

iCONTACT

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

No. 63, August 2015

PENSIONER LEADS THE WAY ON £100m CSE PROJECT

One of our pensioners has led the way into the company's biggest-ever project by making sure your heritage is safely stored and, following a surprise revelation from the final planning approval of the £100m Centre of Scientific



Excellence, has shown the way for the temporary relocation of 500 Dansom Lane staff to a new three-storey office block.

Gordon Stephenson, who retired as head of the Business Intelligence Unit 20 years ago and set up the Heritage Department for Group Communications shortly afterwards, is pictured (left) as the first of the relocators.

Keeping up the 100 year old tradition

Lorraine Mugleston, new pensioner visitor for the Derby area, had the ideal training for the role.

Lorraine (nee Scattergood) joined the company as a secretary in 1971 but moved into Personnel (as Human Resources used to be called) as a Personnel Assistant in 1977 and worked her way up to become Derby's Personnel Manager in 1987.

She is looking forward to meeting former colleagues as well as visiting those who joined after she left in 1991.

The three members of the RB Pensioners' Association Committee due for re-election this year, chairman David Saltmarsh, vice-chairman Tony Swell and pensioner trustee Kevin O'Berg, confirmed their willingness to continue at the last committee meeting.

No nominations for committee membership were received by the end of July deadline so no election is required.

Together with former Shoecare executive Steve West (right) Gordon has overseen the transfer of the precious Heritage archive to a unit in the Shine business park on the corner of Dansom Lane and St. Mark Street.



In his progress report on page four of this issue, Pension Trustee Neale Harrison shows the design and car park location of the newly revealed temporary office block for the main relocation of staff.

Gordon told us: "The main task was to get everything safely transferred. There has been, and will continue to be, a great deal of sorting out to be done. Then we will have to start planning for the move to a new location in the CSE complex in two or three years' time."

The Heritage Department is a source of much of the historic information we use in *Contact*. In addition to business information, there is, as both Reckitts and Colmans were truly family businesses, plenty about people – not only in company magazines that go back 100 years, but also in numerous documents and artefacts that generations of employees have passed on.

In this issue



Norwich marked The 75th anniversary of the July 1940 raid which killed five Colman's workers on Carrow Hill. See P6.



The England Women's team's performance in the World Cup recalled the pioneering role of Dansom Lane's Flo Bilton. P5



The National Tank museum has welcomed the model tank that former Cherry Blossom chauffeur George Martin used for target practice in his training to be a tank driver. P3

More news and pictures in the Digital Supplement at:
<http://www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk>

A special reception for the receptionists @ The Goodfellowship



Plenty to talk about, apart from the past, at the first get-togethers of this year – new faces, international visitors, venues closed without notice, catering arrangements unexpectedly changed, attendances up and down.

The picture on the left gave us our headline but, as many of our members from all parts of the group will recognise, it refers not to the Goodfellowship's own staff but Viv Cooper and Josie May, familiar faces and voices at Dansom Lane reception desk and telephone switchboard.

Both were attending for the first time, with Viv adding the international touch as she now runs a guest house in Austria and was on a home visit.

Another first time attendee at this May meeting was Ian Joliffe who gave us a "retiring on a high note" headline for last December's (No.61) issue when he was pictured with fellow R&D retiree Neil Muir and R&D Director Neale Harrison, Pension Trustee and head of the £100m CSE project.

The preceding April meeting had a turnout of 10 members but the June meeting was less well attended with only six people attending. Venues like last year's historic barge and the new Beverley theatre proved big attractions but organiser Phil Shearsmith thinks most members are seeking more than just curiosity.



The April meeting of the Colmans Pensioners' Association at The White Horse, Trowse saw 21 members enjoying a chat with colleagues and several staying on for lunch.

Organiser Ken Herbert reported on approaches by the Wise Archives (logo and internet link above) which is

recording the working lives of older Norwich people and wondered if any of our members were interested. Although one member had already made a recording for them, there was no particular interest expressed by members present.

High Wycombe record

High Wycombe could not have picked a better day for their spring lunch. Not only was it the warmest day of the year at 26°C, but the prospect of a 'carvery lunch' attracted a record 28 guests.

Harrow was represented by Margaret Wiggins, formerly of Winsor & Newton (Harrow), who keeps in touch with many of the Harrow area pensioners for Paul Gilliam, our High Wycombe and Harrow visitor.

