes housing four indoor tennis courts, each with an eight layer surface putting them at the top of the league for quality.

There are additional outdoor courts with a five layer surface and for those wanting to improve their game coaching is available from Allington Mutimer and his staff.

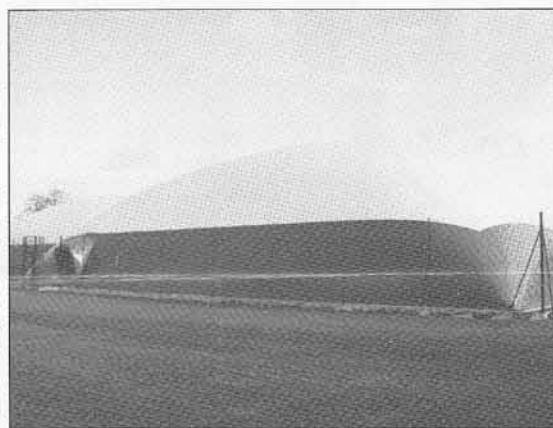
Inside Lakenham there is plenty to do with the budding sportsmen and women having the choice of squash, badminton, snooker, bowls or a fully equipped gym.

The new look also extends to the bar area with plush fittings and fixtures, offering a wide range of refreshments including bar snacks.

There are also a wide range of social activities planned for Christmas and the New Year. In addition there are rooms, large and small, available for private hire.



- (top) The smart new face of the Lakenham clubhouse.
- (centre) One of the two tennis domes, each housing two courts.
- (bottom) The plush new interior of the bar area.



Sun sets on nearly 100 years of industrial history

Halfpenny a week fund that once took 5,330 children on a one day country visit

Nearly a hundred years of Hull's industrial history came to an end this July when the final Reckitt's Sunshine Outing took place.

During those years many thousands of children and old folk were treated to a day out in the country or at the coast, writes Ken Cole.

Sustained by the weekly pennies deducted from the wages of thousands of Reckitt employees, the Sunshine Fund originally aimed to give a treat to hundreds of poor Hull children.

That was in the early years of the last Century when there were many children for whom even a day's holiday away was an unknown luxury.

The idea was conceived by two employees who organised some outings themselves in 1907. The Sunshine Fund was set up, and the first Sunshine outings took place, in 1909.

The children assembled in the playground in Dansom Lane and the East Hull Silver Band was there to play as they set off, in horse-drawn wagonettes, for Beverley Westwood. On their return to Dansom Lane they were served a tea and each received a packet of sweets.

This pattern continued, with variations, using various venues in the countryside around Hull.

Works under siege

At first, contributions were collected from the hourly-paid employees only, collectors being appointed in each department to receive donations on pay days. After a time, the Company agreed to deduct them from wages and, later on, also from salaries and pensions.

In the early years each employee subscribing a halfpenny a week was given a ticket which could be used by any child. As the number of tickets increased, it became the practice for hundreds of children to gather round the works at leaving time on the Friday night before an outing, hoping to "pick up" a ticket!

Later, tickets were allocated to local schools and orphanages and the distribution left to them.

The peak of the children's outings was in 1926, when 5,330 were taken to South Cave. The imagination boggles!. We have not been able to establish how such numbers were



Sunshine Fund organiser Norman Booth and helpers at the last outing at Withernsea in July.

transported but we think it must have been by rail. We believe it was possible to travel to South Cave by rail in those days. Perhaps there are some amongst our readers who were there?

First trip for old people

As the years went by it was realised that there were many old people who would also relish a day out and in 1922 the first trip for old people was laid on, to Welton Dale, a beauty spot eight miles west of Hull. Transport, again, was in horse-drawn wagonettes and the return journey from Welton Dale took five hours!

The venues chosen for these trips varied from year to year and in 1927 the seaside was visited for the first time, at Withernsea; but it was not until the 1950s that Withernsea was established as the regular destination.

Visits there were, of course, made by rail until Dr Beeching closed the line, since when, fleets of double-decker buses have been used.

Teas were served initially in a variety of local church and chapel halls, cafes, etc.. Later the people were brought together under one roof in the Grand Pavilion and then, from 1976, in "Teddy's Club" on the promenade. The children's outings were always quite separate from the old folk's and continued to be at

places in the countryside.

In later years the children's outings became more stressful for the organisers and were perhaps also seen as less of a treat by the kids. Whatever the reason, the numbers of children gradually fell, but those of old people continued to increase, reaching a peak of 3,300 in 1968.

After 1973 no more children were taken. The number of old folk who could be catered-for has since fallen drastically, because of the huge drop in the numbers employed at Reckitts, with a fall in the Fund's income.

Presentation lunch

For the last 20 or so years, including 13 in his retirement, Norman Booth has been the main organiser of these activities, supported by a devoted but dwindling band of employees and (increasingly) retired employees. They have continued the Outings in the face of increasing difficulties but have now decided, sadly, that the Fund can no longer continue.

In recognition of the committee's work, the company laid on a lunch for them, where presentations were made to Norman on behalf of the company and of his fellow-committee members. We too salute them.

The panel below was the front page introduction to this P3 article

Sunset Outing from Withernsea



A unique British industrial tradition ends as the last Reckitt's Sunshine Fund Outing leaves Withernsea, left. In its 94-year history the Fund took tens of thousands of children and old people for a day in the country or by the sea - a mind-boggling record of 5,330 children on one day in 1926 and 3,300 old folk in 1968. See Ken Cole's story on P3.