Meg Lambert, known to just about everyone at the lunch, enlivened the occasion as usual with her knowledge and recollections of the staff at Winsor & Newton.

Paul emphasises that Winsor & Newton staff are always welcome to attend these events and he is happy to take guests to and from Amersham tube station, meaning pensioners in London boroughs can travel free from the Harrow area.

Paul and his wife Carol took a break from self-catering and booked

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DIARY DATES 2015

Forthcoming get-togethers:

HULL

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

11am at The Cheval Tearoom

Beverley Road, Willerby

Contact Phil Shearsmith

Tel: 07858 137178

alloa@alloa.karoo.co.uk

NORWICH

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

10.30am at the White Horse,

Trowse

Contact Ken Herbert

01379 852854

DERBY

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

10.30am, Bryers Heritage Farm,

Markeaton Lane,

Markeaton Village, Derby

Contact Brian Bradley

Tel: 01526 321575

for Leicester and Derby

HIGH WYCOMBE

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

12pm, Brewers Fayre, Loudwater,

High Wycombe

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Venue: tbc

Contact Paul Gilliam

Tel: 01494 562843

Details of other meetings (such as Southern Region's revived programme for Chiswick) will be announced on the web-site news page when dates fall between our press dates.

**We shouldn't
be here really
...and, No, we
don't have
punch-ups!**



Contented smiles, above, at Leicester's meeting at Grange Farm pub after finding the nearby pre-booked Oadby Owl closed. At High Wycombe Meg Lambert, left, was recollecting – not retaliating to the carvery carve-up.

Check in cheerfully in 63 after a model exit in 61

> Get-togethers continued from P2

the carvery meal at the local Brewers Fayre. Unfortunately, Whitbread plc had decided to cancel their carvery offer the day before. Yes, the booking had been confirmed...and, yes, Paul had checked the week before. In the event it provided a good initial talking point about British management, lack of customer service etc. – but our pensioners did find their option of choosing from a selection of 12 alternatives very acceptable. So, no real complaints.

The most disappointing news was that a few regulars were unable to attend and they were sorely missed. These included Bert Childs, George Waddington and John Carvell.

A good start for Derby with 26 pensioners turning up for the April meeting at Bryers Farm Cafe in Markeaton village for another enjoyable day ending with the always popular raffle.

Derby members go online for iContact

A new pensioner attending his first get-together was Brian Morley who worked at the Derby factory in the transport dept. *iContact*, the online version of our newsletter, was discussed and some of the pensioners present have now gone online to access it.

Quick discussion and decisive action was called for when just five members turned up for Leicester's pre-booked May get-together at the usual Oadby Owl pub.

It was closed for refurbishment so our quintet promptly shot off down the road to the Grange Farm pub which readily accommodated them.

Pensioners living to the West of London and Chiswick held their second get-together at the Wheatsheaf Hotel at Virginia Water in July.



After an historic retirement photograph with the model of the new CSE research centre in our December (No 61) issue, new RBPA member Ian Joliffe, in the check shirt, met his fellow pensioners at Hull's April get-together with fellow newcomer Brian Gady (right).



With a "this is a good turnout" smile Peter Moores welcomes former Chiswick colleagues to another well-attended luncheon in Virginia Water.



A good turnout of 29 included Arthur Tolson and many from the old Cherry site, plus several from the Chiswick based HQ and a few interlopers from other UK sites who have moved to live in the area to the west of London.

Organiser Peter Moores quotes from one of those attending "I did enjoy seeing so many "old" friends and many memories were stirred. It was a great lunch."

Another get-together is planned for March 2016 (actual date to be advised). Any *Contact* readers living in the area to the west of London who wish to join in please contact Peter Moores on telephone number 01276 34778 or email at petermoores@ntlworld.com.

TARGET PRACTICE MADE GEORGE LIGHT-FINGERED

When former Cherry Blossom chauffeur George Martin (now 88) volunteered for the Royal Tank Regiment as a 17-year-old in 1944, he had to develop his shooting skills by firing an air rifle at model tanks.

George finished his training as a tank driver (with five man crews they had to know each others' jobs, hence the gunnery) at the end of 1944 but was still too young to go to Europe so he was sent to the Middle East and "nicked" one of the little tanks to take with him.

The model went with George (then a Lance Corporal) to Cairo, Suez, and Alamein, travelling across the Sahara with him before he left the army in 1953. He went on to work as a chauffeur for the Cherry at Chiswick



Photo: Dorset Echo

and drove VIPs around in a Humber Super Snipe car.

Earlier this year George, who lives in Crondal, Hants, decided to give the model to the Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset, where he trained 71 years earlier. The museum was delighted and arranged a formal handover and photocall.

George told the *Dorset Echo*: "It was marvellous to visit the Tank Museum and give it back; after all I suppose it is their property."

David Willey, the curator at the Tank Museum, said: "This lead tank is not one we held so it's a worthy addition to our collection."

Mike's quintology

Mike Upton, former Colmans junior salesman who rose to Commercial Director, and later was Managing Director of Reckitt's Shoecare Division, has published his 11th novel since he began writing ten years ago.

THE END IS ALWAYS FINAL is the fifth and final story in the quintology about Sir Mark Watson, international businessman and serial womaniser, which began with *AMBITIONS END* (*Contact* No. 37, February 2007).

As with that first novel, former colleagues can guess how much reflects Mike's R&C experience.

Like all Mike's books, *THE END IS ALWAYS FINAL* is available from Amazon or the publisher Authorhouse.co.uk. All are available as e-books and paperbacks and some as hardbacks.



DANSOM LANE'S STARTING SIGNAL



Progress report by Neale Harrison
CSE Project Director and Pension Trustee



This three new three-storey office block springing up on the edge of Dansom Lane car park will be the fast-rising signal that the new £100m Centre of Scientific Excellence is under way. It will provide temporary accommodation for Kingston Works (KWN) staff while the new R&D centre is built.

I am pleased to record good progress on the new centre since my last report in the April issue.

Following a number of exploratory discussions at the Guildhall with the Hull City Council planning committee and some excellent work from our architects and internal team, the formal planning application will be delivered this month.

The plans describe a building very similar to the one which we first revealed when the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne visited us last July – a new 'L shaped' laboratory

building 'wrapping' round the existing KWN and Humber Suite buildings.

It will be linked to the KWN building via an airy atrium which will house a new staff restaurant as well as shopping and banking capabilities.

Many "green" features

The design of the building incorporates many 'green' features including photo voltaic cells on the roof (to capture all that Hull sunshine!) and modern LED lighting.

As well as building for the future we will continue to recognise our

At £100m, CSE may be the biggest single investment in the company's history but for the first 130 years there was no research laboratory as such. There were, close to the production lines, quality control laboratories which also did research.

A family-based integrated business approach and a disciplined production environment were the secrets of success.

As reported in our last issue, founder Isaac Reckitt's son Frederick was the company's first research chemist but his salesmen brothers, Charles, George, Francis and James, were also researchers – market researchers, out there in the marketplace finding out at first hand what customers wanted and what sold.

Backing up Isaac at the Dansom Lane factory was his wife Anne, taking special interest in the welfare of a largely female workforce whilst setting standards that became a core business philosophy.

Disciplined pride

Irrespective of what is in company records, the photo albums of many Reckitt families proudly carried photographs like that of the starch room girls reproduced opposite (one of many, sent in by house journal *Ours* readers).

It was evident, if not well-recorded, that by the beginning of the 20th century there had been significant research into carbon black for grate polishes, into borax and bicarbonate for starch and into formulations for new products like boot polish.

By 1900 there were seven chemists.

The empirical

A chief chemist was appointed in 1901 (C.H.Hardy, later to become a director) and £500 spent on a new office and laboratory in the same year.

But for the next 70 years Reckitts was a sales and marketing business with a firm manufacturing base.

The manufacturing department was responsible for the nature, quality and cost of products and the works department for production and despatch.

In a 1928 lecture on Industrial Research given to the company's Staff Association and reported in *Ours*, the Chief Research Chemist at Dansom Lane, Harold Scruton, pictured here (left) demonstrating how liquid polish settles into a jelly,



said there was no clear line between industrial and scientific research, but he did make a distinction between fundamental and empirical research.

"Empirical research is satisfied if it finds a solution of the immediate practical difficulties somehow or other, although often its solution only provides a way of getting round the problem rather than of getting the true scientific explanation. Fundamental research aims at doing the latter." said Mr. Scruton, who went on to formulate Disprin which, with Dettol, provided

the double diamond of Reckitt brands.

Dettol, originally called Disinfectol, is more a product of the company's marketing than scientific expertise. In the early 1930s disinfectants were a big market in which Reckitts were not represented, although they were leaders in washday and other household products.

The post-war recovery and search for new markets had produced Windolene and Harpic among others but the empirical approach on disinfectants was up against a fundamental that the leading product, Lysol, could be toxic and corrosive. A household disinfectant would also need a pleasant smell.

The break from household

A bacteriologist from Jeyes was recruited to the Hull team and the resultant product, initially called Disinfectol should, it was decided, be marketed for personal rather than general household use and renamed Dettol to give it a medical aura.

Initial marketing with a team of six representatives was to doctors and hospitals. The rest, as they say, is history.

By the late 1930s, with Dettol established and derivatives on the way, samples of Soluble Calcium Aspirin were being tested as the company started to exploit its Health as well as Household credentials, but it was not

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pastrenovating the Humber Suite including the old Reckitt board room as well as the memorial garden with its statue and fountain. Members of staff will walk past this each morning as the new entrance will be nearby.

To enable work to continue as normal during the construction phase, we will need to move around 500 people from the KWN building into the three storey temporary office block on the other side of Dansom Lane.

This will be a significant project in its own right and will provide office and meeting spaces for the KWN staff for over two years before they move back into the newly renovated building in 2018.

The excitement is building on site and I will provide regular updates during the next 2 to 3 years to enable you to feel part of the project as well.



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until 1941 that Harold Scruton made the breakthrough.

Doctors had known for many years that a few people had stomach irritation after taking aspirin. It seemed some brands of aspirin dissolved faster than others, leaving irritating fragments attached to the stomach wall.

Recognising the market opportunity for a "faster acting" analgesic, Reckitts started to investigate but a wartime raid saw several direct hits on Dansom Lane, destroying the research laboratories with all their records, equipment and instruments.

Reassigned

Harold Scruton's decades of work on carbon black were destroyed and, with just a year to go to retirement, he asked if he could be reassigned.

There was not much on offer for a household products man but he was asked if he could come up with a small aspirin tablet that dissolved easily in water, was reasonably palatable and, above all, stable enough to last.

Day after day, week after week, month after month he beavered away. Retirement came and went until, more than 300 experiments later, Disprin had been perfected by February 1944.

George Colman Green, who had worked for the small subsidiary company Suffolk Chemical in Ipswich before the war, took over Harold's work and positive results came in clinical trials of leftover Scruton tablets and



DISPRINSPIRATION

The media frenzy which developed around the outstanding performance of the England Women's football team in this year's World Cup gave *The Hull Daily Mail* the opportunity, illustrated in our front page contents panel, to recall the pioneering role of Dansom Lane's Flo Bilton in creating the WFA. Flo, who was Disprin line supervisor, was a WFA committee member and National Development Officer (first lady on the left in the above *Reckitt News* photograph) when the England team flew to Japan in 1981 for a four nation competition. In contrast to this year's heartbreaking defeat in the semi-final they beat the Japanese 4-0 but lost 1-0 to Denmark, the then recognised world champions. Flo, who retired in 1987 and died in 2004 aged 82, is pictured, right, with the Reckitt Cup, won by Switzerland in an international at Boothferry Park in preparation for which Flo had arranged for the England team to train at the Chamberlain Road recreation ground for the preceding two days.



new samples made to same formula as the leftovers.

The question of mass production remained. Reckitt's Engineering section came up with some old ammunition presses which crushed the powder into tablet form.

Making the powders proved tricky but was solved by using German mixers captured by the Allies in 1945.

Disprin's launch finally came in 1948, with one of our best known supervisors (see story above) in charge of the production line, and the ensuing

half century through to the present show a successful business course had been set.

The new Centre of Scientific Excellence will be an outstanding symbol of the industrial heritage our RBPA members, their parents and their grandparents helped to create.

The Oxford Dictionary defines empirical as "based or acting on observation and experiment, not on theory."

Progress on CSE will, we believe, continue to be empirical.



Showing the standard R&D had to emulate

Long dresses and crisp, clean aprons. An early 1900s picture of the Starch Room team at Dansom Lane. This is how they had to look before they started work – and anyone that the forewoman found with curlers under her turban was sent home and lost a day's pay.



As stakeholders (via their pensions) RBPA members will be encouraged by RB's half year result showing a profit rise of 10 per cent to £939m in the first six months of this year on a turnover of £4.36bn, up one per cent on the same period of 2014. Those who took shares instead of annual cash bonuses in the past will see the immediate rise of 85p in the share price (to £59.93) as a continuing bonus. The infographic, left, produced for investors who get their company news by smartphone, tablet or laptop computer, also provides an easily read summary for our Contact and iContact readers.



Norwich's *Eastern Daily Press* used this picture in a full page article remembering those who died on that summer day 75 years ago – the day the war came to Norwich.

"A housewife in her home, workers going about their jobs at factories, at the train station... and Colman mustard girls, laughing and joking as they made their way home up Carrow Hill." wrote Derek James, the reporter who had covered the unveiling of the commemorative plaque in September 2001 (*Contact No. 22, January 2002*) and heard relatives harrowing stories.

"This truly was hell on earth as the enemy planes pounded the city in a brief but devastating and savage attack which claimed more than 25 lives – people going about their daily business with no warning that their lives were coming to an end.

"Workers ran for their lives, but they had little chance of escape. It was the workers from Colman's and their families and friends who would be the targets of the final outrage all those years ago. Carrow Hill was teeming with people making their way home. Many were women pushing their bikes up the steep hill, looking forward to going home and seeing their children, husbands or mothers and fathers." wrote Derek.

RECKITT'S CULTURAL HERITAGE STARTS £4.5m RENOVATION

Hull's Ferens Art Gallery, Reckitt's iconic city centre cultural heritage, is closing to the public until early 2017 as preparations get under way for its leading role in that year's UK City of Culture programme.

The first stage of the £4.5m project is the careful and complex process of moving the Ferens' permanent collection of 2,500 artworks into secure, controlled-climate storage.

The collection is supported by the gallery's Ferens Endowment Fund, a trust ring-fenced for the purchase of artworks and established in 1924 by the gallery's founder Thomas Robinson Ferens, a Reckitts director and close associate of Sir James Reckitt.

When the gallery reopens early in 2017, Hull City Council says new lighting, humidity and temperature control systems will allow it to secure the long-term preservation of its important collection and to stage the very best in national and international exhibitions.

Turner prize presentation

Highlights of the Ferens' 2017 calendar will include the presentation of the world-renowned Turner Prize.

The renovation of the Ferens is being funded by Hull City Council, HM Treasury and Arts Council England and is part of a £70m cultural capital programme developed by the council in a bid to make Hull a world-class visitor destination.

Over the next five years, Hull's cultural capital programme is expected to attract £260m of private sector investment into the city, creating more than 1,400 construction jobs and 1,300 long-term jobs.

The Ferens was in the international art world spotlight in 2013 with the £1.6m purchase (£856,000 from the Endowment Trust) of a rare Renaissance painting and in 2011 with the exhibition, in a specially built "altarpiece" (shown alongside our headline, above) displaying David Hockney's famous 50-canvas "wall" *Bigger Trees Near Warter*.



Our obituaries page, like our get-togethers, renews warm personal memories which are further reflected in our post box. The special relationships generated in our sales teams is illustrated yet again in this issue with the letters below and our archive picture of the late Sid Hold, left, in typical Sales Conference action



IS CHUCK THERE?

The search continues for Chuck Wilson – see Anna Glue’s letter, below

From Roger Cobbett South Cave R&C 1969-1991

I first met Sid Hold (*Obituaries, Contact No.62, April 2015*) in the early 1970’s when he became regional manager (London).

I worked for him for the next 20 years in nine different jobs, moving to Hull in 1985 where my desk was only a few yards from his office. Sid was a very good manager inasmuch as he would always listen to an idea and then give his decision, not just say yes or no.

It was not until I moved to another multinational in 1991 (C.French) that I realised what I had lost.

He was a very good friend.

From Keith Brandon DUNTRADING@aol.com

The last issue recorded the deaths of three senior members of the Sales Department of the Household and Toiletries Division - Sid Hold, Greg Jephcott and Ian Sutherland.

I worked in the Marketing Department there during the seventies and early eighties and remember those days and the sales and marketing team with affection. We had a decent portfolio of brands then, some of which are still with us - Steradent, Harpic, Supersoft, Nulon, Cleen-o-Pine, Windolene, etc.

My career took me to a major grocery retailer where I met Greg and Ian again - from the other side of the desk!

If any of your readers remember me, I am still alive and kicking and retired to North Yorkshire fifteen years ago.

Thank you, Keith, we know the fond memories your letter will evoke. Not so sure about your e-mail address though - we’ve never known a salesman who could resist the prospect of a good deal! Ed.

From: Jeremy Wilcock J.Wilcoch@hull.ac.uk

I was very sad to hear Percy Watson had left us (*Contact No.62*), but 99 was a very good age.

My favourite memory of him was in my first year in the Export Division when I asked for (and was granted) some sessions on Pharmaceutical products, duly presented by Percy.

How vividly I recall the briefing on laxatives.

“Boy, what is the greatest and most pleasant sensation known to man ?” he asked. My somewhat predictable response was brushed aside with a comment to the effect that “was that the only thing you young people ever thought about !”.

“No”, he said before launching into a most colourful and memorable description of the workings of the

intestines, constipation, peristalsis and the satisfaction duly derived from Senokot achieving its intended purpose.

All this was delivered in a wistful, twinkly-eyed style as if Percy was at that moment enjoying the vicarious pleasure to which his initial question referred.

His product training was indeed effective !

From Robert Suttley bobsuttley@hotmail.com

Issue No 62 is really great.

Reckitts make history and deserve a place in our hearts as a company that is for the people.

I am 75 soon and look back with gratitude to my years at Colours Division, Bletchley.

From: Anna Glue annaglu@iinet.com.au

I was wondering again about Charles Edward Wilson.

Let’s say that he is a man in the photograph from the Aldershot Sales training meeting.

Do you think we can get a record on the men in the photo from Reckitt & Colman? Or is there a contact for any of the other men in the photo, that might be reached to confirm his identity or where he came from?

The photograph, above, is reproduced from our April 2014 issue (No 59) when Anna contacted us after finding iContact on the Internet. She was, as she still is, searching on behalf of Stephen Wilson who lives in Australia but knows only that his father was an Industrial Division salesman. There was no response to that picture so this is a final plea for anyone who knew Chuck Wilson to get in touch. Meantime here’s a recently discovered picture of a Winsor&Newton 25 year service presentation.



Warm memories of workplace companionship

The obituaries are traditionally the most widely read section in any publication and *Contact* is no exception; but, as our preceding Letters page shows, the inevitable sadness is often accompanied by warm memories of workplace companionship and achievement in a friendly environment.

Another bonus from working at Reckitt & Colman, judging from 20 years of editing this page, is the comparative longevity of our RBPA members.



In our early editions there was always a sprinkling of 80-year olds among the lists of 70s and 80s. We are all living longer, but look at *Contact's*

editions over the past couple of years and the nonagenarians are a growing force. Seven in this issue – not to

mention the 17 80-year-olds!

Scouts' neckerchiefs may be worn, said the notice for **Dick Smithson's** funeral, recognising our Norwich pensioner's long service to Norfolk Boy Scouts – but that was just one of the community services provided by the stalwart of the Trowse get-togethers.

That's him, pictured on the left above, when he organised a reunion of the "second chancers"

of the unique North Walsham Special Grammar School. Inset is Dick photographed in the Class of 47 group of 24 who passed the Cambridge School Certificate after the three year course and, underneath Dick's photograph, our Norwich organiser Ken Herbert also successfully completed the course in the same class.

Former Colours Division managing director **Michael Webb** has died at the age of 88. He had headed the Morley Street modernisation project in the late 1970s.

Edna Manchester, pensioner's widow has died at the age of 101. Her late husband, Kenneth, worked in Household Division's engineers department in Hull.

Sid Hold, Percy Watson, Greg Jephcott and Ian Sutherland mentioned in our last issue all earn special mention in our letters page.

Peter Johnson, who we asked about in our last issue, was production manager in Shoecare and had been in production planning on Steradent.

He worked at the Design Centre in London before returning to his home city for the rest of his career. He played snooker for Reckitts

in the Works Sports League and was a Chairman of the Mens Club Committee.

One we missed earlier this year was **Chalky White**, very well known to headquarters staff at Chiswick where, as garage manager, he was



responsible for servicing the fleet of executive vehicles and worked closely with the chauffeurs.

This is the kind of workplace romance we like to mention because Chalky is pictured here with his wife Brenda who was was personnel officer at the Cherry. As Brenda says: "We met when my car fell apart and he was instrumental in pointing me towards a dealership where I could get a bargain!"

Annie Herridge, who has died in Hertfordshire aged 100, was one of the "bubbly girls", having worked for Moussecc, which was taken over by the Colemans wine company and, later, Colmsns in Norwich. Annie left Carrow in 1973 after 34 years service.

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

NORTHERN REGION

(Hull, unless otherwise stated)

Margaret Barton, aged 77 years, 15 years' service); Cecilia Ward (90), 9; Jean Bray (79), 11; Henry Smith (90), 22; John Wheldale (94), 33; Roy Dunham (88), 27; Geoffrey Watts (79), 16; Geoffrey Bowling (82), 25; Samuel Lamkin (95), 28; William Jones (89), 5; Raymond Irwin (82), 44; Clifford Jones (88), 23; Joseph McCarthy (72), 34; Ronald Evans (68), 26.

Edna Manchester (101), Hull pensioner's widow.

Derby – Patricia Steer (79), 32; Mary Nadin (66), 12; Sheila Humphrey (71), 30.

Lloyds of Batley – Gladys Rockett (87), 18.

Colours, Morley St – Michael Webb (88), 3.

Sissons, Dublin – Frank Laughton (85) 22.

EASTERN REGION

(Norwich, unless otherwise stated)

Susan Folkard (71), 12; Jean Cupper (86), 29; Neville Butcher (81), 34; Dick Smithson (83), 23; John Barrett (86), 26; Glenda Tooke (77), 20; Gladys Hunt (92), 18; Maureen Kemp (81), 19; Roy Lockwood (81), 29; Trevor Smith (62), 18; John Allman

(76), 18; **Annie Herridge (100), 34; Herbert Nicholls (91), 28; Ronald Harris (78), 11.**

SOUTHERN REGION

(Chiswick, unless otherwise stated)

Iris Dodd (88), 18; Jean Bridger (84), 25; Lydia Gibson (89), 11; Ian Masters (70), 10; William Julier (95), 38.

Ex-pats – Reginald Cox (95), 30.

FAG, Wealdstone – Elizabeth Baron (74), 12; Girly Livera (76), 13; George Martin (93), 2; Terence Organ (74), 5.

High Wycombe – Ernest Thompson (83), 4; Mary Barlow (81), 8.

Industrial Division – Derek Jones (72), 5.



Sometimes there's only a couple of days in it but news can come just too late for our deadline. The annual Hull sites reunion dinner was held at the Staff House, University of Hull on Friday, March 20, just after we had gone to press with the Aprill issue. We mentioned it on the website but here's the full picture and listing:



We've let some emojis have a sneaky look at our pictures so you can tell the grandkids you're "cool" and don't need words to express your feelings. Invented in Japan emojis are swarming all over the internet on smartphones, tablets and laptops. But don't worry ~ we're sticking with words and photographs in Contact.

Attending were (alphabetical order): Bob Allison; Kate Ansell; Karen Bateman; Paul Baumont; Karen Beach; John Benstead; Richard Bays; Alan Brooke; Trevor Busby; Dave Copeman; Martin Craven; Sue Carpenter; Vic Carpenter; Tony Dale; John Dunlin; Bill Foreman; Andrew Forster; Michael Fare; Phil Gibson; Janet Gibson; Kevin Herrin; Brian Huggett; Mark Hulme; Andrew Hearsom; John Howden; Peter Hessel; Ken Houghton; Ken Johnson; Ian Jollife; Michael Jolly; Kevin Kilvington; Tony Martin; Fiona Houghton; Bill Maxwell; Ian Mackechnie; Gill Morrell; Sam Morris; David Nellist; Sid Newman; David Payne; Tony Payne; David Parker; Tony Pawson; Lilian Pooley; Pat Quarterman; Malcolm Ruddiforth; Steve Rial; Michael Spence; Jon Sewell; Pauline Settle; Joy Sutton; Andi Wright; John Smallwood; Adrian Robinson; Charles Trafford; Carl Tyson; Martin Usher; Billy Taylor; Ron Watson; Jackie Witham. Vic Carpenter was guest speaker.

Get-togethers



*Hull's
good
fellowship
attracts
more
first
timers*



... and more get-togethers



Derby gets back to our founders' roots at Bryers Farm



The Chiswick Cherries dine in style at Virginia Water



... and more >

High Wycombe (and Harrow) sample Brewers Fayre carvery alternatives



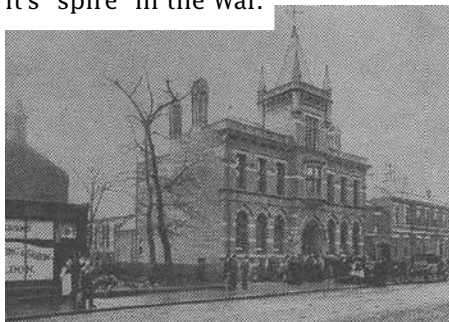
The Penthouse was redesigned by the Luftwaffe



As indicated by this clip from the Hull Daily Mail the historic James Reckitt Library in Holderness Road is to be developed into flats.

Although it has been empty for ten years and become run down the decision has been controversial with local residents petitioning to keep it in public use and "not destroy the city's heritage."

The original building, below, lost its "spire" in the War.



DON HOWES' 90th

Family, colleagues and friends joined former Colmans' engineer Don Howes, below, for a 90th birthday celebration at his daughter's home in Catton, near Norwich.

Don joined the engineers' general office at Carrow as a clerk in 1952 after serving with the Infantry and a short spell at the Norvic shoe company.

He rose to become admin superintendent of Technical Services when building and engineer's became one Department.



Collection complete - see P12

Norwich's Ken Herbert was particularly pleased to be given this copy of a post-war speech recently. It was one item missing from his extensive World War I and II collection and, so far as we are aware, has not been published until now. The speech was delivered on the day by Alan Stuart, Manager, Seed and Cereals, whose wife was a Colman.

Reckitt & Colman Ltd

Welcome home to CARROVIANS who have served in His Majesty's services

Carrow works canteen Friday 3rd January 1947

Chairman Sir Basil Mayhew K.B.E.

On behalf of all the men and women who have returned to Carrow from the forces I would like to thank our Directors for this welcome home to which they have invited us. We cannot help feeling pleased that our return is of sufficient significance in the eyes of the company to warrant such an occasion as this and we appreciate to the full, the honour which is being done for us.

I would also like to thank Sir Basil for what he has said about us, his remarks have been addressed to us collectively but some of us realise, that our role in the war has been anything but a heroic one and that we have little claim to the praise that he has given to us. We have fought our battles with telephones and typewriters they are the fiercest enemies we have encountered, there can be pretty awkward customers for the QM and the pay clerk. We feel that is a bit hard on those who have had more than a fair share of dangers and hardships and they should be put in the same class as we back room boys would like to pass on our share of praise that has been given to us as a whole. We have been told something of what it was like at Carrow during the war from those who stayed behind. While we were away, we thought enviously of those who were still at home but I think that we all realise that most of them had no easy job here particularly during the blitz and that would be unfair to imagine many Carrovians returning home at 5 o'clock to spend an unforgettable evening with his feet on the mantelpiece.

We have been away a long time, some of us for over six years and when the time to return to civil life draws near we are as apprehensive as we were when we left here to sign up. We have experienced a different way of living from which we were accustomed to before the war. We have travelled in many countries and have had great experiences and it is true to say we have had more responsibilities than are normally given to people of our age.

All this experience has broadened our outlook. It has given a training which we would never have had in our present jobs and it has shown us that we can do successful jobs which we would previously have hesitated to do. I feel that is now up to us to use this experience I feel that we who have returned from the forces can make a very real contribution to the welfare and prosperity of the company.

In particular I think there is one thing we can do no matter in what branch of the services we have been, we know the satisfaction that can be got from serving. If we try to work out the reason why one particular unit was better than the other we realise that it was generally due to the cooperation of everyone in it working together. I feel that if we can bring that back and keep it alive at Carrow, something of that spirit then we will leave our mark and it will be one of which we may be proud.